

The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

February 2018

VOLUME LIII

NUMBER 2

President's Corner

By Scott Sandel

World Bromeliad Conference

Things are coming into place on the World Bromeliad Conference. We are busy scheduling plant vendors for the sale, and we are lining up advertising in the conference program. On other fronts, judges and clerks for the plant show are being organized. The host committee met last weekend, and we are getting our ducks in a row. Be on the lookout for an on-line volunteer website that will have with tasks/jobs, dates, times and places for everyone to sign-up. Please consider volunteering for the security team, the tour assistance team, or one of the other jobs that are available for participation; it will be fun.

This month we are pleased to have Brian Kemble speak about Puyas. His presentation is titled "**Puyas - from the Pacific side of the Andes - Chile to Colombia**". Puyas will indeed become more popular as outstanding



large landscape features in our region, owing to their low water-use nature.

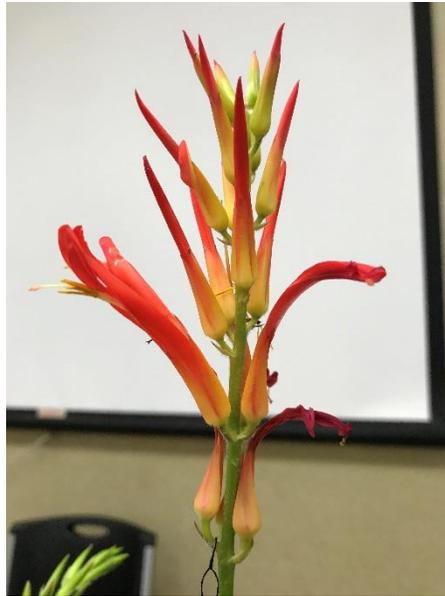
Then in March, I will give a slide show on plants and gardens that we visited recently in New Zealand. Check back here for the story of my first experience officially importing plants. (It was interesting.) It was an all-Vriesea procurement.

Please keep your eyes periodically at the website and our Facebook page for details on the World Bromeliad Conference. In the meantime, I will leave you with a few photos of some plants that think it's almost spring!

From Scott's collection:
Tillandsia 'Lady Luck'
Tillandsia edithae
Neoregelia 'Yang'

January Meeting

What an excellent talk we had by Jeffrey Kent from Kent's Bromeliads. Our speaker entertained us to a narrative on a trip to the Colombian Amazon and the quest to find a rare *Guzmania*. The search did not turn out the plant, but it was an amazing adventure. He also answered lots of questions about Kent's hybridizing program and the nursery operation. Our special thanks to Jeffrey but also to Dan Kinnard for making this talk possible.



Show and Tell

Bob Wright
Aechmea 'Pepita' (bottom left) – a Kent hybrid, who knew?
Pitcairnia species, from Ecuador (top left)
Aechmea 'Del Mar'
Hechtia that rebloomed on the same spike

Nancy Hoyt
T. ionantha

Al Evans
Aechmea 'Blue Tango'

Steve Salley
Tillandsia lymanii

Don Nelson
Billbergia Nutans

Kerry Nelson
Crypto bahianus, giant form (bottom right)

Morlene O'Donnell
Tillandsia 'Erick Knobloch'
T. brachycaulos x *concolor*, two plants grown in different light levels

Dave Kennedy
Tillandsia 'Queens Delight' (top right)
Tillandsia purpurea



February Meeting



Plant Table

This month's opportunity table will feature collectible plants from Tillandsia International, including *T. roezlii*, *lymanii*, "Samantha", *delicata*

(mounted), an *ionantha* x *magnusiana* cross, a huge *capitata* "mauve" and a couple big *fasciculata*, to name a few. There will be an auction of 3 large *tillandsia* clumps as well, so donate generously and fortify your collection!



Above: this month's offerings, below: tillandsia clump for auction

Here's another exciting talk! Our speaker in February will be Brian Kemble, Director of Horticulture at Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. While he is best known for his work on collecting and sighting cacti and other succulent plants from Latin America and Africa, his work extends further. For us, he will be talking about puyas in cultivation, especially at the Ruth Bancroft Garden. The species grown, about 25 of them, come from the Andean areas of South America, in particular from Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. This should be of interest to those of us who have tried or wish to try growing these amazing, if formidable bromeliads. If you liked Andrew Wilson's talk on Argentinian dry growing bromeliads, this will be an excellent follow-up.



