



THE BROMELIAD BLADE

Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

Volume I, Number 8

August 2015

Directions to Picnic

To arrive at 6901 Kellyn Lane:

From I-15:

Take Gopher Canyon exit. Turn toward Vista. Go about 1.5 miles to Disney. Turn Right. Follow directions below from **

From I-5:

Take Hwy 76 and follow directions below.

From Hwy 76 or Vista:

Take East Vista Way to Gopher Canyon.

Turn toward I-15.

Go 3 miles to Disney. Turn Left.

**Go 0.8 miles to Kellyn. Turn Left. Go to first paved drive / road on the left. The top sign on the signboard says "←Mary's Place". Turn left.

Go directly up the road, through the gate (gate will be open) to top of the hill. You can't miss the house.

PARKING: You can park along Kellyn or the access road. There is some parking near the house but let those who have trouble walking have the nearer parking places.

August Non-Meeting (Picnic)

August is our annual picnic. The date is our usual meeting date (August 8, 2015). This year it will be held at the gardens of Eloise Lau and Dan Kinnard and Bob and Karen Kopfstein which are conveniently located next to each other in Vista. No, you don't actually need a passport to travel so far nor do you need one to come from Orange County. Travel is still unrestricted although it may seem like a different world.

The society will furnish the main dish, prepared by Robert. Rumor has it that we will have fresh road-kill prepared as only he can. Drinks will also be provided. Bring what you want to share — side dish, dessert, salad.

Each member attending will receive a free ticket for the plant drawing which will work like the monthly opportunity table except: you can't buy extra tickets and each ticket is a guaranteed winner.

The main event (picnic) will be in Eloise and Dan's garden. Directions are in the sidebar. Please plan on arriving about 11:30 so that we can have it all ready to eat about 12 noon.

After lunch we will have the drawing and tours of both gardens. Both gardens may have a table of extra plants that can be procured for \$5 or less. The extra plants may be rare, unusual, rare, pretty, or needing a bit of loving; the idea is to share the plants, gain some space in our growing areas, and recover the cost of pots and soil. Details will be given at the event.

NOTES: Since both gardens are located in sparsely populated areas, on hills and in strong sun, comfortable shoes, clothing, a hat and sunblock are highly recommended. Please do not wander off alone since there are lots of pitfalls and wildlife (yes, including snakes) to be aware of. Please do not bring pets.

So that we may have an idea of how many people to expect, please inform Eloise at eloiselau@mac.com or (760) 716-3328 if you plan to attend. Robert needs to know how much road-kill to gather. ☐

Editor's Notes

The rains were welcome albeit not nearly enough. It certainly brought the humidity levels up and the bromeliads loved. They probably thought they died and went to bromeliad heaven. At least they are all smiling.

If the readers noticed that "Meet the Members" is missing, it should be back next month. With all the show activities and getting ready for the picnic, I didn't get the questionnaires sent out to gather the information on the next lucky participants.

It is amazing how many plants we can collect and how much space is consumed by them as they multiply and multiply. This restricts needed air flow and prevents taking care of the plants correctly. We knew we had too many when a friend dropped by and suggested (strongly) that we dispose of about 2/3 of the plants and see how the rest respond. Well, that is what we are trying to do. It is a hard job. It seems as though we removed tons of plants but still can't find a place to set one down that was just taken out to repot. The plants already look better even though there is apparently no more space than before. We shall see how it all works out when we finish the thinning job.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the picnic. It is one of the few times during the year that we all can relax, talk plants, look at a garden or two, and not have to worry about parking in Balboa Park. See you on the 8th.

The one who invented the door knocker got a No-bell prize.

The President's Corner

by Robert Kopfstein

Consider August: it is our eighth month named after Caesar Augustus, the first Roman Emperor. (The Roman republic had collapsed politically, partly due to infighting).

Notice that August is followed by September (Latin sept – seven) October (octo – eight) November (nov – nine) and December (deca – ten). So in our system the eighth month is followed by the seventh, eighth, and so on. This is because we plugged in two months (July, after Julius Caesar, and August into the system) Whoever said that language always followed logic?

We do, however, owe a debt of gratitude to the Romans who gave us the arch, our alphabet, a lot of military strategy, and a slew of roots, prefixes, and suffixes that make up modern English vocabulary. The Greeks too are hefty contributors, especially to the language of science. Why is this?

