

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 32, Number 11 & 12

We Will Meet: <u>Thursday, November 6, 2025, 7:00 pm.</u>
At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA

Featured for November: "Ask the Experts, Part II" Plus a special plant table!

Last July, we had a very successful "Ask the Experts" presentation. With so many newer members, there are many more questions to be answered. There will be information on growing conditions, removing offsets, fertilization, insect control, and much more. If you have a question about a plant that you already have, you may want to bring it to the meeting for an answer.

This month we will have a plant table provided by Bird Rock Tropicals, so there will be some special high quality plants for our raffle. We will also have information about our Holiday party. Don't miss this event on December 4. Many of the gifts are plants from members gardens or special hand-made plant gifts such as the one being admired by our president, Chris Bruce, at last years party.

Please join us for this informative meeting and enjoy all of our other bromeliad activities such as show and tell, raffle, silent auction of unusual plants, and great refreshments.



<u>DIRECTIONS</u>: 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. <u>Visitors Welcome!</u> 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:

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.
- * Silent Auction We usually have special plants for you to bid on.
- * <u>Library & Information</u> 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!



November 2 — South Bay Bromeliad Associates meeting in Palos Verdes.

November 6 — Our meeting: "Ask the Experts, Part II." Plus a special plant table!



November 4-7 — Aussie Broms Conference, Brisbane, Australia.

December 4 — Our annual Holiday party (See page 6 for details).

January 1, 2026 — No Thursday meeting in January. HAPPY NEW YEAR! Next meeting on February 5.

April 14-18, 2026 — World Bromeliad Conference, Costa Mesa. Please see Conference Corner at bsi.org.

<u>November Refreshment Signups</u>: Carolyn Parsons, Zulema Storf, Wendy Grande, Betsy Parker, Rosalua Araiza. Thank you



Society News:

We have a **November/December** issue this month because your editor will be on a trip to Brisbane, Australia, with several other members to attend the Aussie Broms Conference. I have always wanted to attend one of the Austral-Asian Bromeliad conferences and this is the perfect time because Dylan, one of



our youngest members, will be giving two presentations.

The November show and tell will appear in the January issue. Please take note of the December Holiday party information that appears in this issue on page 6. Unfortunately, New Year's day falls on our meeting date, so we cannot have a January meeting. There will be a January newsletter to remind you.

We are continuing to make good progress on our plans to host the World Bromeliad Conference in Costa Mesa next April. (Please see "Conference Corner" at <u>bsi.org</u> and it is <u>time to register</u> for the conference). Thank you to all of the committee members who are working hard and also attending Monday night Zoom meetings twice each month.

Our October Show and Tell Featured:

Cristy Brenner Aechmea ornata (was v. hoehneana) #2 Billbergia vittata cv. Domingos Martins X B. bucholtzii #1 Portea 'Candy' #2 Tillandsia polzii #3 Tillandsia 'Sentry' (T. lampropoda X T. deapeana) #1 **Chris Bruce** Aechmea 'Black on Black' #6 Tillandsia rodriguesiana #4 Don DeBok Aechmea 'Burning Bush' #5 Aechmea 'Ramosa' Patti Dunn Aechmea 'Black on Black' Neoregelia 'Freddy' #7 #5

October Show and Tell, continued

Kate Guerra-Hershey

Quesnelia marmorata 'Tim Plowman' #9

Mary Kermani Tillandsia stricta

Brian Rothstein *Tillandsia secunda* #8

Scott Sandel

Neoregelia 'Pandemonium' Neoregelia 'Monkey Boy' #10 Vriesea 'Eternal' #12 Vriesea 'Red Dragon' #11

Cary Serklew

Hohenbergia correia-araujoi Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii Hohenbergia pennae Hohenbergia stellata Hohenbergia ?

Jeff Sorensen
Aechmea dealbata #13













Our Holiday Party



Important note: We will begin the dinner activities at 6:30 p.m. on December 4. Come join us for a very festive evening of fun with your bromeliad friends. Our festivities will begin with a delicious potluck dinner. The club will provide a ham. Please bring any side dish, salad, or dessert that you would prefer. We may do a signup list for different dishes at the November meeting.