Upcoming Events

SDBS Meetings

February 9, 2018 @ 10 AM
SDBS Monthly Meeting
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

March 10, 2018 @ 10 AM
SDBS Monthly Meeting
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104
www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

**World Bromeliad
Conference 2018**
San Diego



May 29 - June 3, 2018
fiesta de las bromelias

Register at:
<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

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.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org

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

2nd Monday, 5:45 PM
San Diego Horticultural Society
Congregation Beth Israel (CBI)
9001 Towne Centre Drive
San Diego, CA 92122
sdhort.org

2018 SDBS Membership

It's that time of year again! Please renew your membership with the San Diego Bromeliad Society by March 1st to insure you are included in the 2017 membership directory. You may send in your renewal fees to The San Diego Bromeliad Society, PO Box 83996, San Diego, Ca 92138-3996 or to the treasurer, Kerry Nelson, 1725 Myrtle Avenue, San Diego, Ca 92103 The 2018 directory will be sent to all current members via email before the March meeting. Some printed copies will be available at the meeting.

Renewal Fees		
	1 year	2 years
Email Membership		
Single email	\$13	\$22
Dual email	\$17	\$30
Print Membership		
Single USPS	\$28	\$52
Dual USPS	\$32	\$60

Please note that due to the high cost and extra labor involved in USPS memberships, they are no longer being offered to new members and are only available to those who are grandfathered in with a "P" associated with their name in the 2016 directory. Thanks for your understanding!

