



Pup Talk

May 2026

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 33, Number 5

We Will Meet: Thursday, May 7, 2026, 6:30 pm.

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

Featured for May:

The conference is over and we have so much to tell you. Our May meeting will have a different format. We will meet at **6:30 instead of 7:00**, and our first activity will be eating dinner. If possible, please bring a dish to share. Also, we will be serving a celebration cake. We will be able to eat outside on the terrace and at the cabanas surrounding our meeting room.

After dinner, we will follow our usual procedures such as show and tell, plant raffle, and silent auction. Everyone who attends will receive **5 free raffle tickets**. The plant table was purchased from several conference vendors, so there will be a good assortment of bromeliads. We will also have some slides of the conference and memories will be shared. Please join us for this fun-filled evening. At right is a spectacular *Billbergia stenopetala* that bloomed after the judging day and was only on display for the last day of the conference.



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.

Upcoming Events (mark your calendars):



May 3 — South Bay Bromeliad Associates meeting in Palos Verdes.

May 7 — Our meeting in Mission Viejo.

June 13-14 — San Diego Bromeliad Society Sale and Show (see page 8).

**May Refreshment Signups: Candy Nakanishi, Jeff Sorensen, Sue Campbell, Dale Palas. and Dana Leahy.
Thank you.**



Society News: Wow—we did it!! We successfully held the first ever World Bromeliad Conference in Orange County. The Bromeliad Society International was originally founded in Glendale in 1950, but the last WBC in the Los Angeles area was in 1984. A WBC was held in San Diego in 2006 and 2018. Last fall, the BSI leadership, mostly in Florida, was very concerned that we would have low attendance at our conference. Fortunately, bromeliad collectors from all of the different Southern California societies really came through for us. Despite an expensive fee, we had almost 180 registrants and many of us stayed at the Hilton Hotel, even though we live close by. We had attendees from many different states and foreign countries such as Japan, India, the Netherlands, Costa Rica, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, and Ecuador. Start saving now for the next WBC in Thailand in 2028 (see page 8). You don't want to miss it—it will be in a spectacular location.



The conference was great and the BSI leadership even said that it was one of the biggest and best ever! We had a large, beautiful show (right and following pages). There were successful field trips to Bird Rock Tropicals in Encinitas and Rainforest Flora in Torrance. We also had self-guided tours to two gardens located close to the hotel. The plant sale was very successful with many vendors from Florida, Louisiana, Oregon, and even Colombia and Peru, as well as Southern California growers. The conference also featured a BSI Judges school, which had nine students. There hadn't been a judges school in Southern California in many years. The Friday night rare plant auction was very entertaining, with one plant going for a thousand dollars! See more of these conference activities on pages 5-7.

Thank you to our president, Chris Bruce, and to all of the committee chairs and volunteers who worked together to make this a wonderful conference. Please come and celebrate with us on May 7.

April Show and Tell

Cristy Brenner

Aechmea Covata (*comata* X *recurvata*) #2

Aechmea disticantha

Aechmea Pie in the Sky

Aechmea species #1

x*Vriecanthera* Inferno (*Vriesea ensiformis* X *Alcantarea regina*)

Nada Chatwell

Neoregelia Milagro #3

Don DeBok

Guzmania lingulata hybrid (variegated) #5

Vriesea California Gold (Eva X Plantation Pride) #4



April Show and Tell, continued

John Marzolino

Billbergia hybrid #9

Billbergia Poquito Mas (Fantasia X Poquito Blanco)

Neoregelia Treasure Royale #6

Tillandsia hybrid #7

Tillandsia xerographica #10

Jeff Sorensen

Inflorescences of: #8

Aechmea caudata

Aechmea gamosepala hybrids

Aechmea organensis





The WBC occupied the entire bottom floor of the Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa. Beautiful displays were set up in the large hallway outside of the huge ballroom. These displays were provided by several Southern California bromeliad societies and a bromeliad nursery. The ballroom was divided into three sections to accommodate the bromeliad sale, the judged show, and the Friday night rare plant auction. Another large room was used for the judges school and the bromeliad seminars. A large ballroom and outside terrace on the main floor of the hotel was used for the opening reception buffet dinner, and the banquet and keynote address. We were very pleased with our conference venue.



Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society



San Diego Bromeliad Society



Live Art Plants nursery



South Bay Bromeliad Associates Hollywood-themed display



The judges school (left) was taught by Terrie Bert from Florida and Robert Kopfstein from Vista. The students included three from SVBS and one from Spain! There had not been a judges school in California in many years and we were so happy to have one in our western region.

Over two hundred plants were included in the judged show below. These were entered by members of all of the Southern California bromeliad societies and we appreciate their participation. The professional nurseries also entered plants in a separate category. The photo below right shows a small portion of the sales area.



The Friday night rare plant auction (right) was very entertaining. Thank you to Tu Le and Ana Contreras who showed the plants off to the audience.

The conference featured seven educational seminars. Thank you to Dylan Zoller for arranging a great group of interesting speakers who presented a variety of diverse topics. Below is a photo from Jeffrey Kent's program on *Guzmanias*. Jose Manzanares traveled from Ecuador to give us a very entertaining presentation on his explorations in search of bromeliads. At center right he is answering a question from the audience.



At the banquet on our final night, Chester George Skotak (shown on the screen below) was presented with the Wally Berg Award of Excellence. A special treat on our banquet tables was the chance to finally see the amazing centerpieces that Zulema Storf and Mary Kermani have been working on for months. Each of approximately twenty tables had a different miniature "California Dreaming" scene. Thank you for all of your hard work.





Bromeliad Plant Sale + Show

...Tillandsias + colorful bromeliads from members' collections and invited vendors!

June 13th-14th, 10-4:00pm Casa del Prado room 101

SanDiegoBromeliadSociety.org



Congratulations to the highest show award winners:

Patti Dunn won the Mulford B. Foster Best of Show award (horticulture) for xVrieslandsia Arden's Comet at left.

Norm Nakanishi won the Morris Henry Hobbs Best of Show award (artistic) at right.

Thank you to Carolyn Parsons for her bromeliad artwork that we used for all of the show awards.



Pup Talk, May, 2026
Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society
1068 Santa Cruz Circle
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

FIRST CLASS PLEASE!

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society

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The Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society next meets Thursday, May 7, at **6:30 PM**.

Festivities include a:

- * **Program:** WBC celebration and potluck dinner.
- * **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, Pete & Patti Dunn, Chris & Hank Bruce (our show and tell photographer), 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.

