

Pup Talk *November 2022*

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 29, Number 11

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 3, 2022, 7:00 PM
At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA

FEATURED THIS MONTH: David Fell

The next meeting program will be a very informative video recording from the La Ballona Bromeliad Society of an interview and slide show of David Fell, a hybridizer and expert on bromeliads who lives in Hawaii.

David specializes in Vrieseas, particularly the larger size hybrids, and has produced many prize-winning varieties. This program was recorded just before the BSI world conference, where David had plants on display as well as for sale.



DIRECTIONS: Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Norman Murray Community and Senior Center, 24932 Veterans Way in Mission Viejo. Visitors Welcome!

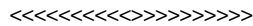
Where is that? Off the I-5 take the La Paz exit. Go east on La Paz past Marguerite Parkway to Veterans' Way. Turn left. The parking lot is at the road's end. **We are in the Sycamore Room B rather than in room A!**

This Meeting Includes:

Bromeliads and More Wonderful Bromeliads:

- * **Show & Tell** – A meeting highlight. Bring in your bloomers, show stoppers, interesting plants, questions, even disasters. Help all of us learn and enjoy while you get a free raffle ticket.
- * **Raffle Table** – A chance to add to your collection; buy lots of tickets!
- * **Auction** – We often have special plants for you to bid on, usually in a silent auction.

Library & Information – Want to learn even more? Check out a book and read up! Or ask our bromeliad experts that question which has been bugging you! We love to talk Bromeliads!



Getting Out and About:

11/3 – A program by David Fell, expert bromeliad and hybridizer.

12/1 – Our Christmas Party

Hurricane Ian

At right is a post hurricane Ian picture from Michael’s Bromeliads. Their site says, “We have been devastated by Hurricane Ian and severe flooding. We hope to be back.”

Below is a post hurricane photo of flattened greenhouses from Tropiflora showing a little of Ian’s impact there.

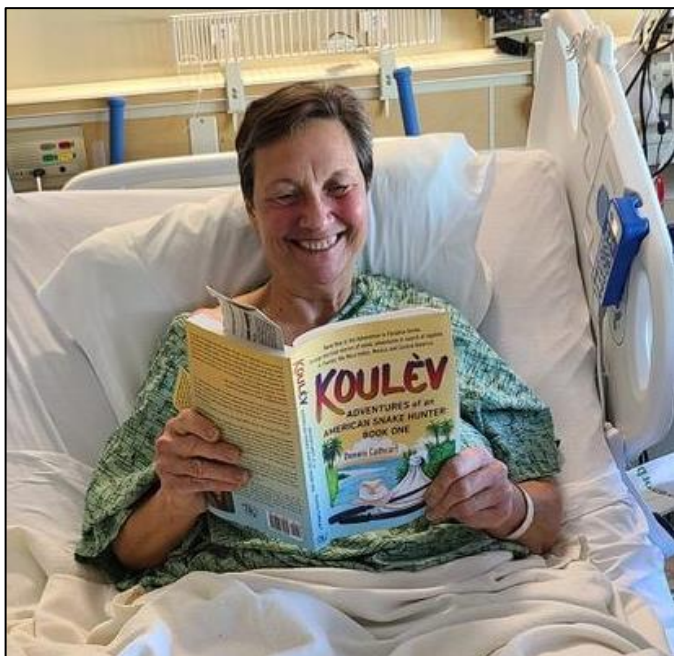
Saddleback has enjoyed wonderful plants from both of these growers and wish them a speedy and successful recovery.



October's Show & Tell featured:

- Cristy Brenner *Aechmea 'Fulgo Ramosa'*
 A. 'Pilfered'
 Billbergia 'Kyoto' (Page 4 Top R)
 Tillandsia extensa (Page 4 top L)
- Launi Cory *Tillandsia streptophylla* (Mid)
 T. hybrid (Page 4 Mid Right)
- Don DeBok *Tillandsia caerulea*
 Portea 'Candy' (Page 5)
- Norm Nakinishi *Tillandsia compressa*
 T. 'King Cobra'
 T. magnispica (Page 7 Bottom Right)
- Jeff Sorensen *Guzmania sanguinea* (Bottom)
 Tillandsia somnians
- Zulima Storf 4 *Tillandsia* rock arrangements (Pages 4 and 7)
- Vance Tucker *Tillandsia latifolia 'Major'*
- Dylan Zoller *Tillandsia altomayoensis* (Page 7 Top Left)





SVBS Member Report

Here is Patti with a recently reviewed book from our library. We are happy to report that her broken leg is getting better!

