

The Bromeliad Blade

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Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

September 2020

President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

Where has the summer gone? It's hard to believe that September is here already. Hopefully your plants have gotten a little extra TLC with the hotter weather and more is expected soon.

Last month, as you know, our first meeting via Zoom was held. Thank you to Pam Koide-Hyatt for being our first speaker to use that technology to give a very informative presentation on *Tillandsia capitata* and its various forms. Another thank you goes out to Andrew Wilson, Dan Kinnard, and Eloise Lau, our speaker committee, who month after month, secures our outstanding programs. We had a limited Show and Tell with participants Nancy Hoyt, David Kennedy, Al Evans, and Lucia Velasquez. Your participation was very much appreciated. Steve Zolezzi worked hard to make our first online plant auction which proved to be very successful. Scott Sandel hosted the meeting, rescuing me from my lack of computer skills. I am forever

grateful that he is able to set up the meetings.

Speaking of Scott, he also has hosted a couple of "Coffee In the Garden" SDBS style via Zoom. There were 37 plants entered in a four-category competition patterned after the SDCSS's version. Members who "attended" were encouraged to vote for their favorites in each category. I believe at one time, there were 32 attendees. Scott is planning on hosting more. Stay tuned for the SDBS Website for more details.

A big thank you to Andy Cuffel for sharing half his proceeds with our club from a sale he had last month. Several members snagged some very special and rare broms at an amazing price!

There will be a virtual board meeting in October. I'm tentatively scheduling it for the third Sunday, Oct. 17, beginning at 10am. All members are invited to "attend."

I am very grateful that so many members pull together and participate in club activities, especially during these COVID-19 times. Your efforts keep our club running and ensure that we'll continue in these uncertain times.

That being said, until next time, happy and safe growing.



This interesting shot of a cryptanthus and tillandsia topiary was sent by SDBS member Deb Mitchell.

August Meeting Recap

The First Ever SDBS Monthly Meeting in Zoom was a Success!



group. She also talked about manmade and natural hybrids. Being the great speaker she is, the zoom format worked just as well with striking presentation visuals and Pam's to-the-point and informative style. Many of the plants in the talk are available at her nursery, [Birdrock Tropicals](#).

Left: Tillandsia capitata 'Peach', a form of the species found in Mexico.

Bottom left: a Koide hybrid using T. capitata and another species, Tillandsia Jellyfish - (T. roseoscapa x capitata 'Pochutla')

Bottom right: a natural hybrid located by Koide in Oaxaca in the 1980s, Tillandsia capitata 'Mexico Peach' x fasciculata.

Photos by Birdrock Tropicals

The first official SDBS monthly meeting on zoom kicked off this August with great attendance and a wonderful talk by Pamela Koide-Hyatt, world-class tillandsia expert and SDBS member. The presentation was followed by a short Q & A and a fun plant auction.

Pam delivered a presentation on the Capitata Group of Tillandsia. She knows the subject like no other, as a horticulturist and hybridizer who has authored several capitata hybrids, and a naturalist eyewitness who has observed many T. capitata variations in the wild.

And there's an endless variety of capitatas out there! The presentation covered the geographical distribution, habitat preferences, related species, registered cultivars, and nursery names within the capitata



September Meeting

Saturday, September 12 @ 10am on Zoom

The Zoom meeting will start promptly at 10am. Stay tuned for an invitation with the meeting details to be sent by our host Scott Sandel.

September Program

by Andrew Wilson

Our September presenter, Peter Wan from the Bay Area, is a recently retired environmental engineer who has lived in California for 40 years. He is interested in almost everything related to the natural environment. He has been growing bromeliads for over 30 years. He is an avid photographer, wildlife sculptor and art collector.

The program covers general facts about Costa Rica related to bromeliads, orchids, birds and fun things to do in Costa Rica. This small country is 389 times smaller than US and Canada combined but it has twice as many bird species and almost 400 species of bromeliads. The presentation will provide a glimpse of various types of tropical plants and birds that one may encounter when visiting Costa Rica.



Our September speaker, Peter Wan

Tips for a successful Zoom Meeting

If using a phone or tablet, make sure it's fully charged. Zooming drains your battery pretty fast!

Take a little time to get settled before the meeting. Consider noise: are people going to hear a loud tv in the background when you're speaking? Pick a spot with good (preferably natural) lighting, and make sure the light source faces you or is coming sideways. Having an open window behind you is a no-no. It will cause your face to be darkened by the overly bright background.

If using a tablet or laptop computer, it's a good idea to have it on a table and propped up with some books. This way we can see you at eye level.

