

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

July 2021

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President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

Hello members. I hope you all had a great 4th of July. Now we are all enjoying the brilliant colors of our amazing plants as we head into the season of longer periods of daylight. This month's President's Message will be devoted to the upcoming bromeliad exhibition, "World of Bromeliads, Puya to Pineapple" and sale to be held at the San Diego Botanic Garden. To give you a little background – world-renowned award-winning designer Rene Van Rems contacted Nancy Groves in May and asked if the SDBS membership would be interested in lending some of their bromeliads for display in the state-of-the-art Conservatory at the garden. Scott Sandel, Nancy, and I met with him and Brandi Eide (Director of Horticulture and Facilities) to find what expectations and specifics would be required. The Botanic Garden will provide the placement, exhibit props, security, care, and special labeling of plants. SDBS members will be responsible for

labeling (identification) of their plants. No plant will be taken out of its pot or off its mounting. The exhibition will last 6 weeks from Aug. 14 - Sept. 26, with sales during the weekends that fall within that timeline. Plant drop-off would be Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 11 - 12. An opening VIP reception will be held Friday, Aug. 13. Plant pick-up will be Sept. 27 - 28. Members who are lending their plants will be given a schedule.

A vendor marketplace of six 10' x 10' tents will be provided outside the Conservatory for those interested in selling plants. Six-foot tables will be provided along with electricity and WiFi access. Vendors donate 10% of their proceedings to the Botanic Garden. All vendors would be responsible for their own transactions and money exchange. Sales will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 9am - 4pm most weekends during the duration of the exhibit. If necessary, plants can be stored overnight in a holding area. If you are interested in selling, please email Nancy Groves at ngnancy.groves@gmail.com or Morlane O'Donnell at



SDBG conservatory

morlane.odonnell@att.net and we will get you the necessary information and forms.

All members who are interested in lending their bromeliads for the exhibit, please contact Nancy Groves, Kerry Nelson, Juliana Raposo, or Morlane O'Donnell. The Botanic Garden would like to invite you to the Conservatory for you to understand the set up and answer any questions you may have. A blast will be sent to the membership as to when and how to gain admission. Please consider participating in this event to make it successful. Let's spread the word to the public on why these are such remarkable plants.

Meanwhile, safe and happy growing.

July Meeting

Our Zoom meeting on July 10 2021, at 10 AM.

Roadside Bolivia, with Carl Carter

We will join Carl on a trip driving an SUV 6000 miles (10000 km), sometimes on paved roads, through the highlands and lowlands of Bolivia. On the way you'll see insects, birds, orchids, palms, philodendrons, ferns and even roadside cacti. However, this is not just an amble through the Andes. Tillandsias and puyas such as this (below) will be the focus of this presentation, of which Bolivia possesses many, some at the highest altitudes they can grow. He's been there twice and explains why he wants to return.

Carl is originally from San Diego but has lived in the Bay Area for nearly forty years. Formally he's a trained chemist, but as technology has revolutionized that field he has become recognized as an electrical engineer. In the world of plants he is fascinated by epiphytes, but among bromeliads, the fascination is for puyas and alcantareas. He is a past President of the Bromeliad Society of San Francisco and President of the Orchid Society of California.



June Meeting Recap

All the way from South Africa, we had nurseryman Gabriel Scholtz. His presentation covered years of bromeliad cultivation in his nursery, The Bromeliad Kingdom.

Hechtia Caerulea

Story and Photos by Eloise Lau

Hechtia caerulea is a spineless *Hechtia*, a rare feature in a genus known for its very spiny members. It is a central bloomer unlike lateral bloomers that bloom from the side and produce flowers year after year. We have a few other spineless *Hechtias* in our collection, *H. tillandsioides* and *H. lundelliorum*. Our *Hechtia caerulea* is a small plant approximately 12 inches in diameter with lime green leaves. It produces a beautiful multi-branched spike with



lovely dark lavender flowers that are fragrant. *Hechtia caerulea* would make a great plant for landscaping—it is small with beautiful chartreuse colored leaves and a gorgeous bloom spike. It would do well in a partially shaded area that gets bright light. We grow it in a pot under shade cloth here in Vista. In habitat, *H. caerulea* grows on igneous rock in tropical dry forests. *H. caerulea* was first discovered in Mexico State in 1960 by Matuda and described as *Niveophyllum caeruleum*. It was renamed *Hechia integerrima* by Foster in 1968 and reclassified as *Hechtia caerulea* by Smith in 1972.

The spineless *Hechtia* have now been reclassified in the resurrected genus *Bakerantha*. (see Ramirez-Morillo, et al, Re-establishment of *Bakerantha*, and a new Genus... Harvard Papers in Botany, 2018) There are four species in *Bakerantha*, *caerulea*, *tillandsioides*, *lundelliorum*, *purpusii*. There will be 5 species when *B. hidalguense* is added in a soon to be published morphology. *Bakerantha* can be found in Kewscience Plants of the World online. *Bakerantha* has not yet been resurrected in the Bromeliad taxon list. Thank you to Ivon Ramirez Morillo for her help.

SAVE THE DATE

We will celebrate SDBS's first in person meeting with a picnic on September 11, 2021 at San Dieguito County Park in Solana Beach. Details to follow in the August Newsletter.

Hula Tropicals Bromeliad Sale

Hula Tropicals, Steve Salley's nursery, is having a one-day sale!

When: July 17, from 8AM to 4:30PM

Where: 31848 Aqueduct Rd., Bonsall, 92003.

More information can be found at HulaTropicals.com. There will be hundreds of Bromeliads as well as Hoyas, Adeniums, Plumeria, and other succulents. This sale is sponsored by the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society.



Eye-catching colors and patterns

Occasionally one has a few minutes just to wander around the collection with no purpose other than enjoying the sights. Depending on the light, different things can stand out. One doesn't worry about plant names or cultivation techniques but just enjoys the interesting colors and patterns that present themselves. This collage is the result of such a day – Dan Kinnard



SDBS 2020

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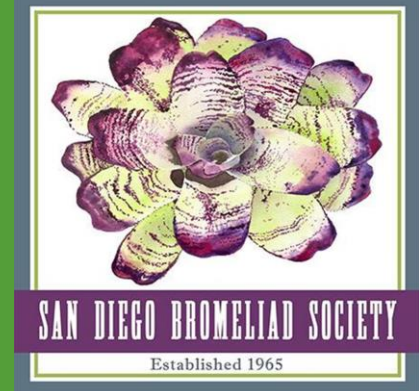
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To send material for publication,
please contact Juliana at
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Make sure to submit your
contribution before the 20th of
the month for inclusion in the
next newsletter.

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

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