



# THE BROMELIAD BLADE

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

Volume L, Number 7

July 2015

## Editor's Notes

Finally! All the excitement of the show and sale is over. and now we can settle down to normal things – figuring out how to water everything with the cut-backs, wondering where to put all the plants we bought at the sale in spite of swearing that nothing would follow us home, dividing and repotting all those plants that you have been promising yourself you would get around to for some time now.

The show and sale really were great. Participation by many members was the key item that made it all possible. There are lots of photos of the event and some from our exhibit at the recent San Diego County Fair in this issue of The Bromeliad Blade. Thanks to all who contributed. Speaking of contributions to the newsletter, articles, photos, a paragraph or two about your favorite plant or companion plant would be well received to make the newsletter more interesting. Remember: it is your newsletter

Rumor has it that Andy Siekkinen is putting together a trip to Cuba about the end of August. Contact Andy for information.

See you at the meeting! ☐

## July Meeting



Our July meeting will be a learning opportunity provided by Aaron Sedivy, Conservatory Horticulturalist of the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Here's Aaron's story:

***I grew up in Nebraska and have a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture-Plant Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In college, I worked at the Nebraska Statewide***

***Arboretum doing propagation of Nebraska native prairie plants and trees that can survive in various conditions found throughout the state. I interned at the Denver Botanic Gardens in 2009 in the Rock Alpine Garden and returned as a seasonal in spring of 2011. By the end of the year I was hired fulltime in Tropicals and I will never be the same again. Responsibilities include: Bromeliad, Gesneriad and tropical cacti collections, poison dart frog care, daily maintenance of the Conservatory and two of six tropical greenhouses as well as tropical plant production for plant sales and use at The Gardens. At home, I practice Xeriscape™ gardening, dogscaoping, and urban farming with a focus on wildlife habitat development.***

***The presentation will focus on growing bromeliads in three significantly different environments at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Denver, Colorado. These include the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory, built of concrete in 1966, our state-of-the-art greenhouses which opened in 2010 and outdoor summer displays. In addition, there will be a quick***

## Book Sale in July

from Eloise Lau, Librarian

There will be a sale of Bromeliad and plant related books at our July meeting.

The books were kindly donated to SDBS by John Arden and Nona Church.

Thank you to both. ☐

## August Meeting

The August meeting will be our annual picnic. This year the picnic will be held at the neighboring gardens of Eloise Lau and Dan Kinnard and Robert and Karen Kopfstein. As usual, there will be a main dish and drinks furnished by SDBS. Attendees should bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be more details in the August newsletter. ☐

## Fair Awards

- Award of Merit
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Container Plant Collection
- Deeter Buckner Design Group Donated Award - "Best Succulent in a Container"
- Bill Teague Well-Maintained Landscape Exhibit



More photos with the show photos below. ☐

***demonstration on how to build an epiphyte limb made of PVC pipes and cork bark which will be auctioned off; the tips and tricks of the trade are free of charge.***

This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to learn about a great botanic garden and how they display some of their epiphytes. The demonstration piece will be auctioned off at the end of the program. This will be a great chance to have a distinctive display base for some of your plants. There will be cork available to buy if you want to build your own display piece. ☐



## BSI Standard Show

by Nancy Groves, Show Chair

photos by Nancy Groves

GOLD is something those of us in California appreciate since it was the Gold Rush that brought about our rapid rise as a state. The symbolic meaning of gold is strength and power. And this year the members of the San Diego Bromeliad Society have exhibited both with a very strong showing of 239 entries in the show. These were spectacular specimens, well grown outside, in drought ravaged California under shade cloth. The care given in growing each is shown in the 93 Award of Merit entries and 114 Blue First Place entries.

The Mulford B. Foster Award went to Dan Kinnard and Eloise Lau for a *Tillandsia tectorum* and the Morris Henry Hobbs Award went to *Tillandsia streptophylla x chiapensis* grown by David

## Couldn't Show and Tell

from Dave Kennedy  
photos by Dave Kennedy

It's been a crazy year with sporadic heavy storms and long stretches of warm dry days. Broms are coping as best they can, with premature blooms and generally odd growth. Still, there is lots of color popping in my backyard. Here I show *Tillandsia kretzii*, a beautiful mesic species from Guatemala, sporting a vivid red inflorescence and yellow flowers, and *T. streptophylla* x *chiapensis*, which began flowering in early May. Too early for this month's show? We shall see!



