

Pup Talk

December 2022

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 29, Number 12

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 1, 2022, 6:30 PM

**At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA**

FEATURED: This month we set aside things bromeliad to enjoy an evening of seasonal celebrating. **Important note: we start at 6:30 pm!** Barbara Stewart, who has so ably run the dinner for years, will again be in charge of the main dishes!

A delicious dinner in a festively decorated room starts the evening's fun. The club brings the main dishes (ham and turkey?), as well as drinks, along with plates and utensils for the feast. We ask you to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert of your choice along with a serving utensil. Good food and fellowship – what a combination!

A major fun event of the evening is the gift exchange. If you decide to participate, please bring a nicely wrapped gift (bromeliad or garden related preferred) of about \$10 to \$15 in value to add to the festivities. People select the gift of their liking. Since only the gift wrapping and package size is visible, it is a fun time deciding what to pick. (See photo of past gifts.) Then, the one round of organized gift “stealing” begins with any gift going to no more than 2 people. Finally, you open your remaining gift to see what you received. Was your “Santa” good to you? We shall see.



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 Juniper Room!

Getting Out and About:

Holiday Party – Dec 1, 6:30 PM.

1/5/2023 – Our January Meeting.

Party Photos. See you there!

Getting Ready (the old room):

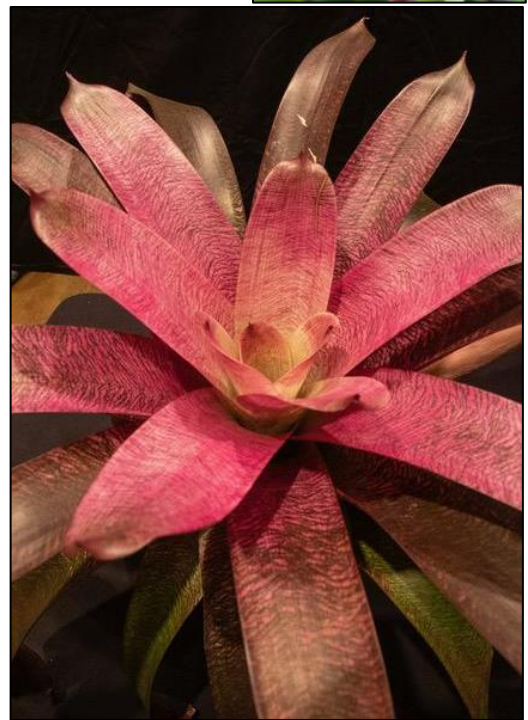


Food with Friends:



November's Show & Tell featured:

- Lee Brandt *Cattleya* orchid
- Cristy Brenner *Aechmea* 'Peggy'
Neoregelia macwilliamsii
Neo 'Comet' X *N.* 'Grace'
- Inflorescences of:
Aechmea blanchetiana,
Portea 'Candy'
P. petropolitana v. *extensa*
P. fosteriana (Top Right)
- Nada Chatwell *Tillandsia xerographica* on palm sheath
- Chris Lutz Dragon fruit
- Michael McGuire *Aechmea mulfordii*
- Norm Nakanishi *Vriesea* 'Abigail Jean' (P. 4 Bottom)
V. 'Chocolate Raspberry' (P. 4 Top R)
V. 'Lucious Lady'
V. 'Pink Fantasy' (Right)
- Carolyn Parsons (5 plants with curly leaves - bottom)
Aechmea 'Red Bands'
Billbergia 'Carioca'
Guzmania sanguinea variegata
Quesnelia 'Rafael Oliviera'
Tillandsia 'Curly Slim'
- Jeff Sorensen *Aechmea coelestis* seedlings
- Barbara Stewart *Aechmea carvalhoi*





Thank You and Looking Ahead

Saddleback Bromeliad Society finds its strength in its people. We have been fortunate to have a strong group of volunteers to maintain the club's dynamic growth. Thank you for a great 2022.

Most of the 2022 staff is going to repeat in 2023. See page 9 for the full 2022 list.

The few changes for 2023 include:

Chris Bruce will become president.

Paul Selzer will move to Librarian.

Cristy Brenner will become editor. Joe Wujcik, our existing editor, is retiring.

