

# The Bromeliad Blade

Newsletter of the  
San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

April 2018

VOLUME LIII

NUMBER 4

## President's Message

By Scott Sandel

April means it is really spring.

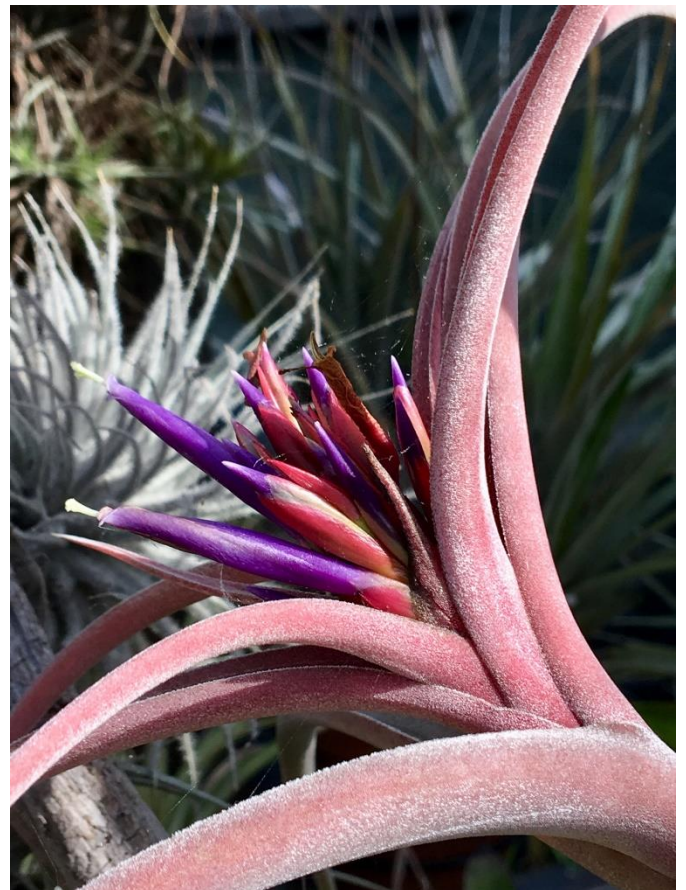
Happy spring everyone. Tillandsias are in blossom, and others are in bud. The length of the flowering period of *Tillandsia duratii* is amazing to me. If there is an easier and more rewarding Tillandsia, let me know! I think that anyone who appreciates Tillandsias should have one, so if you have an extra, give it to a friend. My old clump is not so large for its age because we've given away offsets over countless years. It was hanging clump in Texas many, many years ago, and dad took care of it in my first years in California. Then one day, it arrived in the mail, wrapped in Spanish Moss (lots of it). For a decade or so it languished hanging in too much shade and under an eave that kept it from getting any fog-drip. Please do not try this at home! Now it is growing just fine under 50% shade cloth, with two flower spikes with those purplish-blue flower petals.

The World Bromeliad Conference is REALLY starting to get closer!

Thank you to all the folks who are volunteering to fill roles and do jobs that make an event like this a success. If you haven't done so yet, please, please go to our website and look at the WBC tabs to find how you can assist as a volunteer. You can simply be a "warm body", helping with security for the show and or sale. Or you can help at one of the homes that will be on tour. Whatever you want to do, it will be a lot of fun. Look for Juliana's garden as a feature in the UT, where she'll be promoting the conference. And look for our articles and ads in local society newsletters.

I look forward to a short program this Saturday, wrapping up my presentation of

the bromeliads in New Zealand. Nancy and I will have a quick update and round-up of the conference. And, last but not least, I hope to see some of your bright and shiny plants on the Show-n-Tell table.





# March Meeting Recap



One of Scott's kiwi vrieseas

Our own Scott Sandel, SDBS president, told us all about his recent New Zealand trip. He carted in his prized stash of new acquisitions, namely a bunch of multicolored kiwi vrieseas. He told us about the importation saga that resulted in him bringing these beauties to the US. The projector wasn't cooperating that day, so Scott will present the slideshow travelogue at a later date.

