



The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

October 2016

VOLUME LI

NUMBER 10

President's Corner

By Robert Kopfstein

For those of you with good memories you might remember the March, 2015 President's Corner. The subject was taxonomy, or the naming of plants. Of course, for those of you who choose to skip the drivel that I dish up every month this will not be an issue; in fact, if you are not reading this sentence now . . .

But back to names. Perhaps a challenge for many people who love and grow bromeliads is the problem of these magnificent plants lacking common names, except of course for the crosses and cultivars (like *Neoregelia* 'Hannibal Lecter' or *Aechmea orlandiana* 'Bert'). Despite this problem, we cannot underestimate the importance of taxonomy in the world of bromeliads.

In order to create some kind of scientific order, the taxonomists have created groupings from the most general to the most specific. In the case of bromeliads:

Kingdom -- Plantae
Phylum -- Tracheophyta (i.e. flowering plants)
Class -- Liliopsida (monocots—as opposed to dicots)
Order -- Bromeliales
Family -- Bromeliaceae

Bromeliaceae in turn was traditionally divided into three sub-families:

Pitcairnioideae -- the terrestrials etc.
Bromelioideae -- aechmeas etc.
Tillandsioideae -- tillandsias, vrieseas etc.

These separations and distinctions were often heavily based on flower structure.

In fact, in the 18th century when the Swedish botanist Linnaeus first conceived of the binomial system (Genus-species) he based his distinctions solely on flower structure, to the point that some of his contemporaries thought he had gone too far in his graphic descriptions of floral sex anatomy and behavior. Luckily for Linnaeus there were no R and X ratings at the time.

By 2007 a group of researchers at the University of Wisconsin published a scientific paper that called for

dividing the family Bromeliaceae not into three but into eight sub-families. These researchers based their findings not on flower structure, but on something that was unavailable to early taxonomists: DNA.

This double helix molecule—it looks like a spiral staircase--can not only show differences in plants and animals, but it can also indicate evolutionary development of a particular group.

The Wisconsin researchers proposed the following sub-families for the Bromeliaceae:

Brochinioideae
Lindmanioideae
Hechtioideae
Navioideae
Pitcairnioideae
Puyoideae
Tillandsioideae
Bromelioideae

Note please that they did not throw the baby out with the bathwater; the original three sub-families are still in the list.

By 2013 yet another split was proposed. The sub-family Tillandsioideae would be split into seventeen genera:

Tillandsia
Lemeltonia
Barfussia
Josemania
Racinaea
Guzmania
Harrylutheria
Zizkaea
Waltillia
Ericgoudaea
Mezobromelia
Cipuropis
Werauia
Alcantarea
Vriesea
Catopsis
Glomeropitcairnia

The first fifteen would still remain in the core Tillandsia group divided into tribes Tillandsieae and the Vrieseae;

however, Catopsis would be in the tribe Pogospermeae, and Glomeropitcairnia would be in the tribe Glomeropitcairneae. The good news is that there will not be a written test on all of this at the October meeting.

And is it crucially important that the hobbyist/grower should commit all this to memory? Likely not. But it is probably a good idea that bromeliadophiles are at least aware that these changes in nomenclature exist.

If scientific research points out nothing else, it brings to our attention what a stunningly complex universe we inhabit. And complexity is the basis of all serious thought.

And now it is housekeeping time. Elections will take place at next month's meeting, and there are currently two offices up for election with no candidates: president and treasurer. If you ask any of the current officers/board members you will find that the duties are not that demanding.

Every member should be aware of what the society does for her or him. The question is what might you do for the society? The nomination committee consists of Bob Walters, Nancy Groves, and Robert Kopfstein. Let any or all of them know if you are interested in running for either of these offices.

September Meeting

Program

We had a great presentation on Cryptanthus by Carole Richtmyer, renowned crypto collector and grower, and Secretary of the Cryptanthus Society. It was great to hear about a genus that we mostly don't talk about. The talk was well illustrated with lots of pictures of species, and Carole's lovely hybrids.

September's Plant Table

We had several cryptos brought in by our speaker Carole Richtmyer both as raffle and for sale. In addition, several hard to find specimens for the collection of Betty Patterson of Texas. Members had the chance to add variety to their collection.



Orthophytum Iron Ore, Dan Kinnard

Show and Tell

T. concolor, unknown tillandsia –
Lucia Velazquez

Crypt. Elaine, Crypt. fosterianus (zonatus), assortment of cryptos on a planter – **David Kennedy**

Neo. Pink Sensation – **Richard Horak**

Ortho. Iron Ore, Crypto. Strawberry Flambe – **Dan Kinnard**

Hechtia edulis Copper Canyon (male), Hoh. leopoldo-horsti x lemei, Bill. Hallelujah x wild thing (two from the grex), T. coalcomanensis, Bill. Bob, T. capitata Gator x concolor –
Andy Siekkinen



Bill. Hallelujah x Wild Thing, Andy Siekkinen. Notice the difference in coloration between 2 plants from the same cross.

