

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

November 2020

VOLUME LV

NUMBER 11

President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

We are now nearing the end of one of the most unique years ever experienced by the San Diego Bromeliad Society. We started 2020 with our January meeting in Balboa Park, looking ahead to various activities scheduled throughout the year. It all changed in March right after the spring Del Mar Spring Home/Garden Show. The following week the restrictions brought about by the pandemic started and it changed the way we interacted with each other for the remainder of the year. We had to cancel our annual show and sale, think outside the box for the raffle and plant auctions and find an alternative way to meet and keep our membership together.

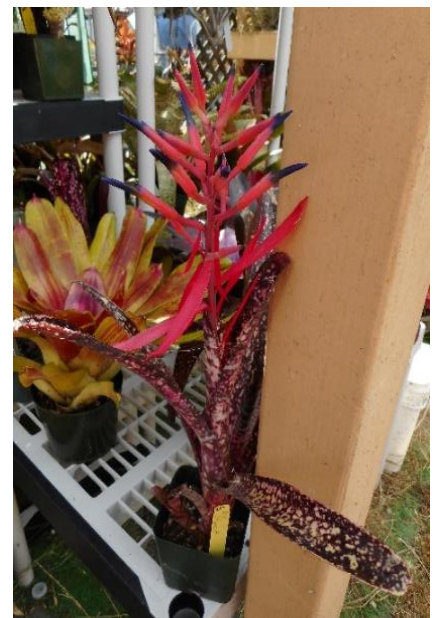
One of the positives is that we learned to incorporate technology by using Zoom making it possible to hold our monthly meetings. There were many hours of trial and error and frustration spent on smoothing out the process. Scott Sandel and Andrew Wilson worked tirelessly to



Morlane's tillandsia roezlii (top) and billbergia hybrid (lower right) in bloom.

make it possible to organize meeting content and provide helpful hints on how to make Zoom accessible for non-technical laypersons such as myself. The Speaker Committee was able to bring speakers from outside our area (even country) to attract a wider audience. Stephen Zolezzi used Zoom to conduct our monthly auctions. The Show & Tell portion was able to continue on a limited basis. There was some good to come out of not being able to meet in Balboa Park.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our fall sale due to tighter restrictions. Let's hope that later on in 2021, the



restrictions will be lifted, and we can go back to our regular activities, albeit extra precautions may be needed.

I'd like to thank all of you for hanging in there while we got things sorted out. Your patience and support have been very much appreciated. The Board and the committees have worked hard to keep everything going with some degree of normalcy. Our treasurer, Al Evans, has spent, it seems, an infinite amount of time bringing our club into compliance with state and federal regulations for a non-profit organization. He is to be commended. Juliana Raposo continues to keep us informed of what's going on by editing and publishing our monthly newsletter. There are so many to thank and know that you are all appreciated for all the contributions you have made to the club. Thank you to those who have participated in the past and will participate in this month's Show & Tell. There is still time to get in on the action if you contact me no later than Wed., Dec. 9. You will be interviewed by another member about your plant. I need to let the interviewer know so a list of questions can be sent to you before the meeting.

This is a reminder that if you are a paid member as of the 31st of this month, your membership will be extended through 2021 at no charge. Thanks to the pandemic, you get 2021 free. All memberships will be due for 2022.

On behalf of the officers and directors, I would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season. I hope I don't offend anyone, but I was raised and it's my tradition to say, "Merry Christmas!" May you have lots of joy and good health now and in the future! Stay safe and happy growing!

November Meeting Recap

In November we had an exciting presentation by SDBS member Norm Nakanishi. Norm took us on a journey through his lifelong infatuation with plants, with lots of visuals. His systematic pursuit challenges the notion of a hobby. It was fascinating to watch him narrate his deep dives into each type of plant. His experiments with cycads, staghorn ferns, cymbidiums, bromeliads, clivias and begonias involved lots of research and resulted in thousands of plants and

many hybrids – just for fun's sake. Wow!

By the way, let's give a shout out to our speakers committee and Zoom organizers. The talks have been informative and entertaining. Detailed without needless rambling. They make it look easy but it's not. The show'n'tell and auction with photo slides prepared beforehand (hey Scott Sandel) make the meetings run so smoothly. Thank you guys!