## Show and Tell

Beautiful selection of plants in the March meeting. It's springtime! The plant table was provided by David Kennedy.



### Scott Sandel

Vriesea platynema variegata (above)  
50% shade  
A beautiful clump over 5-years old

### Monica Mroz

Tillandsia xerographica  
Hanging in tree, dappled sun

### Robert Vitacco

Vriesea 'Midnight Splendor'  
Half shade

### Nancy Groves

Quesnelia lateralis  
Full sun, grown outdoors

### Bob Wright

Orthophytum magalhaesii  
Hechtia sp.  
Hechtia scariosa

Hohenbergia sp.  
Billbergia hybrid  
Grown outdoors

### Nancy Hoyt

Tillandsia ionantha  
Filtered sun

### Morlane O'Donnell

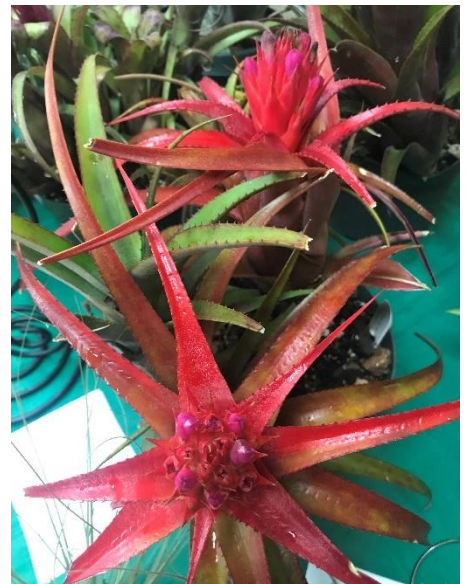
Tillandsia recurvifolia var.  
subsecundifolia

### Lucia Velazquez

Tillandsia 'Haley's Comet'  
Tillandsia crocata  
Tillandsia duratii  
Aechmea warasii

### Robert Kopfstein

A selection of Aechmea recurvata  
hybrids (below)





