

## CONFERENCE CORNER

### Announcing a Pre-Conference Tour of the Tillandsias & Other Bromeliads in Southern Mexico! May 15-May 28, 2018

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*Jeff Chemnick & Pamela Koide-Hyatt*

All photos by Jeff Chemnick  
unless otherwise credited.



*Pseudalcantarea grandis*

Mexico Nature Tours is pleased to once again announce collaboration with Pamela Koide-Hyatt, to offer a *Tillandsia*/Bromeliad sweep in southern Mexico as the pre-conference tour for the Bromeliad Society International World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego, California in 2018. The pre-conference tour is scheduled for May 15-May 28 and fits perfectly with the BSI conference, which runs May 29-June 3.

The tour will begin in Oaxaca City, Oaxaca, Mexico on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 and end in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico on Monday, May 28, 2018 (14 days/13 nights). We will travel in a luxurious, 20 passenger minibus. Our group size will be limited to 12 partic-

participants per vehicle with plush seats and air-conditioning. The tour price will include hotels, meals (and tips), beverages, transportation, fuel, guide costs, tolls, entry fees, and snacks from point of origin in Oaxaca to point of departure in Tuxtla Gutierrez (airfare is not included). The price per person is \$4,350 USD double occupancy, with a single supplement of \$530. A portion of each participant's trip fee also includes a donation to the 2018 WBC Host Committee in San Diego.



Jeff with *Zamia lacondona*

I (Jeff Chemnick, owner and operator of Mexico Nature Tours - please visit [www.mexiconaturetours.com](http://www.mexiconaturetours.com)) have been leading botanical ecotours throughout Mexico for over 35 years, showing groups the most sought after plant families in the country. I'm a member of the IUCN Cycad Specialist Group and am currently co-authoring a book on the cycads of Mexico.

Pamela Koide-Hyatt, the own-

er/operator of Bird Rock Tropicals, will be the tour co-leader. Pam has been researching tillandsias in Mexico for over 30 years and is a highly regarded world expert on the genus, *Tillandsia*. As an avid grower and hybridizer, she has introduced many species and varieties into cultivation and is also a frequent lecturer at national and international conferences.

Together, Pam and I led a very successful sold-out trip to Mexico in January 2017, with participants from the United States, Australia and New Zealand. On that tour, we were



Pam with *Tillandsia prodigiosa*. Photo courtesy of Pam Koide-Hyatt.





*Tillandsia eizii*





*Tillandsia ionantha fastigiata*

pleasantly surprised to encounter some 82 taxa of bromeliads (mostly *Tillandsia*), including several natural hybrids.

This pre-conference tour will visit a number of localities and diverse habitats in the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas including oak pine forest, tropical deciduous thorn forest, desert, coastal dry forest, cloud forest, montane rain forest, and limestone mogotes. Among

the spectacular species we intend to see are: *Tillandsia xerographica*, *seleriana*, *prodigiosa*, *eizii*, *bourgaei*, *violacea*, *sierra-juarezensis*, *atroviridipetala*, *caput-medusae*, *lucida*, *punctulata*, *imperialis*, *grandis*, *ionantha*; *Hechtia lanata*, *rosea*, *lyman-smithii* and many more!



*Tillandsia eizii x punctulata*



*Hechtia lanata*

For additional information and to make your reservations, please contact me via email: [jeffchemnick@cox.net](mailto:jeffchemnick@cox.net) or call: (805) 705-3397. The cut off date for reservations is February 28, 2018.

Pam and I are looking forward to having you aboard! See you in May in Mexico...