



# Pup Talk

June 2025

## THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 32, Number 6

**We Will Meet: Thursday, June 5, 2025, 7:00 pm.**  
**At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center**  
**24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA**

### **Featured for June: Bromeliads of the Colombian Andes.**

We are delighted to have Dylan Zoller speak to us this month about one of his bromeliad adventures. In 2021, at age 18, he appeared at one of our meetings for the first time and brought a large *Tillandsia novakii* for show and tell. The following weekend, he assisted us at our Sherman Gardens plant sale and he has worked at the gardens ever since.

Joining our society changed Dylan's life because he met our bromeliad travelers. In 2022, he accompanied us to the World Bromeliad Conference in Sarasota, Florida, where he met many important people in the bromeliad world. Later that summer, we took him to Brazil (see page 2), and the bromeliad adventurer was born. Since that time, by the ripe old age of 22, he has returned to Brazil on two longer trips (a third planned for this summer), two trips to the Colombian Andes, one to Ecuador, and a recent adventure in Guatemala and southern Mexico. We are very proud of Dylan, especially since he has been invited to speak at the bromeliad conference in Australia in November. He is currently pursuing a biology degree and because of his classes he only rarely attends our meetings, so don't miss this chance to see him speak.



©DylanZoller

Ronnbergia veitchii in Colombia.

**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:

### 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.
- \* 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):

June 1 — South Bay Bromeliad meeting in Palos Verdes.

June 5 — Our meeting with slides of Colombian bromeliads.

June 14-15 — San Diego Bromeliad Society plant sale (see page 7).

July 19 — Sherman gardens Plant-O-Rama (our summer plant sale, see page 8).

August 9 — South Bay Bromeliad Associates Show and Sale.

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

April 14-18, 2026 — World Bromeliad Conference, Costa Mesa.

June Refreshment Signups: Patti Dunn, Rose Walely, Sue Goldberger, Zulema Storf, and Mike Herbolich.  
Thank you!



Dylan's first trip to Brazil in 2020, at age 19.

**From the Editor:** When I joined SVBS thirty years ago, there were numerous bromeliad societies in Southern California. Since that time, we have lost the North County Bromeliad Society in Encinitas, the Orange County Bromeliad Society in La Habra, and the La Ballona Bromeliad Society in Culver City. Two of the four remaining societies are currently struggling to find new members and officers. Our society experienced similar problems twenty years ago, and in 2004, we did not have a SVBS President! I am happy to report that our society is now thriving, as shown by our record attendance of 57 people at our last evening meeting.

Our society is very successful for a number of reasons: Our affiliation with Sherman Gardens has brought us many new members. Dylan (at left) first learned about our society at our Sherman Gardens spring show and sale; We share or love of bromeliads with members of other garden societies; We have implemented many of the great new ideas of our current president, Chris Bruce. For example, we renovated our brochure to give to potential members and we had a booth at the recent Master Gardener's event; Most importantly, we have new members who are very enthusiastic and willing to volunteer to be officers or to assist at events. I believe that SVBS has a very bright future. Thank you to everyone!

Cristy



## Our May Show and Tell Featured:

Cristy Brenner

*Aechmea organensis*

*Billbergia* 'Titan'

*Neoregelia* 'Milagro' #1

*Tillandsia* 'Cobra' (*T. buttzii* X *T. chiapensis*) #3

Chris Bruce

*Neoregelia carolinae* X *N. 'Painted Lady'*

X *N. concentrica*

*Neoregelia* 'Lucifer' #4

*Tillandsia concolor* X *T. fasciculata*

*Wallisia cyanea*

Nada Chatwell

*Tillandsia ionantha* hybrid #6

*Tillandsia seleriana* X *T. ionantha* #5

Don DeBok

*Tillandsia stricta* hybrid

Patti Dunn

*Portea petropolitana* v. *extensa*

*Tillandsia duratii* hybrid #2





## May Show and Tell, continued

Kate Guerra-Hershey

*Billbergia* 'Diane' #7

*Billbergia* 'Thelma Darling Hodge'

*Tillandsia aeranthos* #9

*Tillandsia bergeri*

John Marzolino

*Billbergia* 'Hallelujah X B. 'Sangre'

Caroline Parsons

*Aechmea* 'Foster's Favorite'

*Neoregelia* 'Granada' X *N. pauciflora* and

*Neoregelia mcwilliamsii* variegated #10

Jann Van Hamersveld

*Aechmea comata* v. *makoyana*

(offset) #8

Kerry Wakely

*Tillandsia bird*

*Tillandsia ionantha*

*Tillandsia tree* #11





**Huntington Gardens Bus Trip:** On Thursday, May 8, forty members and friends traveled to San Marino to tour this amazing garden. The group immediately scattered to different areas of this huge and very diverse garden. Some stayed in the upper area to see the conservatory, and the Japanese and Chinese gardens. Others headed down the hill to the desert garden where the Puyas, Dyckias, and other dry-growing bromeliads are located. Below are some of my photos of the desert garden. We also toured the Australian garden, subtropical garden, jungle garden (with many familiar bromeliads) and the palm garden.