After dinner, we will have our gift exchange and you must bring a gift if you wish to participate, or you may just watch. 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. Don't miss this fun-filled evening.









Spotlight on Tillandsia cacticola and Tillandsia straminea (by Cristy Brenner):





Tillandsia cacticola and Tillandsia straminea have similar inflorescences and almost identical flowers. The photos on this page are all *T. cacticola* and those on the following page are all *T. straminea*. Over the years, I have grown both species, but have found that *T. straminea* is very easy to grow, while after some time, the *T. cacticolas* eventually faded away. *T. straminea* produces numerous offsets (pups) and I have given away many plants each year. Another advantage of *T. straminea* is that it has a beautiful scent.

T. cacticola is native to Peru where it grows on cacti (above right) or in trees in drier scrub forest (above left). I was surprised to find the inflorescences for sale with T. latifolia in a local market in the Andes foothills of northern Peru (lower right). I am now successfully growing T. cacticola eight feet up in a



Euphorbia where the blooming mother plant was placed two years ago. The dry inflorescence is still visible and two offsets are now full-grown and ready to bloom. In the past, my *T. cacticola* were placed with many other Tillandsias and received too much water and not enough sunlight. They are now thriving in a similar habitat to their native Peru.





This photo of coastal Peru near Lima is an example of three geographic principles that affect where Tillandsias grow: 1. The large clouds at the top are created by orographic effect, which causes moist air from the Southeast Trade winds to be forced up by the Andes, causing it to cool, condense and create fog or rain. 2. The extremely dry eastern side of the Andes is an example of rainshadow effect, where the moist air heats as it descends, causing the clouds to evaporate. As a result, Lima, Peru, receives less than 1" of precipitation annually. 3. In the lower portion of the photo, the coastal plain is covered by advection fog. persistent, dense fog is caused by the cold Humboldt current that travels north



along the Peru coast from Antarctica. The moist ocean air is cooled and condenses into the fog that moves inland and is similar to Southern California "May gray and June gloom." However, Lima has its marine layer for more that six months of the year and the fog moves far up the Andean valleys in the evenings to bathe the *Tillandsias* in moisture.

Tillandsia straminea (at left in my garden) grows in Peru and Ecuador. It is easier to grow than *T. cacticola* because it grows in a larger variety of environments. It grows in trees in relatively wet areas, and in one canyon, all of the Jacaranda trees were full of *T. straminea* (lower left). There are no leaves on the tree and all of the gray-green colored leaves are *Tillandsias*. In contrast, it also grows on the sand dunes of the Atacama Desert south of Lima (below), where it survives solely on the coastal fog. Both of these *Tillandsia* species are beautiful, but the ease of cultivation and wonderful scent make *T. straminea* a great addition to any collection.





2025 Society Officers/Committee Heads

President: Chris Bruce Pup Talk Editor: **Cristy Brenner Vice President/Programs:** Jeff Sorensen Pup Talk Team: Pete and Patti Dunn **Secretary: Open** John Marzolino **Treasurer:** Mary Kermani **Refreshments:** Launi Cory **Fundraising: Yvonne Wilson** Mary Kermani Librarian: Sue Goldberger **Supplies: Amy Uyemura Membership** Nada Chatwell Webmaster and Zoom John Marzolino **Plant Table:** Michael McGuire **New Member Liaison:** Patti Dunn



Where did the phone numbers and email addresses go?

Now that *Pup Talk* is on a website that is accessible to everyone, some board members are concerned about the security of their personal information. If you are a member, be sure to keep your membership roster that has all of the contact information. Rosters are available from Nada at the meetings.

Tillandsia xiphioides Photo by Ed Voelker.

Our Web Address:

bromeliadsociety.org



SVBS 2026 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: 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, November/December, 2025

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, November 6, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- * Program: "Ask the Experts, Part II" Plus a special plant table!
- * 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.