Cooler Weather

It is almost November. Here are 3 articles that mention cooling weather and its impact on bromeliads.

Now is “a good time to prepare for the upcoming cold weather – you know it’s coming and you know that it will probably arrive when you least expect it, so it’s best to have your cold weather protection plans in place before that day arrives. A good first step toward this should be to identify those bromeliads in your collection that are the most cold-sensitive. Don’t know which ones these might be? Ask your fellow club members – that’s one of the benefits of being a member!

“Once you’ve identified these plants, you can either group them together so you can quickly protect them or move them indoors when needed. Or you might add a colorful tag to each one so you won’t overlook them in your haste to prepare. Of course, overlooking them is one way to identify which plants are cold sensitive... although it will be ‘after the fact.’ They’ll be the ones that are pure white and falling out of their pots after the cold weather passes and the temperature returns to normal!”

Edited from the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society newsletter, September 2013

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Crown Rot in Bromeliads - by Nina Woodcock in the March/April issue of *Bromeletter*, the OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

“Crown rot isn’t caused by excessive amounts of water. Rot is caused by the presence of naturally occurring bacteria and or fungus that break down leaf matter and thrive in oxygen deprived environments. Rain water is oxygenated but stagnant water tends to be low in oxygen. An example of crown rot causing fungus is *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. It lives in most soils but thrives in moist stagnant conditions when oxygen content is low.

“Anti-fungal treatments also target beneficial fungus such as *Trichoderma* that thrives in oxygen rich environments and keeps many pathogenic fungi in check. To avoid crown rot, use a free draining potting mix ... to keep oxygen present in the soil. Rain water draws water and oxygen through a free draining mix therefore excessive watering shouldn’t be the cause of crown rot.

“However, at low temperatures, fungal pathogens become more active, water holds less oxygen and plants are dormant which is why rot is more likely to occur in winter. Keeping plants in a bright undercover position during winter will help deter fungal pathogen growth.”



Winterizing – Cultural Tips

This article by Odean Head is reprinted from the November 2003 newsletter of the Houston Bromeliad Society.

It is that time of year again when we must take those necessary precautions to ensure that we don't suffer mass cold damage to our plant collections. First, I want to cover preparations for winterizing the plants.

At the very best, the growing environment for our plant collections will deteriorate during the winter. First, our light is lowered by the reduced sun we receive and the crowded conditions we experience in closed structures. The closed structure also eliminates air movement and is subjected to heat buildups on sunny days.

In organizing my collection for winterizing, I separate the plants into several groups. I want to consider their light requirements first. Since I never have enough space to accommodate all the plants that want good light, I must prioritize according to desirability and stage of growth. The most important group is the special plants that will be reaching their prime in the next year or two and the clumps that have already formed. These plants will have top priority and will be placed as neat as possible into their respective best light. The newly removed pups will come next and so on until the remainder of the plants, regardless of their needs, gets put into whatever space is left over. This is when I apologize and tell them that I hope that they won't have to stay there too long. Disposition of the mothers will depend on how special the plants are, whether they have pups or not and if I desire to further propagate them. Mothers that are still attractive will be included in the display area (but not necessarily in the best light). Leaves on most of the other mothers that I keep will be trimmed so that they take up less room. Some of the mothers that have pups of sufficient size, and I have enough pups already, may be removed completely to give the pups more room.

Bromeliads need good air circulation and we should provide some additional fans for air movement during these crowded times. Placement of plants by size can help in reducing crowded conditions. We also have many warm days during the winter causing extreme heat buildups in our closed structures. We need doors and windows or panels that we can easily open and close to reduce the heat. Without some added air circulation, the heat and light combinations can cause burning on the plant leaves.