As a general rule, **mute your microphone** unless you are speaking. Even wiggling in your seat can make audible noise.

Upcoming Events

SDBS Meetings

SDBS September Meeting
 Saturday, September 12 from 10am to 12pm
 Join meeting on Zoom
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Coffee in the Garden
 September Meeting
 TBD
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Events

SDBS Annual Show & Sale
 CANCELLED
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

Other Monthly Meetings

During the pandemic, we advise you contact the society in advance if you want to attend a meeting, as in-person meetings are postponed indefinitely.

1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM
 San Diego Orchid Society
 Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.sdorchids.com

2nd Saturday, 1 PM
 San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society
 Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.sdcss.net

2nd Wednesday, 7 PM
 San Diego Epiphyllum Society
 Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.SanDiegoEpi.org

2nd Monday, 5:45 PM
 San Diego Horticultural Society Congregation
 Beth Israel (CBI)
 9001 Towne Centre Drive
 San Diego, CA 92122
sdhort.org

Coffee in the Garden

August Edition

Coffee in the garden, the informal show and tell that Scott Sandel has been hosting on Zoom keeps getting better and better. The last session on August 29 had about 30 participants.

This time we had a little competition and brag session when the group voted on five different plant categories. Here are the winners.

Best Aechmea or Billbergia
 Bill. 'Evelyn Metz' by Mary Yun Lee

Best Vriesea or Gouadea
 Vr. 'Mocha' by Eloise Lau & Dan Kinnard

Best Neoregelia
 'Kilauea Fire' by Eloise Lau & Dan Kinnard

Best Terrestrial
 Deuterocohnia brevifolia ssp clorantha by unknown member

Best Tillandsia
 stellifera by Eloise Lau & Dan Kinnard

If you haven't had a chance to join, come on over next time! Watch out for an email invitation towards the end of the month.

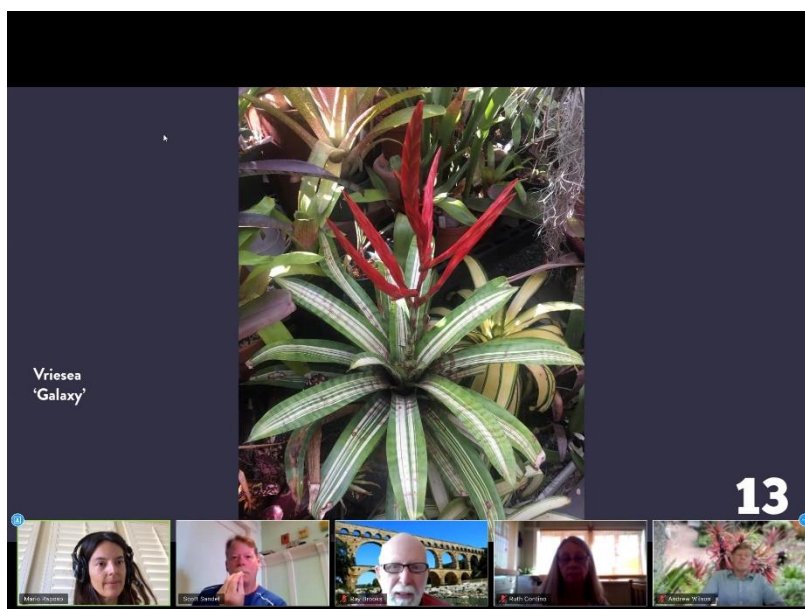
Bromeliads and Critters

by Juliana Raposo



Giving continuity to this new section and incorporating the fauna at-large in our backyards – not just birds. Behold katydid on Tillandsia tectorum. According to astute photographer Eloise Lau, she was able to take the shot and shun the insect before he dared take a bite of the plant.

Put your camera phone to use and send me your shot of a critter on brom for the next Blade!



The Pedro Nahoum Talk at LBBS

by Juliana Raposo

Not all is bad in these pandemic times. Bromeliad societies in the Covid-stricken American lands are thinking outside the box to have their monthly meetings. Enabled and emboldened by Zoom, we can and should have presenters from all over the world. Imagine the possibilities when we don't have to pay the prohibitive costs of flying in an international speaker! We can feature presentations that were only accessible once every 2 years in the BSI conference.

The La Ballona Bromeliad Society invited the Brazilian horticulturist, naturalist and landscape designer Pedro Nahoum to give a presentation this August and was so kind to

extend the invitation to other BSI affiliates. Among those attending as guests, there was a nice showing from the SDBS, plus friends from South Africa, New Zealand, Mexico, Philippines, and Brazil. A special word of thanks goes to Barry Landau for making the arrangements!