In the sixteenth century when scientific inquiry was in its infancy, early scientists, trained in classical Latin and Greek, used these two Indo-European languages to invent vocabulary to describe many, if not most, of the new discoveries being made. In addition the humanists, poets, and philosophers, decided that English – formerly a language of peasants -- needed sprucing up in order to make it more noble. And what more noble languages could there be besides Latin and Greek, the languages of Caesar, Cicero, Homer, and Sophocles? The process of expanding the English vocabulary with bits and pieces of Latin and Greek was called making English more "aureate" or golden.

Over decades, thousands of new "coinings" were added to the English vocabulary. As a result today English has the largest vocabulary of any language in the world. And "English" scientific terminology is used worldwide.

[When is he going to get to the bromeliads?] ed.

Funny you should mention it. Right now.

For anyone who grows bromeliads and tries to keep track of all the names, the task often seems daunting. Common names are rare -- they do exist: "Queen's Tears," "Sapphire Tower" – so the grower/gardener has to contend with scientific names like *Acanthostachys* (*akanthos* – thorn plus *stachys* – spike) a tautology in Greek, but it sounds very official in English; *polyantha* (poly – many, *anthos* – flower); *usneoides* (*usnea* – medieval Latin for moss, - *oides* – Greek for like or form). Note that the scientific nomenclature is really freewheeling when it comes to mixing languages.

The task of learning the lingo of the taxonomists (Gr. *taxis* – arrangement, Gr *nomos* – law, management) takes a bit of time,

July Meeting

Arron's information on the Denver Botanic Garden was informative and interesting. It is amazing that the conservatory is all built of concrete. What an undertaking. Don't we all wish we had the other state of the art greenhouses to play (excuse me, work) in.



The building of the cork display tree might just give all of us some ideas for growing / display props. Just remember not to put a screw through the panty hose or they will just wad up and all the stuffing will come out.



The tree built in the demo was sold at auction to Sandra Reus who probably has it loaded with plants by now.

The next page is the information handout on starting seed that Aaron furnished. Let us hope that some members will try it out and report back at a meeting.

but once you begin to understand the basic core of roots and endings it becomes a little easier. You then can look at a plant like *Amorphophallus titanum* and chuckle at the ribald sense of humor of the botanist who chose the name.

And there is help. There is a booklet titled *A Bromeliad Glossary* by Victoria Padilla and Pam Koide, illustrated by Sue Gardner (BSI, 1998). This little book should be part of your reference library. In addition a good etymological dictionary can also be of assistance, not to mention its value as a source of entertainment for the word-curious person. □

John Arden

With great sadness we learned that John Arden passed away this last weekend. An article about John was published in the May 2014 issue of the Blade. This article began:

Anyone who has had the opportunity to visit the greenhouses and lath structures of John Arden cannot help but be amazed at the life's work of this amazing (and patient) man. Hundreds upon hundreds of tillandsias and vrieseas splash across benches and hang from above in waves of color and form.

So it was to visit John, experience his world of plants and derive knowledge that he freely shared with all.

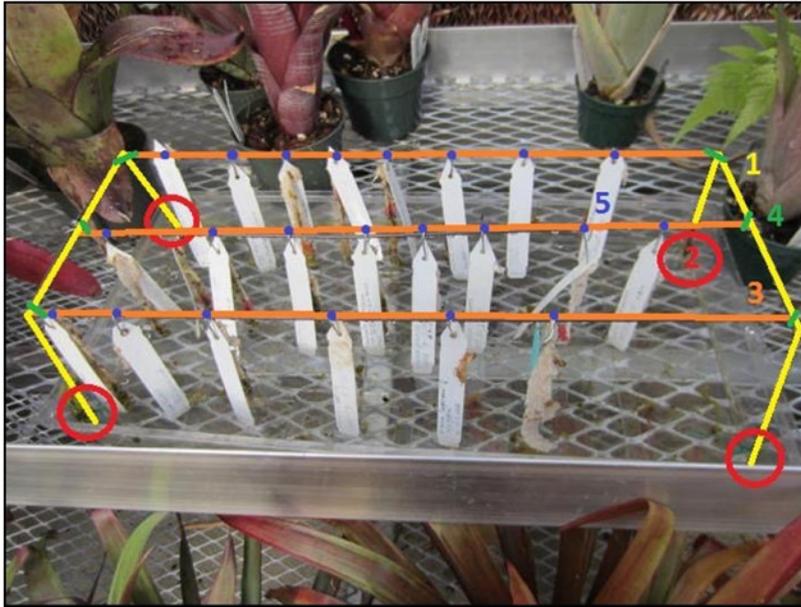
He will be missed.



