



Pup Talk

December 2023

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

We Will Meet: Thursday, December 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center

FEATURED: This month it is time for our annual Holiday celebration. **Important note: We will begin the dinner activities at 6:30 p.m.**

Come join us for a very festive evening of fun with your Bromeliad friends. Our festivities will begin with a delicious potluck dinner. Barbara Stewart (shown at right) will bring a home-cooked turkey and the club will provide a ham. Please bring any side dish, salad, or desert that you would prefer. Barbara will also provide our beautiful table decorations.

After dinner, we will have our gift exchange and you must bring a gift if you wish to participate. The gifts should be wrapped, garden-related, and valued at about \$15.00. Each person will receive a ticket to determine the order in which the presents are chosen. But—don't open your present yet because the tickets will be called a second time and that's when the fun begins as some presents are "stolen" several times. Finally, we all open our presents to find a great variety of very interesting gifts, including lots of Bromeliads and sometimes even delightful homemade gifts. (See page 6 for photos of last year's Holiday party).



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 room Sycamore B.

This Meeting Includes: (Not this month—it's a party!)

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!
- * **Silent Auction** – We usually have special plants for you to bid on.
- * **Library & Information** – Want to learn even more? Check out a book and read up!
Or ask our bromeliad experts that question that is bugging you! We love to talk Bromeliads!



Upcoming Events (mark your calendars):

December 2 —Saturday Field trip to Andy Siekkinen's garden and sales area. (See below)

December 3 — South Bay Bromeliad Associates Holiday party at Mary Kermani's house.

December 7 — Our annual Holiday party.

December 9 — San Diego Bromeliad Society meeting (Balboa Park—see their website for information)

May 22-25, 2024 — World Bromeliad Conference (BSI) in West Palm Beach, Florida.



Repeat Announcement: Information for our field trip to Andy Siekkinen's sale on December 2:

What if its raining? We are going anyway, but dress appropriately.



Our annual Holiday “member’s appreciation nursery tour” will be held on Saturday December 2, at 10:00 a.m. at Andy Siekkinen’s home and sales area in San Diego (address available at November meeting). Each SVBS member will receive a \$50 voucher to spend at Andy’s (member must be present and one per family membership).

Carpools may be arranged at the November meeting and please leave early (no later than 8:30 from M.V.) because southbound traffic is very heavy on a Saturday morning. Please bring:

- Drinks, snacks, lunch
- Boxes for your plants
- A walking stick or cane if you need it for stairs or irregular surfaces.

Andy will be offering a variety of Bromeliads (his sales table at the June San Diego show and sale is shown at left). The great thing about Andy’s plants is that they are well-acclimated to our Southern California weather.

The President's Message:

This is the season to reflect, react and plan. As the first year of my presidency ends I have much to think about. As an organization, we have grown in numbers, maintained our traditional activities, and expanded our horizons. Although we cannot meet the needs of all members all the time, we are trying to listen and act according to the wishes of most of the members. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm and participation of our members. We have been able to provide multiple opportunities for education, plant acquisition, and plant sales for those members who wish to sell their plants. We are staying in communication with other Bromeliad Societies to network and share activities. We are beginning to grow a presence on social media, which will become a resource for us in ways many of us can't yet imagine. Our public face at Sherman Gardens twice a year enhances our image, confidence, and enthusiasm. Our website is being enhanced to provide more value to all of us. By adopting the use of a payment device, we can conduct business with more than cash and check transactions. We will continue to be attentive to methods to conduct all our business. The scholarship that we have offered is one of the ways we give back to our community.

I can't praise the Board of Directors enough for all that each of them has done to contribute to all our successes and accomplishments. They have stepped up to new challenges and helped guide us into the future. Our decision to produce the 2026 BSI World Conference here in Orange County will be an opportunity for all of us to participate in something bigger than ourselves. Every member will be able to help in some way. The prospect of the world of Bromeliads being centered in our community for five days with experts, growers, and hobbyists just like us is wonderful to ponder.

I am planning for another exciting year as President. I welcome your participation, ideas, concerns, and solutions. Let's keep on growing our Bromeliads (and ourselves).