Many orange-flowered Dyckias were in bloom in the cactus garden.

We assembled for a group photo while waiting for our bus after a delightful lunch in the Celebration garden.



The Puyas were beautiful. The huge green-flowered one above is being visited by a nectar-drinking Mockingbird and another is being pollinated by a Mourning Cloak butterfly and a honey bee. A very unusual Puya (left) had bright pink scapes with totally black flowers!

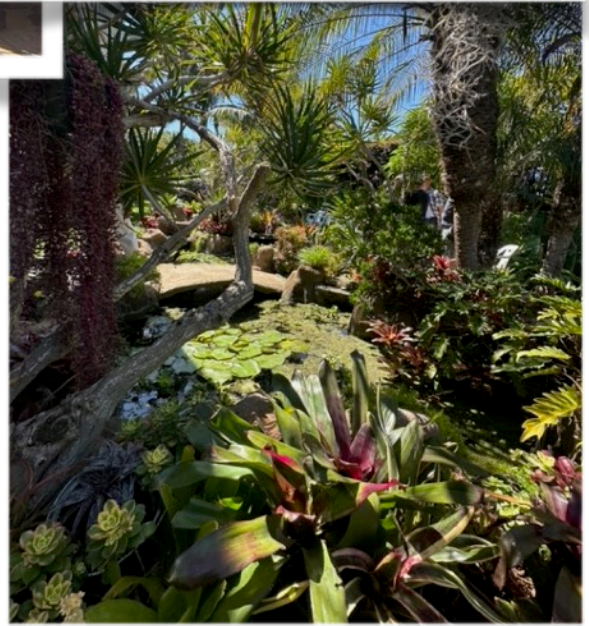






**Another Field Trip:** Many of us are also members of the San Diego Bromeliad Society. On May 10, we traveled south to Carlsbad to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the SDBS. We toured a beautiful member's garden and enjoyed a delicious lunch, followed by a free plant raffle.

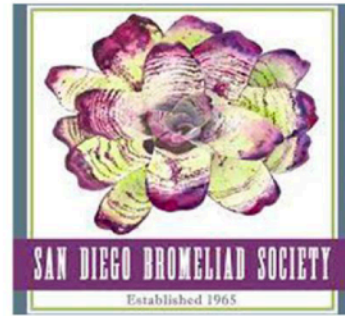
**Note:** We would love to celebrate our anniversary, but no one seems to know when our society was founded! If you know, please tell us!





# San Diego Bromeliad Society Member Plant Sale

Our members {and special vendors} will have all kinds of delicious bromeliads on offer, so come to the park for **Tillandsias**, **Neoregelias**, **Aechmeas**, **Billbergias**... – *plants you can't find elsewhere.*



**Saturday & Sunday  
June 14 & 15  
10:00 - 4:00**

Balboa Park  
Casa Del Prado, Rm 101

## San Diego Bromeliad Society Summer Sale:

It's worth the trip to San Diego for this large bromeliad sale. Most of the best growers in Southern California, both private and professional, are located in San Diego County. There will be a great selection of unusual bromeliads from SDBS members and nurseries such as Bird Rock Tropicals. We are very thankful that the San Diego society and area nurseries will be participating in the World Bromeliad Conference that we are sponsoring in April, 2026. So, let's support them now by attending this special bromeliad sale.



# SHERMAN GARDENS PLANT-O-RAMA BROMELIAD SALE

Saturday July 19, 2025, 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

[bromeliadsociety.org](http://bromeliadsociety.org)



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

## Great Mosquito News:

The [Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District](#) is releasing sterile male mosquitoes in Mission Viejo to reduce the spread of diseases carried by the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. This Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) involves releasing sterilized male mosquitoes, which do not bite, to mate with wild females, preventing the birth of new, disease-carrying mosquitoes. The district plans to release 100,000 to 200,000 sterile males weekly in Mission Viejo, starting in May and continuing through November. [🔗](#)

## Mosquito Tips:

- Check your larger tank bromeliads by sucking out water with an oven baster. If there are tiny little worms, there probably won't be any mosquito wigglers. Apparently, the larva of water flies (those tiny little fuzzy flies that like your sink drains) and other tiny insect larva feed on mosquito larva.
- If you find mosquito larva, add a few "Mosquito Bits" to the tanks.
- Place "mosquito water buckets" around your yard. This technique is recommended by Brian Chan from the San Fernando Bromeliad Society. The mosquitoes apparently prefer the larger water source and leave the bromeliads alone, but you must empty the buckets regularly.





## 2025 Society Officers/Committee Heads

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



*Neoregelia* 'Wild rabbit', photo by Ed Voelker.

### 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.

**Our Web Address:**  
bromeliadsociety.org



### **SVBS 2025 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, June, 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, June 5, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- \* **Program:** Bromeliads of the Colombian Andes;
- \* **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, 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](mailto: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.