Crowded conditions can also cause scale and fungus problems so be sure and check closely before placing them and treat if needed. I try to seal my structure as tight as I can using 4 or 6 mil plastic with one year UV protection. I have three large forced air, natural gas heaters and keep the thermostats set on 50 degrees. The thermostats are about 5 feet off the ground so the greenhouse does not stay that warm. In fact, the temperature can be at least 10 degrees colder on the ground so I am careful about what I leave on ground level.



Watering is more difficult when the plants are crowded but is required less frequently. How frequent will depend on the temperatures, maybe once a week when it is warm to hot and only once every two weeks or more when temperatures are cool to cold.

I grow drier and never fertilize in the winter in an effort to prevent leggy growth. Remember also that the plants do not like to stay wet so it is best to water in the morning and give the plants a chance to dry before night.

For space utilization I like to use a combination of multiple level shelving and poles for hanging plants. Using pipe and the available clamps and fittings, you can form a network of shelves and poles that will best suit the storage needs for your plant collection. I like to use every square foot of light that comes into the storage area. I hang poles over walkways and large potted plants. If your structure is built with pipe, you can easily clamp pipes to the poles at different levels for shelves with supporting poles at the other end. If your structure is not made of pipe, you can make free standing multiple shelving units out of the pipe.



Be sure to guard against hiding prize plants. Try to keep them in view so that their needs are not overlooked. Also determine which plants in your collection are the most cold-sensitive so that you can take extra precautions during extremely cold days.



Ingenious Kingdom, The Remarkable World of Plants By Henry and Rebecca Northen

A Book Review for the November, 2022 Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society *Pup Talk* by Chris Bruce.

This review is taken from the book jacket because it provides a comprehensive summary of a compendium of facts about the plant world. There are so many fascinating examples to present here, but that would almost certainly require a reproduction of the entire book. Hopefully, this summary will stimulate the reader's curiosity enough to borrow it from the library.

"Anyone who has ever wondered at the rich cathedral of a forest, the pattern of a leaf, or the colorful burst of a flower, will welcome Henry and Rebecca Northen's fact-filled exploration of the mysterious world of plants. Over the past five hundred million years, one-celled plants have evolved into over a million distinct varieties—bizarre, beautiful, improbable, and astonishing—that comprise today's vegetable kingdom. In every forest, mountain, roadside, and even at lakes and oceans, plants wage a continual fight for survival.

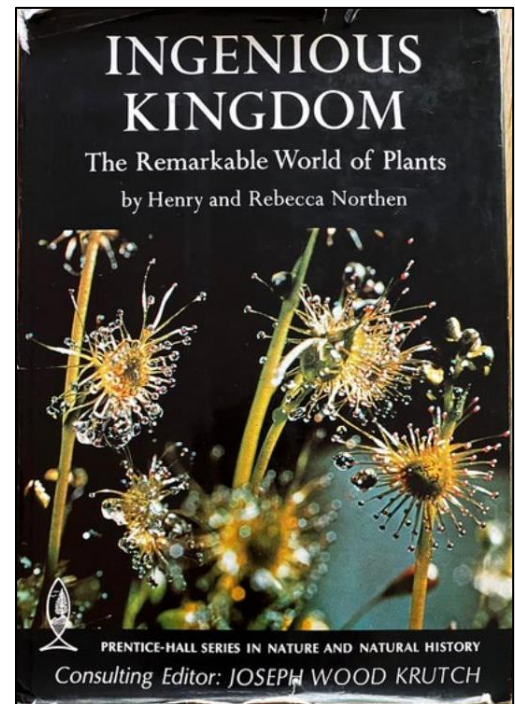
In this fascinating and comprehensive volume, the Northens examine the reasons behind the astonishing longevity of individual plants, from the seeds which came to life and grew after a sleep of ten thousand years, to the four-thousand-year-old bristlecone pines and giant sequoias of California. They also view in rich detail the more primitive levels of the plant world, including the literally immortal diatoms, which grow *smaller* with each succeeding generation; the algae and fungi that live together to form a lichen which grows in climates where neither component could survive alone; and the giant kelp, a form of algae which grows up to one hundred feet—and whose relatives ensure the survival of all life on earth!