Chris Bruce



Several times this year we have commented on the odd times that our Bromeliads have bloomed. Usually they have been one to two months later than usual. I'm happy to report that my *Aechmea recurvata* v. *benrathii* have begun to color-up right on schedule for the Holidays. Once again, they will provide a very colorful display to brighten the days of late December and early January. Last year's display is shown at left.

Our November Show and Tell Featured:

Cristy Brenner

Aechmea chantinii 'Rebecca' (?) #1

Billbergia pyramidalis

Tillandsia jalisco-monticola #3

x*Ursumea* 'MaWilliams' (*Aechmea fendleri* X

Ursulaea tuitensis) #2

Johanna Browne

Tillandsia ionantha #5

Tillandsia secunda #6

Tillandsia vernicosa

Sean Donlin

Aechmea 'Burning Bush' #4



November Show and Tell, continued:

Patti Dunn

Vriesea saundersii #7

Neoregelia 'Duke' #8

Jeff Sorensen

Aechmea emmerichiae

Portea 'Candy'

Portea petropolitana v.
petropolitana (?) #10

Tillandsia duratii #11

Kerry Wakely

Tillandsia tenuifolia on wire bird #9



Last Year's Holiday Party



Finishing a our tasty dinner.



The tables were put away and the eager members formed a circle around the colorful and mysterious presents.

A very special handmade gift.



The joy of receiving eight Bromeliads in one big gift bag!

Waiting to see if their gift will be "stolen" in the second round.



Bus tour to Santa Barbara area: On October 14, the Bromeliad Society of La Ballona Valley and the South Bay Bromeliad Associates held their annual joint bus trip to several distant nurseries. Many of our members also belong to these societies and seven of us spent a delightful day searching for new additions to our collections and meeting new Bromeliad friends. Will our society hold a similar bus tour in the future? Maybe!



The sales area (above).

Our favorite nursery was Airplant Alchemy in Carpinteria. The owner, Brian Kollenborn, formerly grew orchids, but he is now concentrating on growing Tillandsias. He is very passionate about his breeding program, which is dedicated to creating plants with very colorful, long-lasting leaf color. Many Tillandsias are only colorful while in bloom, so Brian's Tillandsias are definitely more desirable (below).

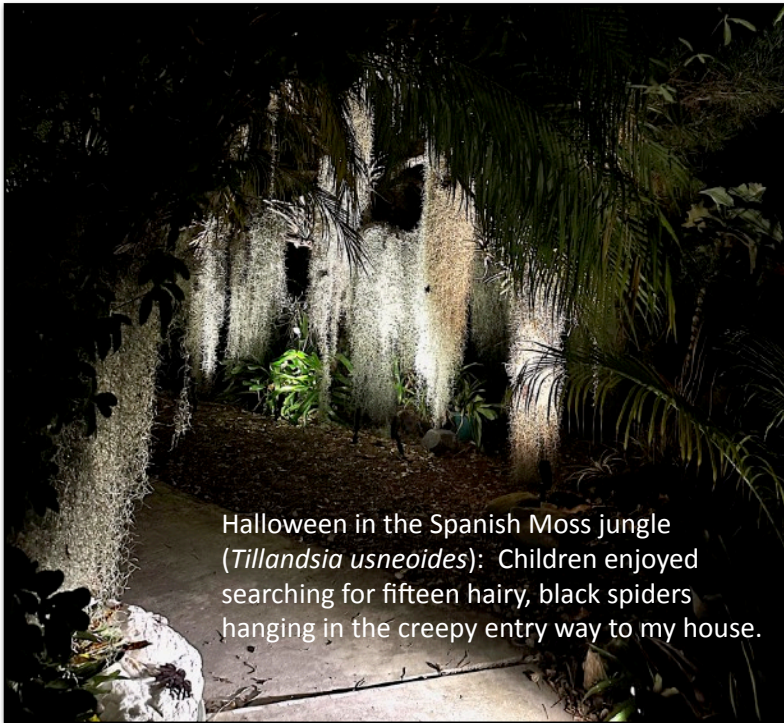


Nada enjoying Brian's lecture about the greenhouses and breeding program (right).



Large greenhouse patio surrounded on three sides by Tillandsia walls (below).





Halloween in the Spanish Moss jungle (*Tillandsia usneoides*): Children enjoyed searching for fifteen hairy, black spiders hanging in the creepy entry way to my house.

