

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

February 2023

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## President's Message

By Steve Zolezzi

We thought it would never happen again, but the rains came for the wettest January in 20 years - Hope it's not over?

We like the rain but so do the weeds. We know ants cultivate mealybugs and aphids. Well, birds transport weed seeds so no one is exempt unless you have a fully enclosed growing area - most of us can thank the birds for our garden workout!

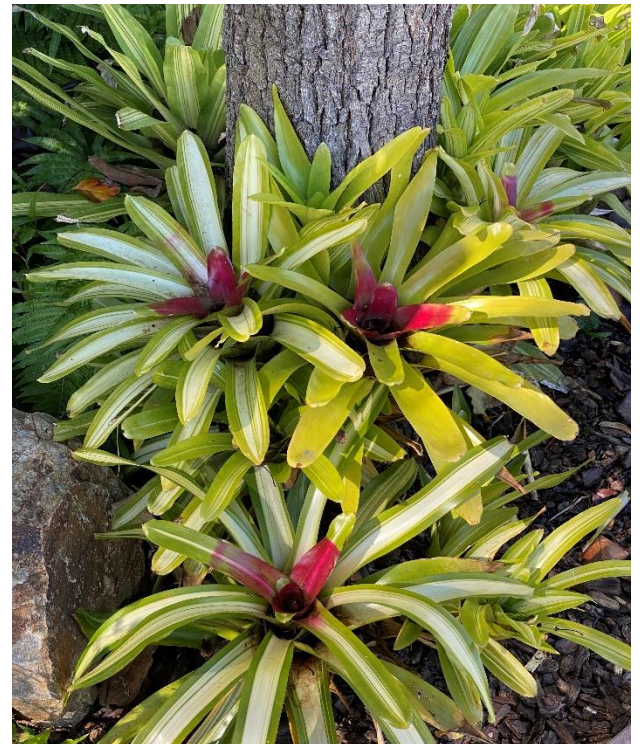
Read more about this month's in person meeting program with Kristen Jepsen, director of the Genomics Center at UCSD---DNA is the topic of discussion.

At the January meeting I asked first year members to come together at 9:45. We discussed how they can become more involved by participating on committees and even present a program. Pick a plant Genre, go online or checkout a book from our library to produce a short book report with or without pictures

and a plant for a great program. We will again have a pre-meeting for first year members at 9:45 - look forward to it.

It was suggested at the last meeting Nan Sterman would be a good contact to help focus in on a Conservation Project for the Society. We need her contact info if anyone has it?

Last month I brought up potting mixes to use. Well, most commercial and hobbyists included Peat as an ingredient. Are there more earth-friendly substitutes? "Peat comes from moorlands, peat bogs, in Canada, Europe, Africa and in the Eastern US." Removing a yard is removing 1000 years of accumulation and there is no replacing it. The UK and other governments plan to ban its sale starting in 2024. Coir - ground coconut hulls - are a possible substitute. We will be talking more on this subject in the future including pumice/dry-stall - stay tuned.



*Most plants in this clump of Neo carolinae hybrid are in bloom now. I think they enjoyed the winter rains. Note how some individuals don't have the variegation. (Photo by Juliana Raposo)*

Heads up for parking at the February meeting - the Cactus and Succulent Society sale and show is the same day and time as our meeting so be prepared---car pool if possible.

Good gardening!

# February Meeting

Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 10am in Casa del Prado, room 104, Balboa Park



Our speaker this month will be Kristen Jepsen, Director of the IGM Genomics Center at UCSD. Kristen did her undergraduate work at University of Washington in Seattle and relocated to San Diego where she obtained a PhD in Biology at UC San Diego. She has been Director of the IGM Genomics Center for the past ten years.

This marks a significant departure from the type of speaker we invite to our meetings, and we are honored that she is coming to talk to us. She is no expert on bromeliads but, at UCSD she runs one of the largest centers in the US where the DNA in people and other organisms including plants is worked out. Why should we, as growers of bromeliads,

want to hear about this? There are several reasons. One of them is that the frequent changes in the names given to our bromeliads are never explained to us, at least in terms we can understand. We grudgingly accept such changes but are confused or irritated by them. A few years ago, many tillandsias and vrieseas were given new names. One of them appears below. It used to be known as a Tillandsia. Now it is a Wallisia. Why? Kristen will avoid getting into the full details but will run us through why and how changes like this have occurred.

Another reason we should want to hear about the DNA studies is that the hybridization of living things

(animals or plants) can benefit from the use of genomics, the study of their DNA. It is being used today to plan the foods you may (or may not) eat tomorrow. One day it may be possible to check the identity and track down the theft of bromeliad hybrids. This is a fascinating and technical subject, but Kristen will keep her descriptions to a level we can all understand. Bring your questions to the meeting. It will be quite informal and will not be Zoomed.

# January Meeting Recap

Our speaker was Pam Koide-Hyatt with a deep dive into the tillandsia tectorum complex. The presentation was anchored on slides and was enriched by several live specimens brought in by the speaker and club members at Show and Tell. The plants represented the many variations within the tectorum complex and other closely related tillandsia species.

Pam delivered a great talk about a plant that SDBS members can relate to. After all, Tillandsia tectorum is one of the bromeliads that really feels at home in the San Diego climate and that we all have in our collections. With so much variation in size and form within the complex, we all learned more about this species that thought we knew well.



# Show and Tell



The January Show and Tell featured a diverse group of *T. tectorum* and closely related species. Al Evans, Andy Cuffel, Lucia Velasquez, Scott Sandel, and Pam Peters are shown. Robert Kopfstein shows a *Deuterocohnia* hybrid. There were many other member submissions as well.





## SDBS Events 2023

### SDBS Monthly Meeting

February 11, 2023 @ 10am  
Casa del Prado room 104, Balboa  
Park, San Diego.

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

More Coming Soon



## Hey you! Are your SDBS membership dues late?

If so, don't delay! You may stop receiving news and be unable to participate in club events. Contact Charles Oelsen, membership chair, to renew by mail or in the club meeting this Saturday.

## Mission Hills Garden Walk

Purchase tickets at [www.missionhillsgardenclob.org](http://www.missionhillsgardenclob.org)



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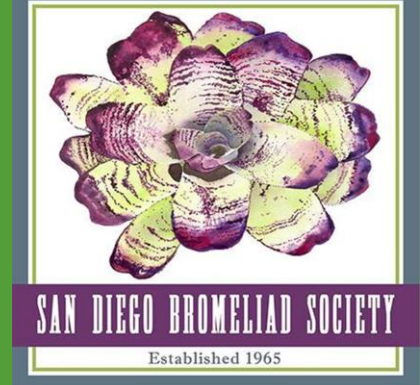
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## THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego  
 Bromeliad Society

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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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To make an appointment email David Kennedy  
 at [thedavekennedy@gmail.com](mailto:thedavekennedy@gmail.com) or find him on Facebook