Kennedy. The Sweepstakes award went to Andy Siekkinen for his 51 entries in the Award of Merit or Blue categories. The two public awards for the “favorite” and the “weirdest” interestingly went to the same plant: Kay Quijada’s *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' grown epiphytically.



Silver Awards to Division winners went to David Kennedy, Andy Siekkinen, Kay Quijada, and Monica Mroz. And there were 15 Bronze Awards given in each of the five divisions since there were so many tied numerical scores. Two of our newest members Monica Mroz and Rhonda Smoot won head table awards, Silver and Bronze respectively. So even if you are new to growing bromeliads, don't be intimidated, enter next year!

We also had an out of the ordinary educational exhibit of five different Puyas from Bob Wright. No, none of them were in bloom and most of you can guess why; he did have to haul them in. It was a nice follow up to our society's trip in April to the Huntington Gardens where we saw four different varieties of Puya in bloom!



Mary Whittemore displayed a large memorable exhibit of Pineapple (*Ananas* to us) themed items. Steve Salley's Commercial Display was beautiful full pot of *Neoregelia ampullacea* and a

## Couldn't Show and Tell

from Dan Kinnard and Eloise Lau  
photos by Dan Kinnard

Last month I had a couple of photos of plants that bloomed too early for the show. Well what would follow other than some that were in the show but went into bloom when they got home. I still think that the plants are smarter than we think and are capable of doing things just to irritate us.

*Quesnelia marmorata* 'Tim Plowman'  
*variegata*



*Quesnelia marmorata* 'Tim Plowman'



**SECRET:**  
Something you tell to  
one person at a time.

tillandsia assortment including *T. punctatissima* on wood.

There were a great variety of different bromeliads displayed and not often seen in shows: a huge *Pitcairnia* entered by Bob Wright, two gigantic *Acanthostachys strobilacae* and *pitcairnioides* entered by Robert Kopfstein, as well as many wonderful *Aechmea*, *Ananas*, *Billbergia*, *Deuterocohnia*, *Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Hohenbergia*, *Neoregelia*, *Orthophytum*, *Racinaea*, *Tillandsia*, *Vriesea*, and several bigenerics. Thanks to Scott Sandel for our new black back prop for the awards stage that really made our top winners look spectacular.

At last count there are 116 members of SDBS and a large portion worked and helped with the show which was certainly appreciated. I want to especially thank Dan Kinnard and Eloise Lau for managing to get all entries into the computer system and printing those great readable cards and statistics. A special shout out to our judges' clerks Bob Walters, Lee Baker, and Karen Rudd for working so diligently with our judges. Judge Oscar Allen from Oregon, Carole and Rick Richtmeyer from Texas put in a long hard 10 hour day, but from our prospective it was certainly worth it.

SALES, certainly not to be forgotten, were manned by many throughout the two days with Al Evans totaling up the GOLD (it is our golden anniversary) for our treasury for the next year. Debbie Kennedy and Sonja Wicker put in long days with Al as accountants extraordinaire along with countless others. Thanks to all who helped with set up, plant intake, answering questions, providing food, watching security, tear down, and clean up; I cannot list names for fear of leaving someone out. Thank you all for being an integral part of the society and the show and making the public feel welcome and sparking interest in bromeliads among many. □

## The President's Corner

by Robert Kopfstein

After our May anniversary celebration of the fifty year history of the San Diego Bromeliad Society, the month of June turned out to be the frosting on the cake, so to speak.

The 2015 SDBS show/sale was a memorable success. We had more than 200 entries—all of them show quality plants, all of which won the praises of our three judges from Oregon and Texas. The sale was very successful with plant sales at a record level. Come to the next meeting - you'll get all the financial details.