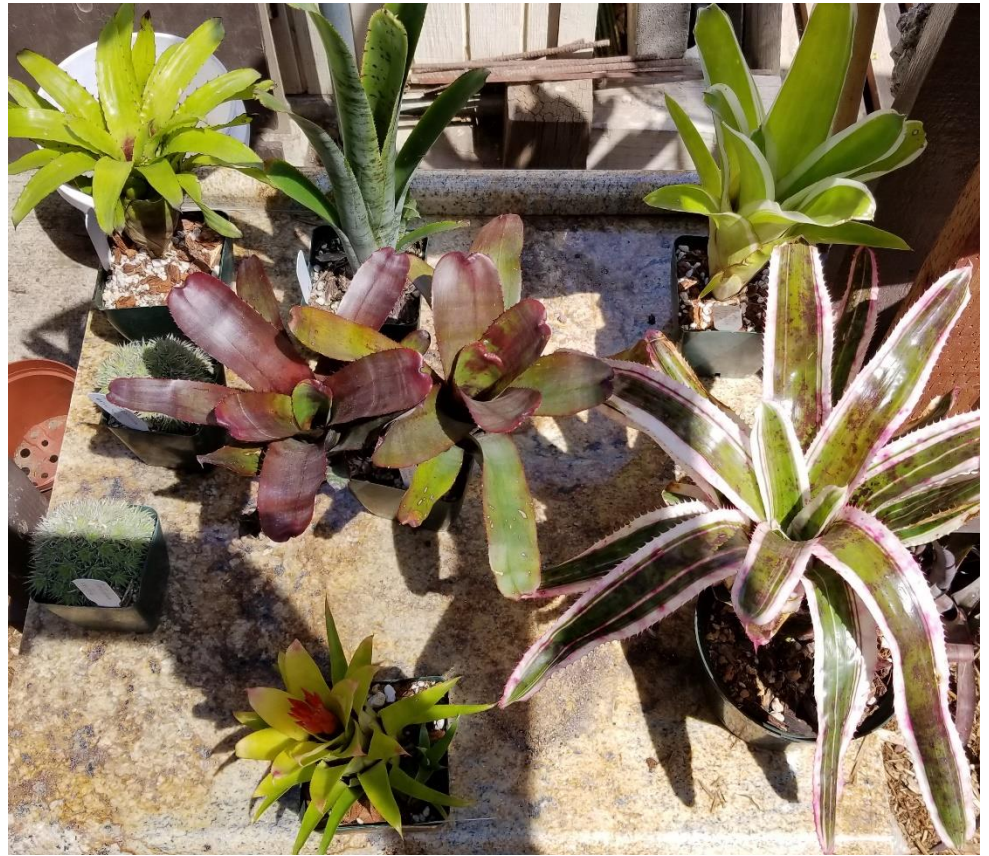
## April Meeting

Due to last month's technical difficulties, Scott Sandel will present the New Zealand program, this time with the projector working!

## Plant Table

The April plant table will feature plants from the collection of a member, Steve Salley. There is quite an assortment including a varied group of neoregelias. Here's what will be available:

The auction plants will be a *Tillandsia latifolia* giant, *Vriesea rauhii* (in spectacular bloom!), and *Tillandsia leonamiana* (in bloom). I will also include one of the rocks with mounted tillandsias from Dallas



Bradford's collection. The plant table will feature *Ae. recurvata* hybrid, *Ae. orlandiana* ensign, *Billbergia pyramidalis* 'Kyoto', *Canistrum triangulare*, and *Quesnelia marmorata*. The *Neoregelia* assortment will include *tigrina*, *tigrina* (small form), *Screaming Tiger*, *Strawberry Sundae*, *ampullacea* hybrid, *Hannibal Lecter*, 4 varieties of *fireball*, *lilliputiana* x *fireball* and *Blood Spots*. *Tillandsias* on the table will include *chiapensis* (in bloom), *purpurea*, *palacea*, *albida*, *juncea*, *somnians* and *secunda*.

Future table plans include an order from Michael's bromeliads for the May table, TBD for June table, and the annual "members best" donation table in July. August will be the picnic with a free bromeliad for each member attendee which I expect to provide from member Chris Davis' Wholesale Tillandsias. Hope to see you at the meeting! Al Evans



# Ecuagera

By David Kennedy

Ever since I began collecting bromeliads about eight years ago, the acquisition of these marvelous plants has taken on quest-like dimensions. I have purchased them near and far, been gifted with them, won them, and traded for them. But the dream of getting them from their native South America without some sort of smuggling or sky-high shipping seemed far-fetched—until I discovered Ecuagera.



simulate in our semi-arid environment. But their reasonable prices, often in the \$8-\$15 range (plus around \$4 per plant for shipping from an orchid show) mean the risk is low, investment-wise. I was fortunate that the recent orchid show in Santa Barbara was timed perfectly



to allow my plants to come from a fairly close location. Fortune also favored me with humid, rainy weather here that can only help acclimatize my newbies. And due to my recent “conversion” into the appreciation of orchids, I also bought three of those—two oncidiums and a laelia. There is a first time for everything.

This Ecuadoran nursery specializes in orchids, cultivating over 6000 varieties. But they grow many other tropical plants, including bromeliads. And they not only sell directly to the U.S. market, they have a unique option of shipping from any of the orchid shows they attend across the country, and indeed, the entire world. This saves money because you don’t need a phytosanitary certificate or have to pay for postage from Ecuador.

In terms of broms, there came Tillandsias: *biflora* (!), *complanata* red form, *confertiflora*, *rhodosticta*, plus two “former” tillys: *Lemeltonia scaligera* and *Racinaea venusta*. And Guzmanias: *andreettae*, *devansayana*, *musaica*, *sanguinea* and *squarrosa*. These gems were not only packed with extreme care, they are large, often huge specimens. As I unpacked, the word “wow” was frequently uttered.

