

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

May 2021

VOLUME LVI

NUMBER 5

## President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

Happy 56th Anniversary to the San Diego Bromeliad Society! Normally we would be having a cake to celebrate but since these are unusual times, we'll have to postpone our celebration until we meet face to face. Hopefully we'll be able to do that by the fall. Balboa Park follows the state guidelines for reopening, so maybe there will be more news of that in the next newsletter.

This month we are pleased to announce that our presenter will be Graeme Barclay from New Zealand. There is a five-hour time difference, New Zealand being earlier, so Graeme will be waking in the middle of the night in order to speak to us at 10am our time. We appreciate his efforts greatly.

Now that we've been having some warmer weather, don't forget to dump out and replenish the water of



*Tillandsia fasciculata x ionantha*. Photo by Juliana Raposo

your tank bromeliads, especially the Neoregelias that have already bloomed. There's nothing like accidentally tipping over your plant to have the water run down your arms and legs or all over your front. If you grow your plants in the ground, spray a healthy stream of water to

flush them out. Sometimes the ambient temperature will cause the water to heat up in the cups and "boil" the inner leaves, so be on the lookout for that as well. The center smells equally as unpleasant as when the water stagnates in unflushed plants. It's also time to remove offsets (if you're not into clumps) and repot broms as needed. Enjoy all the brilliant colors that spring brings out in your plants. We'll see you at the Zoom meeting Saturday.

Finally, there will be a Board meeting on Sunday, May 23 on Zoom beginning at 10am. All members are invited to attend. Let Scott Sandel know if you would like to be included in the invitation.

# May Meeting

Our Zoom meeting on May 8 2021, at 10 AM.

## Graeme Barclay on "Growing Broms in the Bush"

This presentation will highlight the cultivation of many Brazilian species in his collection, plus other rarities that grow well for himself and others in New Zealand. Particular focus will cover techniques and tips on growing bromeliad species as epiphytes. We will see many extremely well-grown bromeliads and can pick up growing tips for our own collections from this enthusiastic grower.

Graeme is the current BSI Director for New Zealand, Assistant Editor of the BSI Journal and Manager of the Bromeliad Species Database ('BSD') - a brand new resource he has designed and helped construct that will be hosted on the BSI website probably later in 2021. He is the current President of the Bromeliad Society of New Zealand and Convener of 'Kiwi Broms', the 21st Australasian Bromeliad Conference, due to be held in Auckland, New Zealand in April 2022.



*Our May speaker, Graeme Barclay*

He has grown bromeliads for over 20 years, purely as a hobbyist. For the last half of those years he has focused on building and maintaining a large species collection at his native bush-clad property in Auckland.

His passion is growing species as they would grow in habitat, trialing and experimenting with different growing methods and plant locations to achieve optimum cultivation results. To help achieve this, he has imported a number of bromeliad shipments from Australia and Hawaii in recent years, not only to expand his collection but to help increase the range of plants available to local growers.

He is also an active seed grower, hybridizer of *Neoregelia* and is a regular contributor of species and

cultivation articles for the BSNZ monthly 'Bromeliad' Journal.

Invitations for the Zoom meeting were sent by Scott Sandel.