None of this would have been possible without the time and energy of our membership who participated so enthusiastically. Special thanks needs to go out to Nancy Groves, who as show

## SDBS 2015

### Meetings

Meetings are held at 10 AM on the second Saturday of each month at Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 104.

### Officers

President:

Robert Kopfstein

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

(760)726-8300

1st Vice-President (programs):

OPEN

2nd Vice-President (plants):

David Kennedy

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

(858) 278-6532

Secretary:

Ruth Contino

[ruth.contino@baesystems.com](mailto:ruth.contino@baesystems.com)

(619) 303-2144

Treasurer:

Al Evans, Jr.

[alevans001@earthlink.net](mailto:alevans001@earthlink.net)

(858) 492-9866

Newsletter Editor:

Dan Kinnard

[dankinnard@mac.com](mailto:dankinnard@mac.com)

(760) 716-3328

Past President:

Robert Vitacco

[rvitacco@cox.net](mailto:rvitacco@cox.net)

(619) 469-3539

chair worked so tirelessly tending to all the myriad details that go into putting on a standard show: organizing the various show committees; working with the Botanical Foundation to be sure that the facilities are duly reserved; corresponding with BSI to register the show, gaining approval for the show schedule, and arranging for the Mulford Foster and Morris Henry Hobbes awards, and doing the follow-up bookkeeping on who won what; overseeing the set-up and take-down of the show room; and above all making sure that all the people working on the show have what they need to do their jobs.

Special thanks also needs to go out to Dan Kinnard and Eloise Lau who spent many hours on Friday as Classification chairs, working to make sure that every plant was properly identified and placed. To the clerks Bob Walters and Lee Baker who spent 10 hours on their feet assisting the judges. To Scott Sandel who (with Bob Vitacco) set up a great head table display. To Al Evans who, as treasurer, spent many hours collecting cash and, afterward, balancing the books and making sure that all the sellers got their money promptly.

In addition to the annual show, we also did a display at the **San Diego County Fair**. The theme of the fair commemorated the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Pan American Exhibition in Balboa Park, so the title of our exhibit was **Remembrance of Things Past** (a title borrowed from the French writer Marcel Proust). We included antiques commingled with the bromeliads. The exhibit gave us a chance to promote the SDBS show/sale and we also provided membership fliers to the public.

The exhibit won several awards (including a blue ribbon and an award for the best succulent in the fair—a dyckia hybrid in a decorative container, not to mention four awards for distinctive plants. With each award comes a cash prize. Thanks go out to Scott Sandel for his signage and plants, Dan and Eloise, Jim Wright, and Nancy Groves for plants, and to Nancy for her hours of labor.

On July 2 we also made presentations at the fair promoting bromeliads:

- Nancy Groves -- **Bromeliads As Waterwise Plants**
- Pam Hyatt -- **An Introduction To Tillandsias**
- Robert Kopfstein -- **How To Mount Epiphytic Bromeliads**

With luck, our show/sale and our presence at the fair will encourage some people to join the SDBS. Membership drives the club. And remember, the best way to build the membership is to bring along a friend to the next meeting. We all look forward to seeing you there. ☐

## SDBS 2015

### *Board Members*

**Scott Sandel (2014-2015)**  
[sandel-marich@cox.net](mailto:sandel-marich@cox.net)

(619) 325-1990 x110

**Nancy Groves (2014-2015)**  
[nancygroves@me.com](mailto:nancygroves@me.com)

(858) 453-6486

**Lucia Velazquez (2015-2016)**  
[luciamaccanna@yahoo.com](mailto:luciamaccanna@yahoo.com)

(619) 283-0500

**Bob Walters (2015-2016)**  
[cactusbobby@gmail.com](mailto:cactusbobby@gmail.com)

(619) 282-2246

### *Web Page*

[www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

### *The Bromeliad Blade*

**San Diego Bromeliad Society**  
**Dan Kinnard, Editor**  
**6901 Kellyn Lane**  
**Vista, CA 92084-1243**

**(760) 716-3328**  
[dankinnard@mac.com](mailto:dankinnard@mac.com)

Items for publication are welcomed and should be received by the editor by the 25th of the preceding month.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