December Meeting

This Saturday, December 12 @ 10am on Zoom

Our presentation for the December holiday meeting will be a special Show-N-Tell session. Selected members will present photos of special plants that are of interest now. We'll nerd-out on each plant's botanical and horticultural characteristics.

On Saturday morning, wear your most obnoxious (festive) holiday sweater, make yourself a mug of warm holiday tea or spiced cider, and join us. With the current restrictions, there will not be a gift exchange this year, but we can give the simple gift of camaraderie.

Please refer to the invitation email by our Zoom host Scott Sandel for the link to the meeting.



Guzmania Priscilla, a mini guzmania with holiday cheer. I love the small rosette of forest green leaves and the radiant red compact inflorescence on this cutie by Kent's bromeliads. The plant is the size of a dinner plate and because of the flat profile, fits anywhere in your décor.

Upcoming Events

SDBS December Meeting

Saturday, December 12 from 10am to 12pm

Join meeting on Zoom

www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

SDBS Member Plant Sale

CANCELLED DUE TO STAY-AT-HOME-ORDER

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

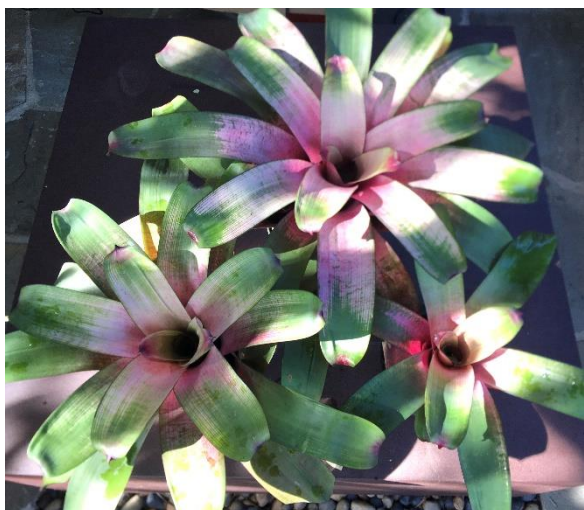
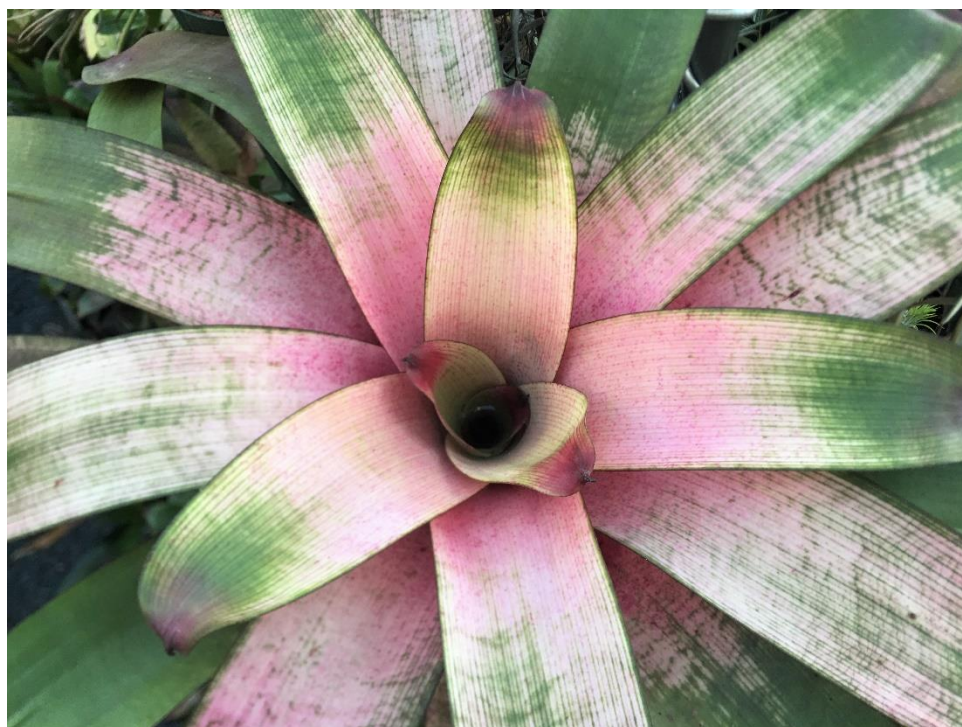
San Diego Horticultural Society
Congregation Beth Israel (CBI)
9001 Towne Centre Drive
San Diego, CA 92122

sdhort.org

In the Garden Now

Scott Sandel brought this plant all the way from New Zealand, and it sure has paid off. Vriesea 'Tasman Candyman' - a Kiwi hybrid by