More sophisticated are the flowering plants, whose various means of reproduction have come to depend on wind, water, butterflies, moths, flies, birds, or even bats. One plant which needs flies for pollination is reported to smell like a herd of very dead elephants; one orchid attracts wasps by imitating the female of the species.

But more importantly, this book reveals recently discovered secrets of the plant world: the complex chemical mechanisms that cause plants to "know" the right season to bloom, germinate, or grow dormant; how trees buttress themselves against the wind; and how minute amounts of red light—out of all the solar spectrum—appear as the key to a host of complex plant rhythms.



With an introduction by Joseph Wood Krutch, and over ninety black-and-white photographs and line drawings, *Ingenious Kingdom* portrays the botanical world as a realm of unrelenting action and dynamic change; and plants as a group of organisms which have provided breathtaking and improbable "answers" to every problem that nature has ever placed in a plant's way."



2022 Society Officers/Committee Heads

- President:
- Vice President/Programs:
- Secretary:
- Treasurer:
- Fundraising:
- Librarian:
- Membership
- Plant Table:

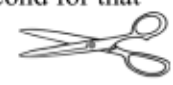
- Publicity:
- Pup Talk Team:

Refreshments:

Supplies:

Webmaster and Zoom Coord. John Marzolino (714) 654-8067 Johnjmm1@gmail.com
 Life Mbrs: Cristy Brenner, Mary Kermani, Dan Kinnard, Norm Nakanishi, Jeff Sorensen, Ed Voelker, Joe Wujcik

Renew Today — Now is the time to renew your Saddleback membership. Membership **remains only** \$15 per year for email monthly newsletter or \$20 for print copy. Renew your membership and send a second for that brom-loving friend. Please send your membership to the address below.



SVBS 2022 DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$15 per membership (for one person or for two or more at the same address).

Membership Name(s): _____
Newsletter via: email (Dues \$15 a year) or USPS (Dues \$20 a year) or Both (Dues \$20)
Address: Check if information is the same as last year. (Otherwise fill out below)
Street: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone Number(s): (____) ____ - _____
Email: _____

Our Web Address: <http://www.bsi.org/webpages/saddleback.html>

Join Us The Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society is an educational organization promoting the study and cultivation of Bromeliads. Meetings include an educational talk, a plant raffle table, a silent auction, refreshments, a lending library, supplies for purchase, shared information, and camaraderie. Dues are \$15 per year (for a single person or a family) with email newsletter and \$20 with USPS newsletter. Send name, address, email with dues to Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society (SVBS) c/o Nada Chatwell, 24891 Camberwell St., Laguna Hills CA 92653.

Pup Talk, November, 2022

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society

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Fallbrook, CA 92028

FIRST CLASS PLEASE!

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society

Pup Talk

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The Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society next meets Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- * **Program** on David Fell, expert bromeliad hybridizer;
- * **Plant raffle** (Bring a show & tell plant to receive a free raffle ticket!);
- * **Show & Tell** with lots of our plants to see and enjoy;
- * **Lending library** for books you need to learn;
- * **Friendship; and Information.**

A big thank you goes to all who contributed information, writing, and production of this newsletter including Cristy Brenner, Chris and Hank Bruce, Pete and Patti Dunn, and John Marzolino.

Pup Talk is a publication of the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society. Any opinion expressed herein is not necessarily that of the Society. Send comments, enquiries, and articles to: Joe Wujcik (760) 451-9146 or email joewujcik@sbcglobal.net. Plant photos are courtesy of the FCBS Photo Index and Bromeliad Society of Australia. Deadline is mid-month before month of publication. When credit is given, nonprofit publications may reprint from us.

The Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society is an educational organization promoting the study and cultivation of bromeliads and fellowship among those who do. We are an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International.

