

Pup Talk

July 2022

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 28, Number 7

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 7, 2022, 7:00 PM

**At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92692**

FEATURED THIS MONTH: Brazil! Woody Minnich says, "In this presentation we

will travel through the Brazilian states of Bahia, Minas Geras and Rio Grande Du Sol. All of these large states are very well represented with many of the Bromeliaceae: Aechmea, Billbergia, Cryptanthus, Dyckia, Encholirium, Hohenbergia, Neoregelia, Orthophytum, Pitcairnia, Puya, Tillandsia, Vriesea and other genera.

"There will be a number of genera and species. I find it so interesting, that in the Brom trade, there is a real plethora



of fantastic hybrids. Maybe this visit to see actual species in habitat, which are the original parents of all of our cultivated treasures, will be of assistance in charting their heritage. If you haven't been to the wild habitats for our Broms, cacti and other succulents, come join me in the coastal lowlands, grasslands, rocky outcroppings and mountains of southeastern Brazil."

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.

June's Show & Tell featured:

Cristy Brenner	Aechmea nudicaulis 'Flavomarginata' Ae. nudicaulis albomarginata Neoregelia 'Avalon' X johannis N. macwilliamsii (Photo bottom) N. 'Milagro'
Chris Bruce	Tillandsia filifolia T. fuchsii (medium) T. fuchsii (large)
Don DeBok	Aechmea 'Del Mar' (Photo p. 6) Vriesea 'Grandiose' V. hybrid
Patti Dunn	Hohenbergia burli-marxii Portea petropolitana v. extensa
Mary Kermani	Tillandsia tectorum (Photo right)
Carolyn Parsons	Quesnelia 'Rafael Oliviera' (P. 8)
Jeff Sorensen	Aechmea gamosepela X kertesziae (Photo page 2)
Ed Voelker	Tillandsia schiedeana v. major
Ann Woodson	Tillandsia latifolia



BSI The Bromeliad Society International held its post-Covid conference June 8 – 11, 2022 in beautiful and humid, Sarasota, Florida. The conference lived up to its reputation as a gathering to celebrate all things bromeliad with bromeliad lovers from all over the world.



Sarasota, Florida is home to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. According to Selby, it is the “only botanical garden in the world dedicated to the display and study of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads, ferns and other tropical plants.”

On Monday before the conference, fellow brom lover, Patti Dunn and I scouted Selby. Selby employee extraordinaire, Ross, treated us like royalty. We were VIP’s; our entrance was free of charge. Our



mission was successful. We saw everything bromeliad and more. Days later we learned that *all* BSI members were granted free entrance during the week of the conference.

Local growers and club members went out of their way to share their love of bromeliads. There were field trips to a bromeliad enthusiast’s home, growers’ grounds, and a behind the scenes tour of Selby. Additionally, there were plant sales and crazy bidding opportunities, socializing, interesting expert talks, and more socializing.

Sarasota has the perfect weather for growing bromeliads, developing friendships, and buying more bromeliads. Nada Chatwell

Lobby Display
Photos by Cristy

Remember, our next major event is July 16 and 17. Need to get plants ready? Join us June 30 to prepare. This sale is our chance to meet the public and to spread the love of bromeliads. See you there!

Please Join us for a **Plant-O-Rama Workshop**
 Thursday June 30th in Patti Dunn's backyard.
 Board meeting at noon, Workshop starts at 1pm
 20181 Bayview Ave, Newport Beach, Ca 92660

Our next sale event is Sherman Library and Gardens' Plant-O-Rama on Saturday & Sunday, July 16 & 17. This workshop is to prepare and price product for the sale. We'll have some plants, moss, supplies and lots of room to safely, socially distance.

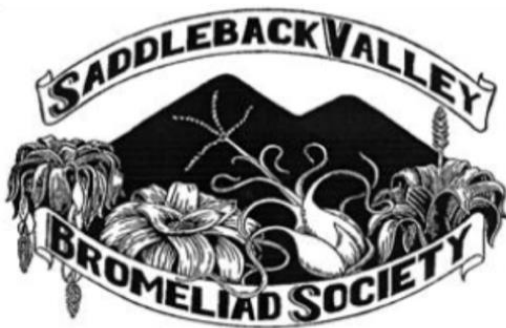
Bring gloves and any ideas, supplies and plants you'd like to share.

SHERMAN GARDENS PLANT-O-RAMA BROMELIAD SALE

Saturday & Sunday July 16-17, 10:30 am-4:00 pm
 Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society

Sherman Library & Gardens
 2627 Pacific Coast Highway
 Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

Admission \$5.00



Meetings 7:00 p.m on the first Thursday of the month @ Norman Murray Center in Mission Viejo



Come and see our lovingly home-grown BROMELIADS, including Tillandsias (air plants), and also receive growing information.