WHEN WHAT, WHERE

### HIGHLIGHTED MEETINGS

July 11, 2015 at 10:00 AM San Diego Bromeliad Society  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104  
Program: Aaron Sidvey, Denver Botanic Gardens  
[www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

August 8, 2015 at 11:30 AM San Diego Bromeliad Society  
Annual Picnic at the gardens of Robert and Karen Kopfstein and Eloise Lau and Dan Kinnard  
[www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

September 12, 2015 at 10:00 AM San Diego Bromeliad Society  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104  
A collection of local presenters (details later)  
[www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

October 9 - 10, 2015 37th ANNUAL SOUTHWEST BROMELIAD GUILD SHOW and 14th INTERNATIONAL CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY SHOW  
The Crown Plaza New Orleans Airport  
Kenner, LA.  
Contact: Bryan Windham at (504-) 722-2808 or email: [brykool69@yahoo.com](mailto:brykool69@yahoo.com)

October 10, 2015 at 10:00 AM San Diego Bromeliad Society  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104  
Paul Isley III - New Tillandsia Species And Hybrids  
[www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

June 13-19, 2016 Bromeliad Society International World Conference  
Houston, Texas

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 6:30 PM San Diego Orchid Society  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101  
[www.sdorchids.com](http://www.sdorchids.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 10 AM San Diego Bromeliad Society  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104  
[www.bsi.org/webpages/san\\_diego.html](http://www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html)

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 1 PM San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101  
[www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 5 PM San Diego Horticultural Society  
Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds  
[www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org](http://www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org)

## Couldn't Show and Tell

by Kay Quijada

photo by Kay Quijada



The Big *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*

by Steve Salley

photo by Steve Salley

This is *Hohenbergia burle-marxii*. When I drained the water out of this plant and put it on the ground to take some photos and I was surprised by how heavy it still was. I would guess plant and pup weighed 30 pounds. The leaves are wide, thick, and fleshy for a bromeliad. It is just starting to bloom for the first time. It grows under the same conditions as the *H. stellata*.(on p. 8) It is about 3ft



## Items From the Show, Sale, Fair

Here are some comments and photos about the show, sale and the fair exhibit that were sent in by members and others.

*from Carole and Rick Richtmyer (the judges from Texas)*

The show was wonderful to judge, not a chore at all, and we learned a lot while we were there. . . . Since we've been home, the rain continues -- we got another 5 inches Saturday night. Wish we could send some of it your way.

*from Lorraine Cypher*

I finally found the SDBS Display at the fair, it looks great and the placement of the original 1943 post cards were great.

The sale was wonderful, I truly enjoyed it as did my friend Elsie and my grandson.

*from Al Evans*

Thanks for all your hard work at the show and sale. I think it was one of the Society's best shows.

*from Dave Kennedy*

This year's Show was a good one, they tell me. Somehow, they pulled it off without my help! I had poor Debbie schlep my plants down there, so I could rest my sketchy back. . . . And I know Nancy, Dan, and all the other members make it happen, but honestly, how they do it every year boggles.

I learned a few things this year. Foremost, how to classify my own entries. Yippee! And it turns out that this seemingly mystifying codification is actually reasonably straightforward. Honest!

I like the idea of growing plants perfectly, and I enjoy showing them off, so the Show is truly worth the effort by everyone to make it happen.

*from Andrew Wilson*

photos by Andrew Wilson

It was indeed a fine show, perhaps heavy on the easily transportable such as tillandsias but with a high standard overall.



## Couldn't Show and Tell

by Steve Salley

photo by Steve Salley

This is *Hohenbergia stellata*, that has colonized part of a bench in my green house and I have been unable to evict it. It grows under plastic that blocks 55% of the sun. It gets tap water and a rare feeding of what ever is available. ☐



**TOMORROW:**  
One of the greatest labor  
saving devices of today.



*from Rhonda Smoot*

This was my first time ever participating in any type of plant show. In fact I have only been a member of the SDBS for a few months. For me, it was a surprising, wonderful, educational, and expensive weekend. I have only been growing, learning about, and selling some Tillandsia arrangements for 1 ½ years. I was surprised that I did so well, even the sale went well.