□

Simple Epiphytic Seed Germination System

To germinate, epiphytic plant seeds typically need conditions that are difficult to replicate outside the natural environment or a plant production facility. The novice and horticulturist alike can master this method using inexpensive and readily available materials. This system is easy to replicate and delivers consistent success.



This method uses cloth strips suspended over a water reservoir to wick water to seeds that have been evenly dispersed along the strip. This creates a moisture gradient, providing ideal moisture conditions in some range along the strip. Multiple strips allow the grower to germinate seeds of many moisture requirements in the same system at the same time.

Air circulation is the key to success with epiphytic seeds. The thin terrycloth strips allow for excellent circulation. Many epiphytic seeds have a notoriously short viability window. This method has germinated seeds that would have no longer been viable with other germination methods.

One popular method uses screen with seeds dispersed across. The seeds must be misted often to provide consistent moisture. This method will work if you know how much moisture the seeds need. Another similar method uses tree fern instead of fabric strips which is more difficult to acquire, more expensive, and does not allow for air circulation.

1) Bend right angles into two lengths of frame wire to form end supports.

2) In each corner of the reservoir tray, make two holes at water level and affix end supports (1) with wire.

3) For each remaining length of frame wire, bend both ends into hooks. Use hooks to fasten these lengths to the end supports (1).

4) Secure horizontal frame supports (3) to end supports (1) with additional wire.

5) Wrap wire around one end of each cloth strip and form a hook. Make certain that the bottom of each strip is below water level.

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

(760)726-8300

1st Vice-President (programs):
OPEN

2nd Vice-President (plants):
David Kennedy

thedavekennedy@gmail.com

(858) 278-6532

Secretary:

Ruth Contino

ruth.contino@baesystems.com

(619) 303-2144

Treasurer:

Al Evans, Jr.

alevans001@earthlink.net

(858) 492-9866

Newsletter Editor:

Dan Kinnard

dankinnard@mac.com

(760) 716-3328

Past President:

Robert Vitacco

rvitacco@cox.net

From the meeting

photos by Dan Kinnard



SDBS 2015

Board Members

Scott Sandel (2014-2015)
sandel-marich@cox.net

(619) 325-1990 x110

Nancy Groves (2014-2015)
nancygroves@me.com

(858) 453-6486

Lucia Velazquez (2015-2016)
luciamaccanna@yahoo.com

(619) 283-0500

Bob Walters (2015-2016)
cactusbobboy@gmail.com

(619) 282-2246

Web Page

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, 1PM 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 Del Mar Fairgrounds
www.sandiegohorticulturalsociety.org

AVOID CUTTING YOURSELF WHEN SLICING VEGETABLES BY GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO HOLD THE VEGETABLES WHILE YOU CHOP.

Couldn't Show and Tell

by Scott Sandel

photos by Scott Sandel

Aechmea bracteata rosea:

Taken July 19th, it is developing its inflorescence. It's not fully developed yet, but the primary bracts are a very bold

red. I wonder where the 'rosea' part comes from. At any rate, it is a nice plant, though hazardous to flesh. Beginning 2-3 months ago, the rosette started closing tighter, reminiscent of *Aechmea triangularis*.



The plant is quite small, as compared to the prodigious clump that I photographed last year in the Yucatan (left).

Alcantarea glaziouana:

Both images were taken this month – the flower photo last weekend and the overall photo today after the big rain. (Here in Mission Hills we got a full inch, and this plant must have 2-3 gallons of rain water in it right now.)



Yet it is not full.) In the last couple of weeks, the plant has leaned slightly away from where two offsets are beginning to emerge. Each of the white petals is 2" long, and the style and stigma protrude out there 2.25". The flower is sweetly fragrant and hard to describe; it reminds me of Magnolia, Citrus and Jasmine, but it's not exactly like any one of those.



Couldn't Show and Tell

by Dan Kinnard

photos by Dan Kinnard

Pseudananas sagenarius:

These photos show the development of the flower of *Pseudananas sagenarius*. The plant is obviously too large to bring to a meeting.. It is in a 3 gallon pot and is about three feet in diameter.



May 12, 2014



June 29, 2014

The plant is impressive, even more so if planted in the ground. It is a bit difficult to handle without losing lots of blood but the bloom is worth it. Planting it outside in the shade results in a plant about five feet across and being stoloniferous results in something like a giant, fierce clump of Bermuda grass.