



The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the
San Diego
Bromeliad Society

December 2021

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President's Message

By Morlane O'Donnell

Happy December everyone. Hopefully you all had an enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Now it's time to prepare for another holiday. We are now approaching winter, yet it hardly seems like we had fall. The plants seem to be enjoying the weather although we've had to water more often due to the dry, windy conditions. Don't despair if your plants lose some of their color, it will come back in the spring. Just watch for when the temperature dips as you will want to provide some kind of shelter or cover your plants. I've found that old white sheets do a good job. Whatever you do, don't cover in black plastic. For sure the color won't come back in the spring as it will be brown as in dead!

This month's meeting will be our annual holiday feast. The emphasis is on the fact that it is a brunch, so we will begin promptly at 10:00 am. Please observe that we are still



Morlane at the Botanic Garden bromeliad Show in August

wearing masks (except while eating) and will maintain social distancing. The brunch will be buffet style with food being dished out by the Board members. Don't forget your wrapped plant if you wish to participate in the gift exchange. You will also receive a free plant just for attending.

Don't forget the SDBS sale on Sunday, Dec. 19th. The sale begins at 10:00 am with a hard stop at 4:00 pm. If you haven't already spoken to me about selling plants, whether it's one plant or one hundred, please do now as the number of tables needed is being tabulated. If you are selling

and have not received a list of guidelines yet, see me about that too.

Almost three years ago I began my term being President of this society. I've been spending the last few days reflecting upon all the activities and changes that have occurred during that time. Before anyone here ever heard of COVID, SDBS was involved in many events. Nancy Groves coordinated the beautiful display at the Del Mar Fair in 2019 which many members participated in with their amazing plants and donated hours of labor. It received a perfect score of 500 and won the Don Diego and Bill Teague awards. About the same time we had an exhibition-only show with Juliana Raposo at the helm and held a very successful sale. That August the SDBS had its annual picnic held in Pam Koide-Hyatt's fabulous garden arranged by the speaker committee. We decorated a beautiful tree for December Nights, another project directed by Nancy.

Along came 2020, which started out well. We were able to hold in-person meetings until April. SDBS was in a state of suspension for a couple months, with no meetings, until the summer when something called ZOOM came on the horizon. Thanks to Scott Sandel for learning how to

use it and hosting our meetings month after month (and the board meetings). Whoever thought that the word zoom would be so prominent when used as a verb? Having access to ZOOM enabled the speaker committee, Andrew Wilson, Dan Kinnard, and Eloise Lau to procure many international and out-of-state speakers. In addition, other BSI affiliate members were able to join in our meetings. Andrew spent many hours working with speakers to iron out glitches and make sure the speakers were comfortable presenting on ZOOM. Pam Koide-Hyatt made it possible to access recorded meetings on YouTube. Steve Zolezzi kept the plant auction going for a while and even held a creative plant table at his house. Al Evans spent many hours on the phone, filling out, filing, and refiling numerous forms getting the SDBS into compliance with both the state and federal tax boards to be recognized as a nonprofit organization. That was only the tip of the iceberg. Ruth Contino has kept meticulous minutes during our board meetings. Juliana Raposo has been the faithful editor of *The Blade* month in month out. Charles Oelsen kept our membership up to date.

Kerry Nelson has overseen nominations. The rest of the Board, Robert Walters, Lucia McCanna, and Krista Mills, provided valuable input as to the many ideas, issues, and projects that came up during pandemic and non-pandemic times. This year even though we couldn't hold our annual show and sale, we were asked to participate in the San Diego Botanic Garden Bromeliad exhibit. Many SDBS members loaned their plants for the exhibit, contributing to its enormous success. We also learned that Steve Zolezzi is quite the persuasive salesman! Hopefully that is something that will continue in the future. I want to personally thank Scott Sandel for his patience and understanding as I was learning the ropes of being President. He helped and encouraged me every step and I'll eternally be grateful to him. I want to also thank you, the members, for all your help and kind words. Whenever there was something that needed to be done and I asked for volunteers, you all delivered. Thank you so much for the honor of allowing me to be the President these past three years. May you all have a joyous holiday season. Safe and happy growing everyone.



*A clump of *T. ionantha* 'Fuego' is a botanical Christmas ornament*

Q & A with Steve Zolezzi

The incoming SDBS president answers a few questions



Steve at the SDBS picnic in 2019

When did you join SDBS? I joined about 8 years ago.

What made you join the club? While attending SDCSS meetings, I saw some members coming from the Brom meetings and decided to check it out.

What do you like the most about the bromeliad society? Like most, I am a member of a number of other societies. The brom members are a great group of people. It's the friendships that make it so special.

What's your favorite bromeliad? Favorites - I do not play favorites. I love them all and mourn those lost.

A message to the club: I retired earlier this year from over 60 years in the hospitality industry. Having owned and operated eating/drinking businesses and as President of the SDC Food & Beverage Association. My life has been focused on serving. My hope is to help grow the society in all ways possible.

November Meeting Recap

With a new sound system and many new members in the audience, the bromeliad society kicked off the November meeting. It was an interesting presentation by Jeff Moore from Solana Succulents, bromeliads from a succulent enthusiast's perspective. He showed lots of examples of landscapes where broms and succulents and cacti harmonize and thrive in Southern California. Color, sculptural shapes and drought tolerance, what else could a gardener wish for?

We also had a show'n'tell and auction. The plants for auction were colorful vrieseas by Shiigi.



Top: Hawaiian vrieseas for auction. Below: Show and tell with Hohenbergia leopoldo horstii by Andrew Wilson, T. Silver Queen x tomaselli and Neo. 'Burgundy Cherry' by Morlane O'Donnell, another tillandsia, T. 'Curly Slim' by Robert Kopfstein. Finally, variations on T. ionantha brought by David Kennedy.



SDBS Election Results

By Kerry Nelson

The San Diego Bromeliad Society annual elections were held on November 13, 2021. Thank you to all who participated. The results are as follows:

Past President - Morlane O'Donnell
 President - Stephen Zolezzi
 Vice President - Kerry Nelson
 Treasurer - Al Evans
 Secretary - Ruth Contino

Board Members
 Nancy Hoyt (2022 - 2023)
 Mary Lee (2022 - 2023)
 Krista Mills (2022)
 Robert Walters (2022)

Important, yet non-elected positions

Newsletter Editor - Juliana Raposo
 Membership Chair - Charles Oelsen
 Plant Table - Scott Sandel and Stephen Zolezzi



SDBS Holiday Potluck

This Saturday, December 11 at 10am, our annual Holiday Potluck is back after a year's hiatus. It will be a Holiday Brunch starting at 10am. Bring a dish or a beverage. The event will kick off with the brunch (served by our awesome Board members), followed by the popular plant exchange where participants will bring a bromeliad related item (\$20 value) colorfully wrapped so no one can see what it is. Every member who attends will also get a free bromeliad. Be sure not to miss this fun-filled party!

SDBS December Sale

Attention SDBS members: there will be a one-day-only sale on Sunday, December 19th in Balboa Park in Room 101. We decided the start time will be 10am with a hard stop at 4pm.

Those who wish to participate and have more than 10 plants will need to reserve a table. Reservations are made by sending me (Morlane) an email with the number of tables needed. I'll make this announcement Saturday and during the December meeting and will have a blurb in the December newsletter. Guidelines will be sent to all vendors.

SDBS 2020-21

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THE BROMELIAD BLADE



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Bromeliad Society

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To send material for publication,
please contact Juliana at
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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

DK ORNAMENTALS

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