SDBS 2018

Officers

President
Scott Sandel
scott.sandel@outlook.com
619-325-1990 x 110

Vice-President
Al Evans, Jr.
alevans001@earthlink.net
858-492-9866

Secretary
Ruth Contino
ruth.contino1@gmail.com
619-303-2144

Treasurer
Kerry Nelson
kanelsondesign@cox.net
619-574-0987

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

Membership
Tammy Harmon
tmharmon70@yahoo.com
(858) 472-4268

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

Board Members

Charles Oelsen (2018-19)
cdoelsen@yahoo.com
310-925-6227

Stephen Zolezzi (2018-19)
fbds@foodnbverage.org

Don Nelson (2017-18)
donnelson12@msn.com
760-207-1569

Morlane O'Donnell (2017-18)
Morlane.odonnell@att.net
619) 422-8168

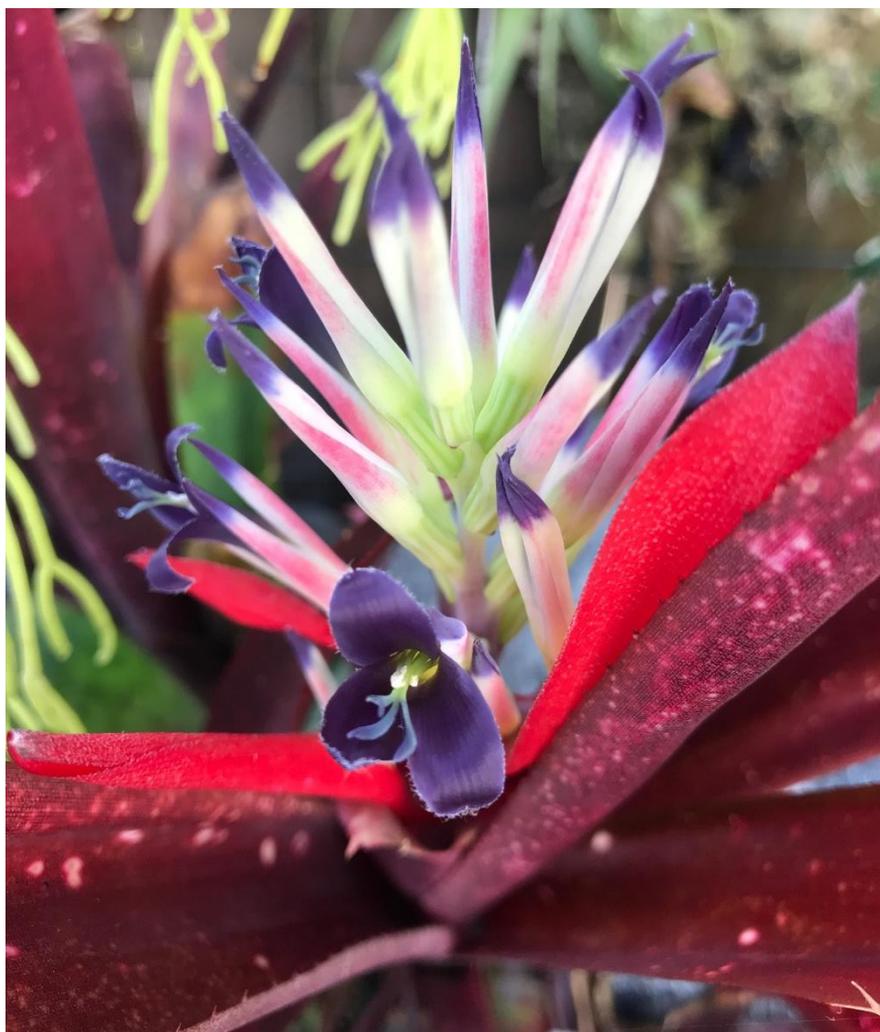
WBC 2018 Conference Schedule Summary

*Subject to changes

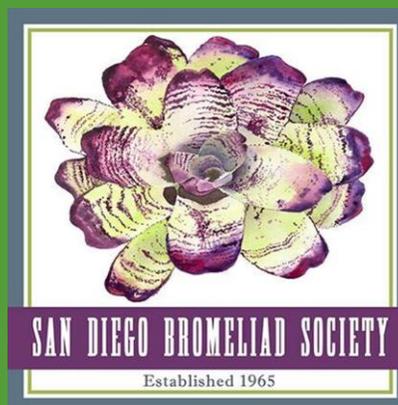
<p><u>Tuesday,</u> <u>May 29</u></p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Judges School and 9:00 a.m. BSI board meeting; show/displays set-up</p> <p>12:00–2:00 Conference registration; Board and WBC organizers dinner</p>
<p><u>Wednesday,</u> <u>May 30</u></p>	<p>9:00–3:00 Conference registration</p> <p>8:00–11:00 & 2:00–4:00 Intake for show plants & 8:00–11:00 & 2:00–7:00 judging</p> <p>11:30 a.m. – Opening Session, Lunch and Welcome Address.</p> <p>Plant Sale opens to registrants only 2:00–5:00 with early-bird raffle 2:00–2:30.</p>
<p><u>Thursday,</u> <u>May 31</u></p>	<p>9:00–11:30 Plant Sale & 10:00–11:30 Plant Show to registrants only</p> <p>10:00–11:30 Judges Certification Committee</p> <p>1:00 departure: Optional Bus Excursion afternoon, ending at SD Botanic Garden (Optional Bus Excursion is \$60 per participant.)</p>
<p><u>Friday,</u> <u>June 1</u></p>	<p>8:30 Continental breakfast for all registrants</p> <p>9:00–5:00 Plant Sale & Show (Plant Sale opens to the public this day & thereafter)</p> <p>9:00–3:30 Seminars/speakers</p> <p>5:00–10:00 p.m. No-host bar reception and Rare Plant Auction</p>
<p><u>Saturday,</u> <u>June 2</u></p>	<p>9:00–5:00 Show and Sales</p> <p>9:00–11:30 Seminars/speakers</p> <p>1:00–5:00 Urban Local Tours via trolley bus to member homes & Botanical Building in Balboa Park (included for all registrants).</p> <p>6:00–7:00 p.m. No-host bar reception, Sunset Deck with views of Mission Bay</p> <p>7:00–10:00 p.m. Evening banquet and keynote speech.</p>
<p><u>Sunday,</u> <u>June 3</u></p>	<p>9:00–4:00 Show and Sales</p> <p>8:30–10:00 BSI Board meeting</p> <p>10:00–12:00 Cryptanthus Society Annual Membership Meeting</p>

What's Blooming

The spring blooming billbergias are preparing to put on a show. While I see some flower spikes emerging here and there, *Billbergia* 'Felicity O' finally produced an inflorescence for me. I got this at Michael's years ago, the plant multiplied in the rock garden but never bloomed until now. The velvety indigo flowers are very beautiful.



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Juliana Raposo, Editor

Ph: 858-349-1405

To send material for publication, 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

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