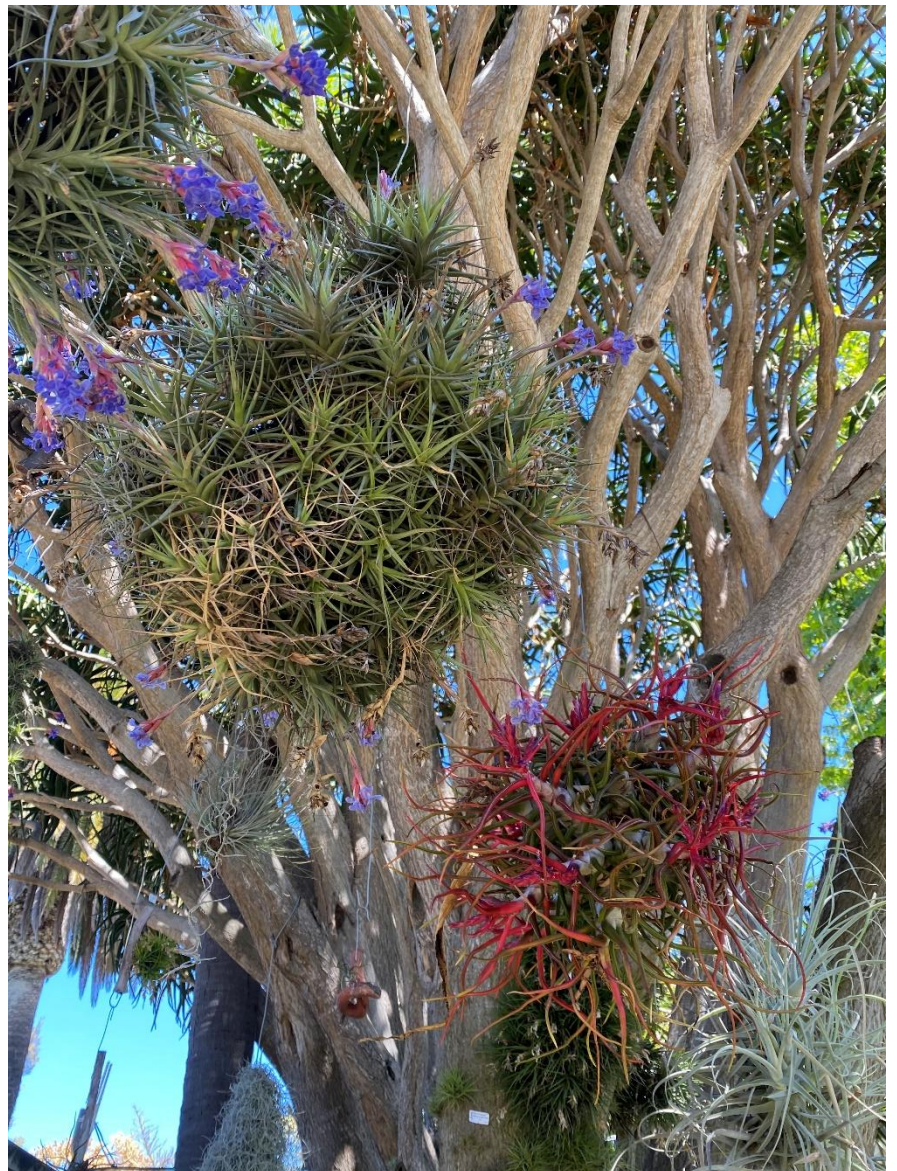
*Barclay has an extensive collection of *Neocarcharodon* types, which he is hybridizing. Photo by Graeme Barclay.*

## April Meeting Recap

We had our own Pam Hyatt with an interesting talk about Werner Rauh. We learned about his extensive contribution to the world of bromeliads including several collecting expeditions, and a treasure trove of material that is being catalogued and formatted into a searchable database in Bonn, Germany – The [Werner Rauh Heritage Project](#).

# Blooming

All photos by Al Evans except large shot. Left: *Q. testudo*, *T. ionantha* 'Druid', *T. ionantha* 'Fuego' and *Vriesea botafoguensis*. Bottom right: Bill. 'Evelyn', *Aech. Bromeliifolia*. Also, tillandsia clumps steal the show at Andy's Orchids.



## Upcoming Events

### SDBS May Meeting

Saturday, May 8, from 10am to 12pm

Join meeting on Zoom

[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

## SDBS 2020

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*Neoregelia fluminensis*

## 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

## SDBS 2020

### Officers

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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  
[julianadraposo@gmail.com](mailto:julianadraposo@gmail.com)

Make sure to submit your  
contribution before the 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

## DK ORNAMENTALS

### BROMELIADS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

**Tillandsia  
Neoregelia  
Vriesea  
Orthophytum  
Bigenerics  
and more!**

*Purchase directly from  
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