



The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

June 2021

VOLUME LVI

NUMBER 6

President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

It is with great pleasure to tell you that if all goes well, we will meet in person again during the September meeting in Balboa Park. It will be exciting to see everyone and catch up on what we've been doing during the pandemic.

The board met last month via Zoom and would like to share an important agenda item we discussed and agreed upon. Earlier in May, Nancy Groves was contacted by Rene van Rems, the world-renowned floral designer at the San Diego Botanic Garden. He would like to feature bromeliads as an exhibit in the state-of-the-art glasshouse there. He and Brandi Eides, the managing director, presented their ideas to Nancy, Scott Sandel, and me. What their proposition entailed was that SDBS members would provide the plants to be featured in the exhibit, on loan. Rene would place them, provide all



Tree frog living in Hohembergia correa-araujo. Photo Juliana Raposo

the background material, RO watering system, and security. SDBS would be responsible for labeling plants and organizing dropping off and picking them up. Each plant would be numbered and recorded on a master list and checked against the list before they are released back to the owners at the end of the exhibition. The plants would be on loan to the Botanic Garden from Aug. 11 - Sept. 28 (including the dates for drop off and pick up). That would be

for seven weeks. Another highlight is that during this time, there will be an opportunity for members to sell their extra plants each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday on a rotational basis free of fees. More details will be given in the future. The exhibit would be open to visitors beginning Aug. 14 and last through Sept. 26. The board agreed that this would be a golden opportunity to showcase our beautiful plants to not only the public, but to a lot of horticultural people. We also have a chance to increase our membership and expose more people to these fantastic plants. Recently a successful exhibit was held there featuring orchids and members from the San Diego Orchid Society participated. Many positive comments resulted. Please consider participation in this event starring our bromeliads. Your plants will be pampered in a controlled environment. Now is the time to start grooming the plants you would like to lend. Don't forget that you will be able to sell your extra plants. There will be more information during the upcoming weeks. In the meantime, safe and happy growing.

June Meeting

Our Zoom meeting on June 12 2021, at 10 AM.

The Bromeliad Kingdom with Gabriel Scholtz

This month we will be hearing from and seeing Gabriel at the Bromeliad Kingdom nursery on the south coast of South Africa. Gabriel, originally from Cape Town, started the nursery some years ago recognizing the extensive range of plants that can be grown in a temperate, sub-tropical portion of the coast. For us he will discuss bromeliads that thrive in that area, with emphasis on the natural conditions, both floral and faunal, in which they are grown. Being absent from the nursery for part of the year he will show how he manages his inventory, a feat that is difficult but still possible on account of the benign climate with rain, albeit erratic, in all seasons.

The nursery is located along the well-known Garden Route of South Africa, a place visited by many tourists. The following clip provides some impression of its nature and of the bromeliads that Gabriel grows and hybridizes

<https://www.instagram.com/bromeliad.kingdom/>. With his wide-ranging interests and lively personality, you will not be bored during this Zoom presentation.



June colors: *Aechmea fosteriana*, *Tillandsia stricta* and *Aechmea nudicaulis*.
Photos by Juliana Raposo



May Meeting Recap

We had a very interesting presentation by Graeme Barclay, current president of the New Zealand Bromeliad Society. Graeme grows a multitude of bromeliads in his garden that edges the subtropical forest in Auckland. He shared techniques and insights on outdoor cultivation. We were all inspired.

June Vriesea Boomers + Offsetters

Story and Photos by Scott Sandel



Vriesea guttata with its signature pendant habit and yellow-green flowers



Vriesea 'Jamie Smethie' detail



Vriesea 'Carioca' detail

The growth season for our bromeliads is in full swing. As the days get longer, our plants are in growth mode. For this month, I will focus on what's going on in my overs-stuffed collection with the members of the **Vriesea** genus. As if you don't have enough plant maintenance to do this summer, I thought that I would share some tips that have worked for me over the last few years.

Foliage Vrieseas are those plants in the genus that are grown primarily for their decorative foliage colors and bold foliage patterns. Of course, many "foliage" Vriesea hybrids have interesting and often large inflorescences, but the flowers are noteworthy for their architecture more than their color. (See photos below that focus on the cobra head like form and color patterns on the

inflorescences that are currently growing).

What is triggering the current bloom spurt? It's presumably the lengthening days. My current bloomers are almost all hybrids. Is there a particular species that "wants" to bloom right now? Hybridists often do not share the parentage in their foliage Vrieseas, making identification challenging. Additionally, the seed and pollen parents of these hybrids are often complex hybrids themselves. That said, common species that are "in the mix" of Vriesea foliage hybrids include *Vriesea* species such as *hieroglyphica*, *gigantea*, *fosteriana*, *platynema* var. *variegata* -- and others. If you have one or more of the listed species blooming now, speak up during this month's Show-N-Tell!

Vrieseas that I have growing inflorescences:

- *Vriesea 'Carioca'* (Grant Groves hybrid)
- *Vriesea 'Giant Jade'* (John Arden hybrid)
- *Vriesea guttata*
- *Vriesea 'Intermedia' Rubra* x *'Snowman'* (New Zealand hybrid, A. Maloy?)
- *Vriesea 'Jamie Smethie'* (David Fell hybrid)
- *Vriesea 'Pacific Wave'* (New Zealand hybrid, A. Maloy?)
- *Vriesea 'Static Shock'* (unknown source, Florida?)
- *Vriesea 'Sweet Success'* (John Arden hybrid)
- *Vriesea 'Tasman Candyman'* (New Zealand hybrid, A. Maloy, P. Coyle)

➤ X *Vrieslandsia* 'Twin Brother'
(John Arden hybrid)

Maybe one or two of the current bloomers will develop slowly enough to be included in this summer's Bromeliad Exhibit at the San Diego Botanic Garden, which is scheduled so far for August 14-September 26!



Vrieslandsia 'Twin Brother' has a few more weeks to develop before first flowers appear.



Vriesea 'Tasman Candyman'

Upcoming Events

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

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

Bromeliad Sale at Dave and Debbie Kennedy's

Dave & Debbie Kennedy will be having a massive 2-day sale June 19-20, from 9am to 5 pm both days. Lots of different Bromeliads will be available, at all price ranges. Many rare Tillandsias will also be offered.

Even though masking mandates are expected to be lifted by then, please be cautious if you haven't been vaccinated. And due to health and safety considerations, there will be no restroom facilities on site.

Mt. Acadia Park, at 3865 Mt. Acadia Blvd., is very close to his location and has public restrooms. If you are traveling, please stop there if you need to.

Address: 3764 Cameo Lane,
 San Diego, 92111 (Clairemont)

Questions: thedavekennedy@gmail.com

Payment accepted: cash, check,
 credit card, PayPal, Venmo, Zelle.



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

julianadraposogmail.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



Newsletter of the San Diego
Bromeliad Society

Juliana Raposo, Editor

Ph: 858-349-1405

To send material for publication,
please contact Juliana at
julianadraposogmail.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

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

*Purchase directly from
an award-winning
grower*

To make an appointment email David Kennedy
at thedavekennedy@gmail.com or find him on Facebook