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Editorial

I will not return as editor in 2023. Carol and I have been editor for about 20 years and have loved it. Why stop now? Unfortunately, age catches up with all of us and it has with me. We started *Pup Talk* as a small document with no color. Yes, bromeliads which have such appeal in color, were shown in black and white. Fortunately, the board approved one page with color photos and we have gone on from there.

I could never have done this alone – there have been many helpers over the years and I thank all of them. The writers, volunteers, and production teams have made this is wonderful experience for us. A special thanks goes to Cristy who has read and suggested changes for almost every edition. Joe

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Great News:

We are happy to report that Michael's Bromeliads has changed their post-Ian hurricane website from "We hope to be back" to a much more hopeful "We are rebuilding. We'll be back soon!"

Tropiflora founder Dennis Cathcart called this the most damaging storm yet. They announced they are open but limited while they try to retrieve plants from flattened greenhouses, rebuild watering systems, etc. They added: "All of the Tropiflora team members are safe.... We thank you for your continued prayers and support as we navigate this shared disaster. We were lucky – there are many others who have suffered much more.... We are all in this together and we will survive."

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Tillandsia Photo by Ed Voelker from Facebook.



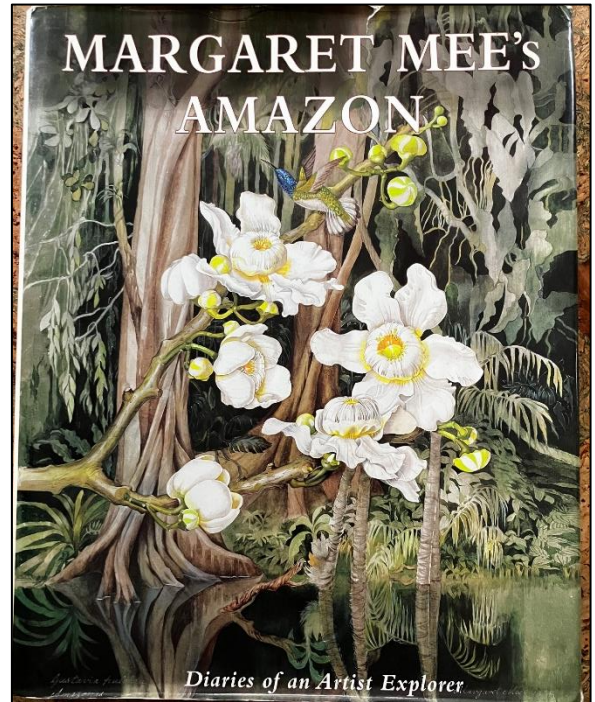
Tillandsia (brachycaulos x concolor)

Margaret Mee's Amazon By Margaret Mee

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

Margaret Mee was born in England in 1909. During her art education she met and married Greville Mee, a fellow art student. In 1952 she visited her sister in Brazil and fell in love with the countryside and landscape around Sao Paulo. Following a move there, she dedicated her career to drawing and painting the natural world in the Brazilian Amazon.

In 1956, she undertook the first of her fifteen expeditions, where she explored many tributaries of the Amazon. Greville always remained behind in Sao Paulo. She was a fearless and intrepid adventurer. Often traveling alone, she arranged for the rental of canoes, boats, crews, and supplies. With no hotels on the river, after mooring for the night or to escape a rainstorm, she arranged for lodging in local huts that she found. Her mastery of Portuguese helped her to communicate, but she was dependent on others to speak with indigenous people. During the expeditions, she searched for unusual trees, plants, and wildlife. She often had a young native boy climb to the top of trees to gather plant specimens. She gathered plant materials and prepared them for shipment to Sao Paulo. She sketched



and painted daily, and bromeliads and orchids were the most frequent subjects of her paintings. The seemingly daily rain created challenges for keeping her work dry, since without modern outdoor clothing and equipment, she often found herself and her supplies thoroughly wet. On expeditions, she kept a diary of what she had encountered. Village and tribal life were often revealed by her observation of rituals and festivals.

Her daily challenges included thundering rapids, uncooperative boatmen, carnivorous insects, insufficient food, and drunken prospectors, who she sometimes held off with a revolver.