Andrew Malloy, registered by Peter Coyle. It will be changing color over the cooler months to be more intense. Best of all, the mother plant yielded two pups (bottom left), excellent for a fancy vriesea. The plant at the bottom right is T. ehlersiana, also by Scott.



Tillandsia botterii

by Graeme Barclay

Reprinted from the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand Inc.'s Bromeliad Journal - November 2020 issue

This lovely species is found only in Veracruz State on the Caribbean coast of Mexico, where it grows as an epiphyte in low deciduous forest, pine tree forest and riverbank vegetation between 450 to 1560 metres elevation. It was described in 1889 by Edouard Morren after a specimen was sent to him in Europe ten years earlier. For many years it was then determined to be a synonym of the earlier described *Tillandsia tricolor* (which is a smaller plant overall with only 30cm long leaves, compared to 60cm for *T. botterii*), but it was then considered a valid species again in 2005.

It is also often confused with the more commonly cultivated and similar looking *Tillandsia fasciculata* and *Tillandsia rodrigueziana*, both of which are highly variable with many different forms. *Tillandsia botterii* also seems to be a variable species, with slightly different shaped and coloured spikes, but one of the most obvious delineating features is the densely lepidote (scurfy white) tips of the floral bracts, as can be clearly seen in the photo. So, if you have a very large *T. tricolor* with a branched inflorescence, or a *T. fasciculata* or *T. rodrigueziana* with highly scurfy bracts like below, compare it to *T. botterii* and consider changing your label.

Like most species in the Fasciculata Group, *Tillandsia botterii* enjoys a warm, high light



T. botterii inflorescence and full plant in New Zealand. Photos by Graeme Barclay



T. botterii by SDBS member Shon Glasgow and Scott Sandel's plant



position where it can gain the nice reddish hue to its leaves. It's best to be kept on the dry side in cooler months, so protected under cover is preferred in NZ, but otherwise it seems to be quite hardy. I will try a pup on a tree in full sun outside in future to see how it enjoys our Kiwi winter.

Further information: Encyclopedia of Bromeliads

- <http://bromeliad.nl/encyclopedia>

Afterward from Scott:

The cultivation tips for New Zealand are spot-on for them. Here in southern California, we can grow this and other Tillandsias that resemble *Tillandsia fasciculata* out in the open (in coastal areas and not too far inland.) It will grow ok under 50% shade cloth as well. *Tillandsia botterii* is used in hybrids, most notably in the showy and sought-after Cobra hybrids by Steve Correale.

SDBS 2020

Officers

President

Morlane O'Donnell

Morlane.odonnell@att.net

619-422-8168

Vice-President

Stephen Zolezzi

sazolezzi1946@gmail.com

619-379-4300

Treasurer

Al Evans, Jr.

alevans001@earthlink.net

858-492-9866

Secretary

Ruth Contino

ruth.contino1@gmail.com

619-303-2144

News Editor

Juliana Raposo

julianadraposo@gmail.com

858-349-1405

Membership

Charles Oelsen

cdoelsen@yahoo.com

Past President

Scott Sandel

scott.sandel@outlook.com

Board Members

Kerry Nelson (2019-20)

kanelsondesign@cox.net

619-574-0987

Lucia Velasquez (2019-20)

luciamccanna@yahoo.com

Bob Walters (2020-21)

cactusbobboy@gmail.com

Krista Mills (2020-21)

kmills1@sandi.net

THE BROMELIAD BLADE



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Bromeliad Society

Juliana Raposo, Editor

Ph: 858-349-1405

To send material for publication,
please contact Juliana at
julianadraposo@gmail.com

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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