Pedro Nahoum from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has been involved in bromeliad conservation and horticulture for decades. He was a director in the Brazilian Bromeliad Society. Check out the article on page 8 about the soon-to-be-released book that Nahoum co-wrote on Alcantarea.

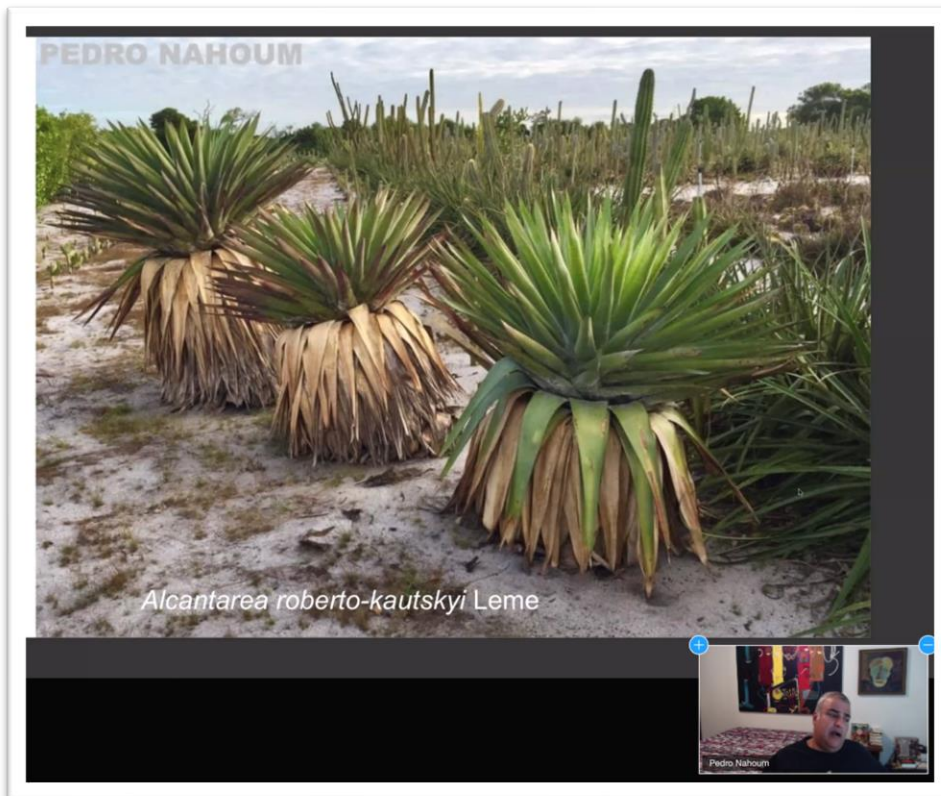
His business, Botanica Pop, is a pioneer in introducing Brazilian

species from hot, dry environments to the nursery trade and using them in landscape applications. These plants come primarily from bromeliad-rich biomes such as *restinga* (coastal salt-tolerant jungle) *campos rupestres* (high altitude grasslands), *inselbergs* (very old mountain monoliths that are full of endemic plants due to their isolation) and *caatinga* (semi-arid scrubland and dry forest).

The speaker showed unique photos of his Terraços Marinhos, the farm in Northern Rio de Janeiro state where Nahoum grows the broms that go in his landscaping projects. A year ago on a trip to Rio, I was scheduled to visit this unusual farm that sometimes looks more like a wild place than a commercial operation. But the location is remote, and the visit had to be cancelled due to a road closure.

Genus by genus, Nahoum detailed an astounding inventory of Brazilian broms, with fabulous visuals and the landscaping applications of the new introductions, mostly sun loving broms that tolerate drier environments. He also works intensely in pineapple development. We will not forget the astounding variety of shape and color in the fruit. Too bad we couldn't taste!

The LBBS kindly shared the [recording of the presentation on YouTube](#).

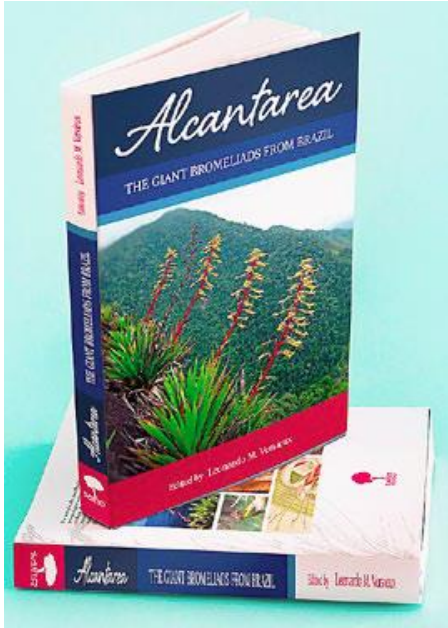


Doesn't it look like they are dancing? *Alcantarea roberto-kautskyi* and speaker

Alcantarea: The Giant Bromeliads of Brazil

This article appeared in the BSI Journal 69(4) and forwarded to us by Scott Sandel

Discounted price of book and shipping for pre-publication orders is US\$39. Pre-publication offer ends September 30, 2020.