During the 32 year-period of her expeditions, she saw an alarming deterioration in the condition of the Amazon. More swaths of forest had been burned and cleared for mining, agriculture, or development. Government agencies were ineffective in controlling these degradations, and only reluctantly did they give her permits to proceed into reserves.

Shortly after completing an expedition in 1988, Margaret returned to England to lecture to the Royal Geographic Society and attend the opening of an exhibition of her paintings. She was still in full health and likely would have continued to do brilliant work, had she not been killed in a car crash there at age 79.

(Continued on P 7)



Her skilled paintings are reproduced beautifully in this Kew Gardens published book. Ample photos also illuminate the scenes that she described well in her diary. This coffee table book would be a beautiful addition to a home or library. But more than a vanity book, it is definitely worthy of a careful read. Margaret Mee was a true-life adventure woman long before it was expected or ordinary.

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Bromeliad Christmas Tree by Bullis Bromeliads



Bromeliads and Frost, a personal experience

by Kerry Booth Tate From the BSNZ opening page.

The bromeliads listed were growing in my garden and shade house, during winter 2007, at The Channon, by Terania Creek, in northern N.S.W., Australia - a sub-tropical haven. They had acclimatized over the previous 9 years, and most were growing well. Some bromeliads listed were single specimens, and others were established clumps. Many were grown epiphytically in various trees around the garden. Others were planted on the ground in mounds, or positioned in their pots, under trees and in more open areas. Several maturing tropical bromeliads, and potted pups of many genera, were growing in a large shade house.

The recorded results indicate the extent of damage they each received after two consecutive nights of -8°C (18 degrees Fahrenheit), on 18th and 19th July, 2007 - an unprecedented and freak occurrence for the area. Photographic records cover the immediate month after the black frost, at weekly intervals. Subsequent written data and photographs support the long-term, overall damage...and survival.

SUMMARY

WORST-AFFECTED:

- Most stoloniferous mini neoregelia and many grey-leaved tillandsia - growing epiphytically
- Amazonian bromeliads eg. *Aechmea* subgenus *Platyaechmea*, *V. splendens*, *Guz. musaica*
- Discolored/soft-leaved bromeliads eg. *Guzmania*, as well as some with succulent-type thick leaves eg. *Ursulaea* - inner cells were destroyed
- In the garden, the mother plants generally fared worse than their pups
- Potted bromeliads fared worse than their ground-planted siblings

WINNING GENERA - the great survivors:

- *Nidularium*, *Dyckia*, green-leaved *Vriesea*, *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia*
- High-altitude bromeliads eg. *T. deppeana*, *T. dasyliriifolia*
- Bromeliads native to Southern Brazil eg. *V. philippocoburgii*, *V. gigantea*
- Those bromeliads growing under a denser, low canopy fared better than those in more exposed open areas
- Although so many bromeliads were damaged, regrowth from either the center of remaining live plants, or of subsequent pups, was relatively rapid and most heartening!



2022 Society Officers/ Committee Heads

President:	Cristy Brenner		
Vice President/Programs:	Jeff Sorensen		
Secretary:	Carolyn Parsons		
Treasurer:	Mary Kermani		
Fundraising:	Yvonne Wilson		
Librarian:	Chris Bruce		
Membership	Nada Chatwell		
Plant Table:	John Marzolino		
	Michael McGuire		
Publicity:	Kathy Jones		
Pup Talk Team:	Pete and Patti Dunn		
	John Marzolino		
	Joe Wujcik		
Refreshments:	Launi and Tony Cory		
	Kathy Jones		
Supplies:	Don DeBok		
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 is 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.



SVBS 2023 DUES / MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$15 per membership (for one person or for two or more at the same address). Please send a check & info to address below:

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

Our Web Address: Saddlebackbromeliadsociety.org

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 o Nada Chatwell, 24891 Camberwell St., Laguna Hills CA 92653.

Pup Talk, December, 2022

**Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society
1068 Santa Cruz Cir, Costa Mesa CA 92626**

FIRST CLASS PLEASE!

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society

Pup Talk

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The Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society next meets Thursday, December 1, 2022, at **6:30 PM**.

This will be our **annual holiday party**. Bring a dish to share and a gift for the exchange if you wish!

A big thank you goes to all who contributed information, writing, and production of this newsletter including Cristy Brenner, Chris 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. 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.