Upcoming Events

Highlighted Meetings

October 8, 2016 at 10 AM
SDBS Monthly Meeting
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

November 12, 2016 at 10 AM
SDBS Monthly Meeting
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

Monthly Meetings

1st Tuesday, 6:30 PM
San Diego Orchid Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.sdorchids.com

2nd Saturday, 10 AM
San Diego Bromeliad Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 104
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

2nd Saturday, 1 PM
San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society
Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101
www.sdcss.net

2nd Monday, 5 PM
San Diego Horticultural Society
Surfside Race Place at the Delmar
Fairgrounds
www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org



One of the cryptos at Show n Tell

Show and Tell

(continued)



Neo Pink Sensation, Richard Horak
T. compressa, Crypto. Starlight –
Nancy Groves

T. balbosiana hybrid, unknown
tillandsia – **Esther Sivilla**

xCanmea Galaxy, Crypto Pickle, T.
kigeliana x rothiae – Robert
Kopfstein



xCanmea Galaxy, Robert Kopfstein

October Meeting

Ivón Ramírez Morillo from Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico will be our speaker. Her program will be on the bromeliads of the Yucatán. The program should be great!

Since 1997 Ivón has worked for the Centro de Investigación Científica Yucatán, A. C. (CICY) as a professor and researcher. Her work has centered on the epiphytes of Venezuela and Mexico, especially the Bromeliaceae family, their taxonomy, floristics and reproductive biology and also the flora of Yucatan in general.

Aside from almost 60 published articles and several book chapters on the taxonomy and floristics of her chosen epiphyte groups Ivón is co-author of the book *Guía Ilustrada de las Bromeliaceae de la porción mexicana de la Península de Yucatán* (published 2004).

October Opportunity Table

by David Kennedy

This month the opportunity table will feature broms we acquired from Jacque Wrinkle, whose late husband, Guy, was an accomplished collector, grower and seller of rare broms and other plants as well as artifacts. Jacque has finally sold their Vista house and moved to Arizona. The selection includes many appealing *Dyckia* clumps in decorative pots, several *Alcantarea* and *Hohenbergia* species, plus Neos, Tillys and other stuff. There will be an auction that includes *Ursulaea tuitensis* (a cute triple), and more extra-nice broms.

SDBS 2016

Officers

President
Robert Kopfstein
rwkopfstein@gmail.com
760-726-8300

Vice-President
David Kennedy
thedavekennedy@gmail.com
858-278-6532

Secretary
Ruth Contino
ruth.contino@baesystems.com
619-303-2144

Treasurer
Al Evans, Jr.
alevansoo1@earthlink.net
858-492-9866

Newsletter Editor
Juliana Raposo
julianadraposo@gmail.com
858-349-1405

Past President
Robert Vittacco
rvittacco@cox.net

Board Members

Scott Sandel
sandel-marich@cox.net
619-325-1990 x 110

Nancy Groves
nancygroves@me.com
858-453-6486

Lucia Velazquez
luciavmaccanna@yahoo.com
619-283-0500

Bob Walters
cactusbobboy@gmail.com
619-282-2246

Nancy Groves Elected Lifetime Trustee

by Gayle Versteig

Anne-Marie (Nancy) Groves was nominated, approved unanimously by the board and unanimously elected by the membership at the September meeting as Honorary Lifetime Trustee of the San Diego Bromeliad Society.

Nancy has been a member of the SDBS since 2002. She has worked hard to support and most times to lead club activities. She served as president in 2008-2009.

For nine years she has been the chairperson of the annual SDBS Show and Sale. She served in that capacity without a co-chair even though she has asked for that help. This is a tremendous job to do alone.

She spearheaded and worked on displays at the Home & Garden Show and twice has done the display at the San Diego County Fair earning hundreds of dollars in prize money for the club.

She has been hostess for several years for the Board meetings and provided fruit, beverages, and baked refreshments for the meetings.

I wonder how many miles she has put on her car running errands for the club and its activities. Without Nancy's energy the club would be much less interesting and successful.



Nancy and R. Kopfstein at the awarded 2015 Del Mar Fair SDBS display.

David Kennedy Undisputed Champion of the BROM-I-CON



Whoever came to the San Diego Bromeliad Society Bromeliad Show this May must have been delighted by the variety of beautiful, unusual broms on display.

A large chunk of the plants in the show came from David Kennedy's collection. Dave gobbled up all the major awards and amassed a total of 7 awards! That is some good plant growing.

In July, Kennedy received the Mulford B Foster and the Morris B Hobbs Award from our show chair Nancy Groves.



Dave's Awards BROM-I-CON 2016

Gold Mulford B. Foster

Dave Kennedy
Tillandsia Jalisco-monticola hybrid

Gold Morris Henry Hobbs

Dave Kennedy
Tillandsia 'Kaylan'

Silver Category I Division S

Dave Kennedy
Tillandsia hildae

Silver Category I Division M

Dave Kennedy
Tillandsia 'El Dimmitt Doble'

Silver Category I Division P

Dave Kennedy
Orthophytum glabrum

Silver Category III Division DC

Dave Kennedy
Ursulaea tuiutensis

Bronze Category I Division M Section F

Dave Kennedy
Dyckia 'Kaz'

THE BROMELIAD BLADE

San Diego Bromeliad Society
Juliana Raposo, Editor

6979 Sweetwater St
Carlsbad, CA 92011

858-349-1405

To send material for the newsletter, please contact Juliana at

julianadraposo@gmail.com

Make sure to submit your contribution before the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter.

SDBS MEETING

Meetings are held at 10AM on the second Saturday of the month at Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104.

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY WEBPAGE

www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html