Suggestions:

Sun damaged Vriesea. “Firstly, this is not a sun loving genus and in the wild Vrieseas grow in dark, shady spots usually under heavy canopies. The advice - cut off the brown parts and leave the green leaves in place, wait and be patient. It's important to remove dead sections since if you leave the damaged parts on the plant, it will rot and this can introduce disease into an already compromised plant. It's important to realize that sunburn and frost burn damage look similar.”

Identification: “It is often very difficult to identify a bromeliad and should only be attempted when it is in flower. There can be very small differences between two very similar looking plants and finding the correct name requires looking at length, shape and color of the stamens, petals or sepals as well as leaf pattern, shape, size and color. If you don't have a name on your bromeliad please don't just guess and put on a name label. When you don't know the name of your bromeliad you can put the GENUS e.g. Aechmea or Neo with NOID after it brackets, (NOID = no identification).” *Bromeletter*, Nov. 2021

An often-asked question about pup production or seed: “If your plant is a hybrid, the only way you're going to reproduce a replica plant is by asexual reproduction, without sex, vegetative propagation i.e. pups. Growing seed from a hybrid will give mixed progeny and can't be named as per the seed parent plant. Reproduction by seed is of course the most productive method if large numbers of plants are required, albeit a much slower process. Some plants if fed well will give an abundance of pups.

However, allowing the plant to flower uses a lot of its stored energy which the plant could have put into pup production instead. By removing the spike when it first initiates and then fertilizing the plant well, this will assist in greater pup production.” Far North Coast Bromeliad Study Group NSW *Newsletter*, May 2022.



Charcoal: The Forgotten Ingredient

When I was a young man, one of my memories of helping my late father, Stan Hardy, with his cacti in his large glasshouse, was the way he always included charcoal in his potting mixes. Up until quite recently, I always thought the idea of this was to help in the drainage of the potting mix, but finding a small article in one of his cactus books has told me otherwise.

In the days of wood fires, charcoal was plentiful, and the benefit to potting mixes was well recognized. It appears as our wood fires have disappeared from the scene, so has the use of charcoal, yet its benefits are still there.

It should be noted that charcoal has no food value in itself. However, it does have several important uses to plants, and potting mixes. One of the most important is that it acts like a magnet and a sponge collecting and conserving ammonia. This remarkable function is one of the marvels of science, and nobody has been able to explain it. If pieces of charcoal are in the soil, it will be found that roots will cling to them to absorb the collected ammonia. When organic fertilizer decomposes, one of the first products given by the bacteria is ammonia gas. This gas is extremely volatile and easily escapes, but if a grain of charcoal lies next to a grain of fertilizer, it will absorb 80 times its own bulk in ammonia and will hold it – for use of the plant roots. It is the ammonia-forming capacity of bone meal, fishmeal, natural manure, compost and organic fertilizers that we pay for, and the gas should not be allowed to escape.

Charcoal has other equally valuable properties. It is the world's most perfect purifier. It acts as a continuous factory for the destruction of injurious acids. Whenever evil organic gases are given off, charcoal will absorb the odor. A sprinkling of charcoal over the compost heap will not prevent odors but will preserve ammonia.

After purchasing the charcoal, break it into half-inch pieces by placing it on a large piece of plastic and breaking it with a hammer. Further benefits those plants receive by incorporating some charcoal in your potting mix:

1. It helps to stop damping off of seedlings.
 2. When cuttings are started in water, it encourages root growth as well as keeping the water fresh.
 3. Charcoal in potting mixes also sweetens the soil and saves fertilizer.
 4. Last, but not least, it helps to open up the potting mix as well as helping in the drainage
- Do not use charcoal from the grocery store that is for grilling.

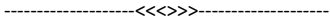
This article by Rex Hardy is from the August 2006 newsletter of the Bromeliad Society of Central Florida.

(Photo by Ed Voelker)



Billbergia Moulin Rouge

Rivera Plant Expeditions has added a possible trip to Asia for November or December 2023. "I am throwing the idea for Bromeliad enthusiasts to visit **THAILAND** and **SINGAPORE**. We will be visiting famous gardens such as Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Gardens near Bangkok, Gardens by the Sea in Singapore, as well as many nurseries that specialize in Bromeliads. Of course, we will also include some of Thailand's other iconic attractions."



Scenes from the convention and garden tour field trips above, photos by Cristy.



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

Life Member: Cristy Brenner, Mary Kermani, Dan Kinnard, Norm Nakanishi, Jeff Sorensen, Ed Voelker, and Joe Wujcik

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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.

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

Festivities include a:

- * Program on the bromeliads of Brazil;**
- * 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.**
- * Goodies; Friendship; and Information.**

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

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BSI Affiliate Page: <http://www.bsi.org/webpages/saddleback.html>

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.