Their selection of bromeliads is limited, and they carry some common species easily found locally, but they also have rare and unusual varieties that are hard or even impossible to find elsewhere. For sure, some of these are endemic to regions with conditions difficult to



From top: *Guzmania musaica*, *Tillandsia complanata* red form, *Lemeltonia scaligera*, *Tillandsia rhodosticta*, *Racinaea venusta*

Ecuagera has a great staff that is easy to communicate with. Their website [www.ecuagera.com](http://www.ecuagera.com) is designed well, but to see what is actually available, download the Excel price list and peruse their vast inventory. Then place your order!



## Upcoming Events

### SDBS Meetings

April 14, 2018 @ 10 AM  
SDBS Monthly Meeting  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org)

May 12, 2018 @ 10 AM  
SDBS Monthly Meeting  
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104  
[www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org](http://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

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)

## Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale

Stop by on your way to the SDBS May meeting to visit the Epiphyllum sale. These easy to care plants have one of the most spectacular blooms in the plant kingdom.

Epis and bromeliads look great together!



**San Diego Epiphyllum Society  
Presents**

**Epies in Oz**

**47th Annual  
Mother's Day  
Show & Sale**

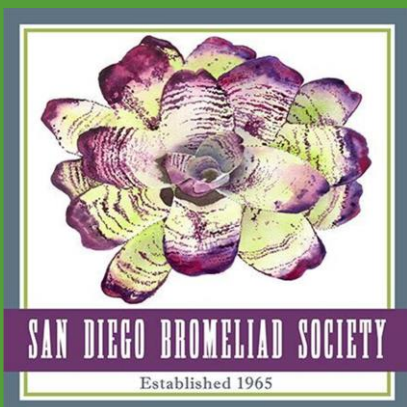
**Casa Del Prado  
Balboa Park**

**Sale: May 12th & 13th  
9 am to 4 pm**

**Show: May 13th  
11 am to 4 pm**



## THE BROMELIAD BLADE



Newsletter of the San Diego  
Bromeliad Society

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To send material for publication,  
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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)

## Now Blooming

Six feet tall yellow Portea! Portea  
'Tambora' Bullis, by Don Patterson



## SDBS 2018

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# Help

By Eloise Lau

The program committee can use some help. We are looking for interesting programs that will captivate and inform our members on the cultivation, discovery, travel destinations and history of bromeliads— to name a few subjects.

We thought it would be fun to do a little research on bromeliad cultivars that are named after people. Who are these honorees and what have they done in the bromeliad world to be memorialized in a bromeliad. Who thought to remember this person by naming a bromeliad for them?

We have made a list of bromeliads with names honoring people. We need some help from someone willing to do a little research and give a short 15 or 20 minute presentation on a few cultivars. If this short presentation is to everyone's liking, we could schedule a full program in the upcoming year if someone is willing to prepare the program.

Dan and I have spent a few minutes researching one name to see how quickly the information comes up. There is probably more information available but we found the following on line in just a few minutes —

Who names a bromeliad cultivar and who is a bromeliad named after?

It all started with a billbergia in our collection named Billbergia "Marie Besselliu". An open vase form of red and green with beautiful bright rose colored bracts and lavender flowers. "Marie Besselliu" conjured up a beautiful French lady in the court of Louis XIV with her powdered wig dressed in her silk gown with poufy skirt and tight bodice flirting behind her silk fan.

But who is the real Marie Besselliu and who named this lovely plant for her?

According to the cultivar register of the BSI Billbergia "Marie Bessellieu" was named in honor of Marie Bessellieu a BSI bromeliad judge, grower and exhibitor of bromeliads. She also served in many positions in the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society of Florida.

Seed parents are "Margarita" and the pollen parent is "Arriba". The cross was made by Don Beadle who also named the plant for her.

We also found more details about her work in her local society, her picture and who she was related to.

We need someone to take this test program in hand. We can help some, as needed, with some information on the people, some thoughts on where else to look, or who to contact for more information. It should be a fun and not a too time-consuming project with the opportunity to contribute to our society. The program won't happen until October so there is plenty of time to prepare.