The new guidebook to Alcantarea titled “Alcantarea: The Giant Bromeliads from Brazil” by Prof. Leonardo Versieux et al. is partially sponsored by the Luther Padilla Research Fund through the BSI. Proceeds of the sale of the book will go towards the protection of and research into Brazil’s Atlantic Forest, an extraordinarily diverse and valuable but threatened biome. The book will also be sold during the World Bromeliad Conference in Sarasota, Florida, planned for 2021. This second edition of the guidebook has been written in English and expanded to seven chapters and is the result of a collaboration of 14 leading researchers and horticulturalists from around the world. It is now nearing completion and will be published later this year

with shipping of orders planned for the first week of December. Orders can be paid directly to the lead author with PayPal, with his email address - lversieux@yahoo.com.br - or, for those without a PayPal account, Leonardo can be contacted by email for his electronic-funds-transfer bank details.

Chapter 1: Cultivation of Alcantarea and their use in landscaping, written by John Byth et al.

Chapter 2: New species of Alcantarea from Northern Rio de Janeiro, written by Leonardo Versieux & Pedro Nahoum.

Chapter 3: Taxonomy and Conservation, written by Leonardo Versieux & Maria das Graças

Chapter 4: Floral Anatomy of Alcantarea, written by Kléber Resende et al.

Chapter 5: Palynology, written by Cynthia Luz et al.

Chapter 6: Ecological modelling and studies of environmental variables, written by Talita Machado.

Chapter 7: Micro-propagation and in-vitro conservation of Alcantarea, written by Hilo Sousa et al.

Book Details: (estimates): 270 pages, of which 50 are full colored photos of the species or their structures, paper back. Includes: Line drawings, maps, new species descriptions plates, anatomical plates, Scanning Electron Microscopic Images, taxonomic key, notes on taxonomic history, collector index, updated bibliography and conservation status of each species described are provided.

Jeffrey Kent’s Rare Broms Sale by Andy Cuffell

The sale was a success! We collectively kept 252 beautiful and perfectly healthy plants out of the trash while raising \$247 for the SDBS (It’s 5 less than our total number of plants because I sold 5 more since I wrote the check).

I was contacted by Dan Kinnard back in July about a project Jeffrey Kent needed help with in his 'Bautista' greenhouse at Kent's Bromeliads. The project included rebuilding most of the plant tables in the green house, separating, cleaning, repotting, and tagging Jeffrey's rare and beautiful bromeliads, and installing automated irrigation to eliminate hand watering. I am still early on in the process, but so far it's been a good experience. Jeffrey's knowledge and ability to recall information is truly remarkable; he can point at almost any plant in this greenhouse and tell you what country he found it in, what year, and even what kind of tree or rock surface he found it on, really amazing.

We will be having at least one more of these sales; most of what will be available from here on out are guzmanias, vrieseas, tillandsias, and other soft leaved, mesic broms. \$2 is a killer price for most of these AND \$1 of that goes back to the society AND we are keeping these plants out of the trash; that's a win-win-win!

SDBS 2020

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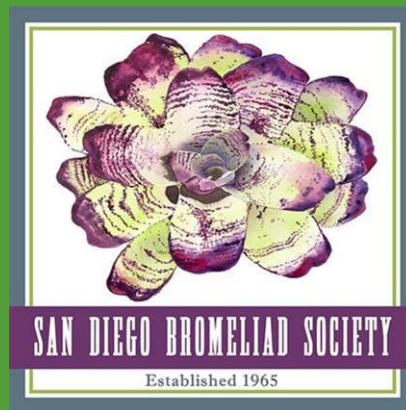
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THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego
Bromeliad Society

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To send material for publication,
please contact Juliana at
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Make sure to submit your
contribution before the 20th of
the month for inclusion in the
next newsletter.

SDBS MEETING

The club meets on the second
Saturday of the month at 10am in
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado,
room 104.

SDBS WEBPAGE

www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

DK ORNAMENTALS

BROMELIADS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

<p>Tillandsia Neoregelia Vriesea Orthophytum Bigenerics and more!</p>	<p><i>Purchase directly from an award-winning grower</i></p>
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