



The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

April 2021

VOLUME LVI

NUMBER 4

President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

Happy spring! Lately we have been experiencing some unseasonably warm temperatures. Don't forget to adjust your watering schedule accordingly. You may have to shelter some of your plants from the more intense sunlight rays. I've already noticed some leaf burn in a few of my bromeliads. Regardless, it's always a joy this time of year to see the vibrant color changes in the foliage.

This month our speaker will be Pam Koide-Hyatt who will speak about the late great Werner Rauh. If you've been a member of the BSI for any amount of time you will have read about some of the many expeditions she made with him and his many contributions to the world of bromeliads. And take a look at the exciting auction plants that we will be bidding for this Saturday!

The World Bromeliad Conference will be held during June next year. More details are given on the BSI Website



Auction plants for the April meeting: Tillandsia 'Super Steve', top left; Billbergia 'Spots and Dots', left; Tillandsia roezlii, lower left.

as to hotel reservations, rates, and speakers.

May the month of April bring you lots of gardening tranquility and joy. Let's hope we can move into the less

restrictive orange tier soon.

Meanwhile don't forget to take precautions even if you have been vaccinated. Safe and happy growing!

April Meeting

Our April program will be presented by Pam Koide Hyatt at our Zoom meeting on April 10, 2021, at 10 AM.

Her talks are always fascinating, full of information, and accompanied by her wonderful photos.



Pam with her hybrid *Tillandsia* 'Samantha'

Pamela Koide Hyatt, member of SDBS and owner of Bird Rock Tropicals, plant explorer and tillandsia hybridizer extraordinaire has been exploring and growing bromeliads and orchids since 1980. Her focus is the genus *Tillandsia*. She has travelled extensively throughout Mexico, Central and South America in search of tillandsias, made more than 3000 tillandsia hybrids, and lectured internationally about them.

About the presentation, Pam said:

"During a recent presentation to a Bromeliad Society group I mentioned the name of the late Professor Werner Rauh. Immediately someone in the audience asked "who is that?" This came as a surprise to me, as I have always considered him the godfather of bromeliads. So this is a

fitting time to present a new program about his life and important work with bromeliads. He was the director at the Heidelberg Botanical Garden and Herbarium for several decades. Prior to his retirement, he undertook more than 36 expeditions, mainly to South and Central America, as well as to southern Africa and Madagascar. This program will discuss his wonderful work and contribution to the world of bromeliads."

"When Werner Rauh died, he left behind 78 field books with a total of 8,812 hand-written pages, now archived in Bonn, Germany.

There is now a Werner Rauh Heritage project creating a relational database to store the heterogeneous information found in these field books, as well as to link the information to actual



Rauh with *Tillandsia rauhii* v. *longispica*

taxonomy and to the garden's existing database, the living collection and numerous plant type specimens material."

February Meeting Recap

The March meeting presentation was led by Dr. Claudia Hornung-Leoni with a program called Floral Characteristics in Bromeliads. We learned a lot about the flower-pollinator relationship in our favorite plants. Dr. Leoni had lots of pictures of broms being visited by insects, birds and bats. She spoke of the different nectar types (something I never thought about) and how they correlate with the pollinator. Floral diversity is a fascinating area in which to study and observe the richness in the Bromeliaceae. Very interesting talk and I bet we all learned something new!

BSI World Bromeliad Conference News

by Greg Kolojeski, BSI

The WBC has now been officially rescheduled. There is no longer a WBC 2021 scheduled for June of 2021. WBC 2022 is scheduled for June 8-12, 2022 with a Board Meeting, Judges School, and Plant Show Entries scheduled for June 7, 2022. The 100% refund policy for WBC registrations is now in effect through December 31, 2021. Similarly, the current WBC registration rate of \$315 for new registrations has been extended through December 31, 2021.

Dennis Cathcart has confirmed that the five scheduled speakers from outside the U.S. have all indicated their intention to attend and speak at WBC 2022. None of the 5 international speakers and other attendees from outside the U.S. could have been there in 2021.

Also, many of the key volunteers could not make it. Also, social distancing rules would have limited capacity.

The Hyatt has asked me to notify those who have hotel registrations for this June that they need to cancel their reservations if they wish to do so. Like last year, anyone who has had made a reservation for June 2021 and wants to still come to Sarasota at that time may keep their reservation at the same rates offered per the original group terms. It means that the group rate of \$149 with no resort fee would be honored for anyone who keeps their 2021 reservation.

Thelma O'Reilly

1917-2021



Thelma O'Reilly was a former president of the San Diego Bromeliad Society and an extraordinary plant person. See Thelma's full [obituary in the San Diego Union Tribune](#). Below is an excerpt.

They settled in the Mt. Helix area of San Diego and raised their family. Prior to moving to California, Thelma was an award winning member of

many East Coast plant societies and specialized in artistic flower arrangements. San Diego weather allowed Thelma to expand her love of nature and she developed a fascination with two plant groups, Bromeliads and Begonias. She became an internationally renowned expert in each. In 1981 the Botanical Director of the Smithsonian Institute, Dr. Lyman B. Smith, named a newly discovered Brazilian begonia after her, 'Begonia thelmae'. Dr. Smith had so much respect for her work he also honored her by placing an herbarium specimen she created in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian. Thelma was an integral member of both the American Begonia Society and the American Bromeliad Society. She was honored with all the top awards of each group. She hybridized (created) many award-winning begonias and has many begonias, bromeliads and succulents named after her. There

were numerous San Diego Union-Tribune articles featuring her gorgeous La Mesa/Mt. Helix garden. In 2012, CBS news reporter, Larry Himmel, immortalized her in a lovely TV feature entitled "Flower Power", filmed in her beautiful garden. That same year she was celebrated as a "Living Legend" by the American Begonia Society where her nickname is "Begonia Queen".

Upcoming Events

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

SDBS 2020

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Bromeliad Sale @ Scott's

See flyer below. If you are hosting a bromeliad event, do send us the info. Please make sure to email the details before the 20th for inclusion in the newsletter. Short notice requests for an email blast may or may not be possible as your editor juggles many things...

Backyard Bromeliad Sale

May 8, 1 to 6:00pm in Mission Hills, 92103

A plant sale the day before Mothers Day !

Scott needs to cull! He is opening up his backyard and selling a variety of bromeliads. Neoregelia, Vriesea, Tillandsia, Billbergia... As of press time, it looks like 1 or 2 other SDBS members may participate and have their awesome plants here as well. Be on the lookout for more information. *Right after our monthly meeting!*



Where: 2260 Fort Stockton Drive, 92103 in Mission Hills

When: Saturday, May 8th, 1:00 to 6:00 pm!
 This is the same day as the famous Mission Hills Garden Walk (no connection), but there will be plenty of parking, since the garden walk isn't in this block.

What: Cash or local checks only please.

How: Socially-distanced; facial masks must be worn.

Call or Text: Scott at (619) 937-5262

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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

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grower*

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at thedavekennedy@gmail.com or find him on Facebook