



# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

April 2020

VOLUME LV

NUMBER 4

## President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

Dear SDBS members, I hope you and your family are safe and healthy during this unprecedented time of unknowns. Please make sure to stay home and wash your hands frequently. I hope we may be able to hold our meetings again soon.

A few of us are working on something special to present to you in the future if the stay at home order is not lifted. There are some issues to work out but once those are solved, we believe you will have an enjoyable experience. We'll give you more information and a little tutorial first. I hope things will be ready by May's meeting, if not before. Meanwhile, if you're on Facebook, on April 11, our usual meeting date, share pictures of your beautiful broms. Thank you to all who participated last month.

I just looked at the San Diego County Fair website and as of this message, the fair has not been cancelled this



*Tillandsia minasgeraiensis x meridionalis* from Birdrock Tropicals bloomed in January and is blooming again! Photo: Juliana Raposo

year. No decision has been made yet concerning our show and sale in June. May's newsletter will have more information regarding both.

I'd like to have some kind of a board meeting this month, perhaps via email or online. If you have any issues that you'd like us to discuss, please email them to me by Thursday, April 15th.

Thank goodness we have our plants to provide us with not only a reason to enjoy the fresh air outside, but a chance to watch the color of the foliage transform to vivid and colorful hues. Take care of yourselves. Safe and happy growing, everyone, until we meet again.

# How Bromeliads Can Help When You Shelter in Place

by Eloise Lau & Dan Kinnard

We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well sheltering in place. We miss the camaraderie at our monthly meetings and hope that we will be in contact with each other soon.

We at SDBS are very lucky to have Bromeliads to keep us busy and pass the time. Here are some suggestions of what to do with Bromeliads to pass the time.

If anyone wants to add to the list please email suggestions to [eloiselau@mac.com](mailto:eloiselau@mac.com) and we can have an update in the next newsletter.

1. Keep in email or text contact with Bromeliad friends. Email or phone someone you visit with at the monthly meetings just to keep in touch and see how they are doing.
2. Write an article for the newsletter.
3. Take photos of your plants to share in the newsletter and on the website.
4. Check names (and spelling of names) of your plants while repotting and removing pups. On [bsi.org](http://bsi.org) select Bromeliads for lists of currently correct names. The New Bromeliad Taxon List and Natural Hybrid List are found under Taxonomy. Bromeliad Cultivar Registry lists all registered cultivars and

hybrids; BSI FloraPix Gallery has LOTS of photos of mostly species bromeliads. There are many other websites and social media sites with information available for the searching.

5. Make new, matching tags for all your plants.
6. Create a database and inventory of your Broms. Dan has written a short article with ideas on what include in a database on a spreadsheet.



*Billbergia 'C'est Bon' is a hybrid by Don Beadle. I got it from Dan and Eloise, so of course, it was labeled. This is a delightful plant that produces a large pendant inflorescence. Photo: Juliana Raposo*

# A Big Neoregelia for You

## Neoregelia johannis 'DeRolf'

by Scott Sandel

I would like to share a Neoregelia with you. Many of you are familiar with it. I have grown it for years, and it always get noticed by visitors when the plant is at maturity. The folks at Bromeliad Paradise, the Florida bromeliad nursery, call it "one of the anointed royalty in the Neoregelia genus", and I think that is a fitting title.

According to the Bromeliad Cultivar Registry, it was named by Bob Work and registered in 1995. Here are some apt quotes from the registry:

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"cv. [cultivar] of johannis - Large very wide leafed flattened rosette in light yellowish apple-green base color - variable variegation in creamy white suffusing w/red in bright light - ... flattens and becomes shallow bowl shaped at blooming revealing entire inflorescence in typical johannis style."

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DeRolf is one of the giants, reaching about 24-28" across here in my collection in central 'almost-coastal' San Diego. It is neither rare or difficult to grow. It should be in every bromeliad nerd's collection! It will produce a few offsets reliably after blooming, and these will grow

and mature to bloom stage in 2-3 years, depending on how it's cultivated. The only issue is that, due to its broad open rosette, it can accumulate stagnant water – so I flush it out every once in a while. Flushing in mid to late summer can keep the center cup from rotting (especially given our poor tap water quality). And after it has bloomed

and the center starts to die out, man can the water in the cup get nasty! Mine grows best in the brightest spots under the 50% shade cloth growing area. I wouldn't grow it in quite full sun, fearful of burn spots that it would likely get here in summer. That said, in Florida and other similar zones, it makes an impressive landscape focal point in the landscape.

Happy growing!