I felt I needed to enter in the categories that I thought were “safe” by entering 5 of my plants in the Decorative Container division, 1 in the Artistic Arrangement division and others in the Novice division. Of the 12 Tillandsia entries, 3 earned Awards of Merit, 8 first place awards and 1 Second place award. What surprised me was the *T. balsiana*. I entered in the horticultural division, for which I won an Award of Merit. I had had that plant tucked away in my little greenhouse for over a year and frankly hadn't looked at it in a long time. I was surprised how big it had gotten and that it was ready to bloom. The second and best surprise was the arrangement I put together for entry into the DC division. I again had had this *T. stricta black tip* for some time it too was in bud, had the container for even longer, and was going to use another plant in it, I grabbed



the black tip and the other plant, to me they equally looked good. I chose the black tip, and this arrangement won an Award of Merit with a bronze medal and was featured on the head table!

WOW! What an honor! All of this was so unexpected for me, I am by no means an expert like the majority of the members who have been growing, displaying, and showing for many years.

I learned so much and gained new acquaintances, it is great fun to be around people of like mind and interest. I had a chance to chat and learn from a judge about how and why I got the marks I did. I would like to thank all of you for your help and support during the weekend, and I look forward to next year's show.

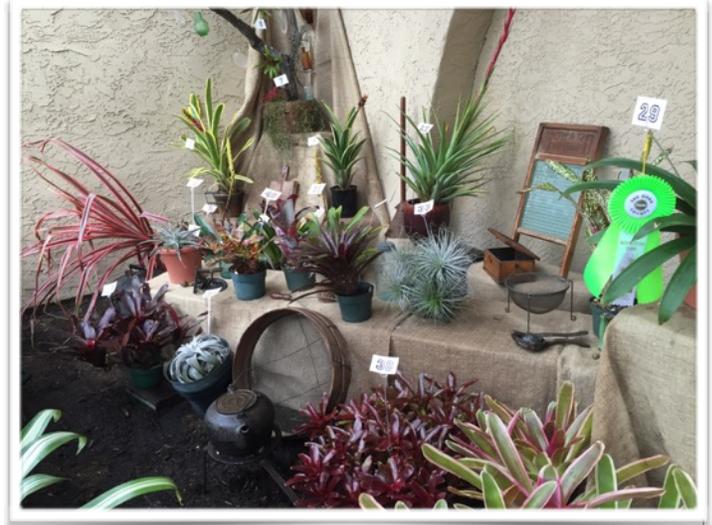
*from Jim Wright*

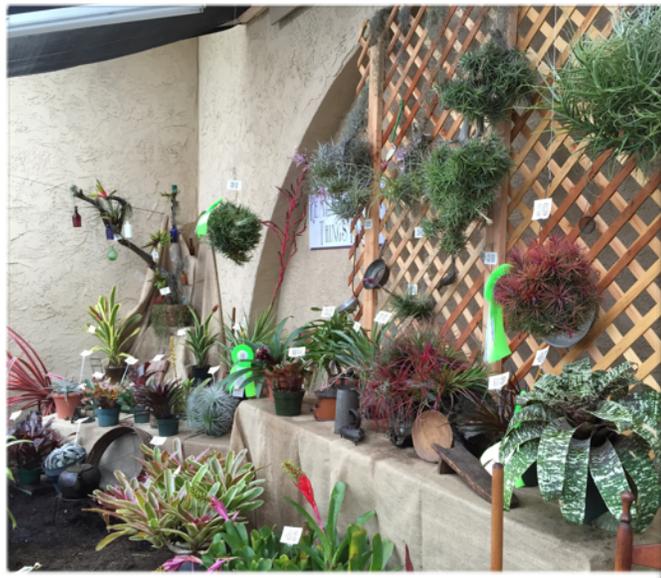
I thought it was fantastic. way more quality plants than I would ever have imagined.

*from Nancy Groves*

photos by Nancy Groves

At the Fair.





*from Dan Kinnard*  
photos by Dan Kinnard

The show, volunteers, visitors, awards, sales .....





The Judges