East London Bromeliad Society

South Africa

Established: 25 July 2009

Glossary of New Bromeliad Terminology:

Below is the latest list of Bromeliad terms used during meetings of the East London Bromeliad Society, South Africa (November, 2023). They certainly use more technical terms than we do! How many of them do you know? Perhaps we could learn a few new terms each month. This will help us understand some of our plant names or tell us how they grow. For example: Is your new plant an epiphyte, a saxicole, or does it grow in a mesic environment? This knowledge will tell you how to grow your new Bromeliad.

Ageotropic	Ageotropic means growing in all directions ie not affected by gravity. <i>Tillandsia bulbosa</i> is an example of an ageotropic plant
Bigeneric	A plant that is the result of crossing two different genera. It will have an 'x' in front of its name, eg: x <i>Anamea Scorpio</i> . The bigeneric name will be a cross between the genera involved in the parentage, as in the above case: <i>Ananas</i> and <i>Achemea</i> = x <i>Anamea</i> .
Bract	This is a specialized leaf found below a flower or on the stalk of a flower cluster and sometimes brightly coloured
Caulescent	Stem-like growth
Compact inflorescence	Branched inflorescence.
Digitate inflorescence	'Finger-like' with 'branches' coming from one point. <i>Tillandsia disticha</i> has a digitate flower spike
Discolor	Having two different colours. In a bromeliad leaf it usually means a green leaf with red underside
Epiphyte	An epiphyte is plant that grows attached to another plant/tree but it is not a parasite
Flavo	Yellow margin on the leaves
Grex	A group of plants with the same parents
Hemiepiphyte	This is a plant that spends part of it's life cycle as an epiphyte
Inflorescence	Includes the flower stem and the flower head with usually small, sometimes insignificant flowers
Imbricate	Overlapping sections eg. on the inflorescence of <i>Tillandsia concolor</i>
Lanceolate	Large at the base then tapering to a point
Lithophyte	A plant that grows on and/or between rocks and crevices
Mesic	A growing habitat containing a moderate amount of moisture
Myrmecophyte	Ants inhabit the base of bulbous <i>Tillandsia</i> varieties. An example <i>T. bulbosa</i>
Novar	A variegated or albomarginated plant that has lost it's variegation
Pedicel	Flower stalk
Rupicolous	Living or growing on or among rocks
Simple	A single un-branched inflorescence
Stolon	Long woody runner or stem from a mother plant that a new pup develops on
Stoloniferous	Pups/plants form at the end of a stolon
Saxicole	A plant that grows on and/or between rocks and crevices
Xeric	A growing habitat containing little moisture or very dry

2023 Society Officers/Committee Heads

President:	Chris Bruce	Publicity:	Kathy Jones
Vice President/Programs:	Jeff Sorensen	<i>Pup Talk</i> Editor:	Cristy Brenner
Secretary:	Carolyn Parsons	<i>Pup Talk</i> Team:	Pete and Patti Dunn
Treasurer:	Mary Kermani		John Marzolino
Fundraising:	Yvonne Wilson	Refreshments:	Launi & Tony Cory
Librarian:	Paul Selzer		Kathy Jones
Membership	Nada Chatwell	Supplies:	Don DeBok
Plant Table:	John Marzolino	Webmaster and Zoom	John Marzolino
	Michael McGuire		



Puya mirabilis. Photo by Ed Voelker



SVBS 2024 DUES/MEMBERSHIP (It's time to renew)

Dues are \$15 per membership (for one person or for two or more at the same address). Please send a check & info to: Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society 24891 Camberwell Street, Laguna Hills, CA, 92653

Membership Name(s): _____

Newsletter via: [] email (dues \$15/year) or [] USPS (Dues \$20/year) or [] **Both (Dues \$20/year)**

Street: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone Number(s): (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

Pup Talk, December, 2023

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society

1068 Santa Cruz Circle

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 7, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- * **Program:** Our Holiday party.
- * **Plant raffle and silent auction** (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, photos, and production of this newsletter including Cristy Brenner (Ed.), John Marzolino, Patti & Pete Dunn, Chris & Hank Bruce, Jeff Sorensen, and Ed Voelker.

Pup Talk is a publication of the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society. Any opinion expressed herein is not necessarily that of the Society. Send comments, inquiries, and articles to: cbrenner4@cox.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.