## Upcoming Events

### SDBS Meetings

SDBS April Meeting CANCELLED

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

SDBS Monthly Meeting

(May be cancelled)

Saturday, May 9, 2020 @ 10AM

Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Room 104

1650 El Prado, San Diego 92101

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

### SDBS Events

SDBS Annual Show & Sale

June 13 & 14

Balboa Park Casa del Prado, Room 101

1650 El Prado, San Diego 92101

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

SDBS at San Diego County Fair

June 5 – July 5, 2020

SDBS will create a bromeliad display for the horticultural contest.

Del Mar Fairgrounds

2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA

### Other 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, 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> Wednesday, 7 PM

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

Balboa Park, Casa Del Prado, Room 101

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 5:45 PM

San Diego Horticultural Society

Congregation Beth Israel (CBI)

9001 Towne Centre Drive

San Diego, CA 92122

[sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org)

## From the SDBS Library Corner

by Eloise Lau

Hope you are all well and safely ensconced at home.

The day can seem long.

Here's a way to have some quality time with Bromeliads—plants, people, adventures and a glimpse into how Bromeliads and Bromeliad collecting evolved through the decades.

I'm in 1951 v.1, n.1. A virtual time capsule of another era.

This is the very beginning of the Bromeliad Society.

In another volume of the 50's I found 2 pictures of Puyas at the Huntington Botanical Gardens—Puya alpestris and Puya spathacea. They were tiny plants in bloom. Those of you who went on our bus trip to the Huntington will remember the huge clumps of multiple species of Puya. What a difference 69 years can make.

Here's how to access the Journals of the Bromeliad Society International: Go to [BSI.org](http://BSI.org), choose from the menu Publications, then BSI Journal Archive. You can start anywhere you want. Use the back button on your browser to return to the archive.

Happy reading. Hope to see you soon!

## SDBS 2020

### Officers

President

Morlane O'Donnell

[Morlane.odonnell@att.net](mailto:Morlane.odonnell@att.net)

619- 422-8168

Vice-President

Stephen Zolezzi

[fbasd@foodnbeverage.org](mailto:fbasd@foodnbeverage.org)

619-379-4300

Treasurer

Al Evans, Jr.

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

858-492-9866

Secretary

Ruth Contino

[ruth.contino1@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.contino1@gmail.com)

619-303-2144

News Editor

Juliana Raposo

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

858-349-1405

Membership

Charles Oelsen

[cdoelsen@yahoo.com](mailto:cdoelsen@yahoo.com)

Past President

Scott Sandel

[scott.sandel@outlook.com](mailto:scott.sandel@outlook.com)

### Board Members

Kerry Nelson (2019-20)

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

619- 574-0987

Lucia Velasquez (2019-20)

[luciavmccanna@yahoo.com](mailto:luciavmccanna@yahoo.com)

Bob Walters (2020-21)

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

Krista Mills (2020-21)

[kmills1@sandi.net](mailto:kmills1@sandi.net)

# A Little Inspo

It's Spring. Always a Happy Time in the Garden!



*Great time to divide and repot plants*

*Upper right: Neos looking their best in the rain*

*Center: Billbergia 'Brimstone' and Neo 'Bossa Nova' bloom side by side*

*Lower right: Neo Correia-araujoi*  
*Lower left: Vriesea fosteriana hybrid*

*Photos: Juliana Raposo*



# Thoughts for Making a List of Your Plants

by Dan Kinnard

Since you are considering making a list or database of your plants, here are some suggestions about what to include. A very easy way to make a flexible list of your plants that can be made by almost anyone, be sorted by certain criteria and printed in a readable format is by using a simple spreadsheet program (Numbers, Excel, or others).

Remember to have just one item (plant) per row; divisions of one of the plants in your collection do not need a separate row.

Here is a list of suggested columns that you might include even with reasons for including some of them. You don't need all of them, just those you think you will use. The

column names are not fixed; call them a name that works for you.

**Ascension Number** This is just a unique ID number for each entry; A simple way: start with 1 and add 1 to each new entry.

**Genus  
Species / Cultivar / Hybrid Name**

**Date Acquired**

**Acquired From**

**Notes** for special care, where the plant originated (e.g. from Kopfstein via Kinnard), hybridizer's number

**Purchase Price**

**Number in Collection**- just how many of this plant do I have?

**Inactive Date** - If you lost the plant, gave it away mark the date here. No entry in this column means that the plant is still active (and should be somewhere in the collection).

*Good old Billbergia nutans looking great dressed in a nice pot and surrounded by succulents. Photo: Monica Mroz*



## THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society

Juliana Raposo, Editor

Ph: 858-349-1405

To send material for publication, please contact Juliana at [julianadraposo@gmail.com](mailto:julianadraposo@gmail.com)

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)