



Pup Talk

October 2023

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

We Will Meet: Thursday, October 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center

24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA

Our October program will feature Scott Sandel, who will present a slide program entitled “Colombia: Bromeliads and More in the Andes.”

Scott and husband Jim traveled to a few regions of this habitat-rich country and will share a presentation with many evocative images of landscapes, lots of bromeliads, and a few orchids. They visited high altitude places with plants that we cannot grow well unless we have an air-conditioned greenhouse! A highlight of the trip was a 3-day horseback trip following the Rio Magdalena from the Andes valley to its source high in the páramo.

Scott is a past-president of the San Diego Bromeliad Society and a frequent speaker at our society. He will also bring a few plants for sale from his collection (see page 2). Please join us for this very interesting presentation.



Jim and Scott on the Rio Magdalena

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; 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):

October 1 — South Bay Bromeliad Society meeting (Palos Verdes).

October 5 — Our monthly meeting with a presentation about Bromeliads in Colombia.

October 14 — San Diego Bromeliad Society meeting (Balboa Park)

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



October refreshment signups: Rose Wakely, Wendy Grande, Sue Goldberger, Launi & Tony Cory.
Thank you!



Scott Sandel, our October speaker, will bring us a few plants for sale at our meeting. His garden is located on a hill in San Diego, which is the perfect climate for growing beautiful Vrieseas and other Bromeliads.

Our September Show and Tell Featured:

Cristy Brenner

Billbergia 'Flamenco'

Nidularium procerum cv. 'Stripes' #1

Portea petropolitana v. *extensa*

Tillandsia 'Victoria' (*ionantha* X *brachycaulos*)

Vriesea flammea



Chris Bruce

Tillandsia filifolia

Nada Chatwell

Tillandsia & *Neoreglia* on cork bark #6

Tillandsia juncea & *Neoreglia* on hedgehog #4

Sean Donlin

Neoreglia in palm sheath holder

Don DeBok

Vriesea 'Flame of Pelé' #3

Patti Dunn

Vriesea philippo-coburgi #2

Mary Kermani

Tillandsia stricta on Cholla cactus #10

Tillandsia xerographica on palm
seed stalk #5



#4



September Show and Tell, continued

John Marzolino

Aechmea emmerichiae X

Portea? #7

Neoregelia 'Twilight Glow'

Carolyn Parsons

Neoregelia 'Birdrock'

Nidularium angustifolium

Cary Serklew

Neoregelia 'Picasso'

Jeff Sorensen

Aechmea emmerichiae

Guzmania zahnii hybrid #8

Kerry Wakely

Tillandsia tricolor on
bedspring

Trish Wiemann

Lutheria splendens #9

Yvonne Wilson

Neoregelia hybrid



South Bay Show and Sale: The annual SBBA show and sale was held in Palos Verdes on August 12. It was a display-only show (non-judged) designed to share beautiful Bromeliads with the public. It also featured plant sales from club members and local vendors such as Rainforest Flora. If you look carefully you can see four of our society members in these photos. We arrived early before the crowds. Several of our members regularly attend the South Bay meetings and we want to encourage our members to “cross-pollinate” with other Southern California societies. Several societies are still struggling to return to their pre-Covid membership numbers and would love to have more people at their meetings. On page 2, we have listed upcoming meeting dates for several other societies. Some of them meet on Saturday or Sunday and it’s fun to carpool to the meetings with other Bromeliad friends. Additional information about these societies is available at BSI.org under “Affiliates.”



Helpful Bromeliad Garden Hints

Mosquitoes: If you have a mosquito problem, just a few grains of Mosquito Bits is a very effective control that is non-toxic to people, pets, plants, and fish. If you are lucky enough to live near a creek, you may also have some natural help. This California tree frog was still on duty when I got up before sunrise. He was sitting on my *Quesnelia* 'Rafael Oliveira' about four inches from my kitchen window. The normally brown frog had changed color to match the plant. Frogs are a great control for mosquitos and there seems to be one in each of my larger tank Bromeliads, but I still use the Mosquito Bits just in case.



Sprinklers and Misters: At our September meeting Don DeBok, our Supplies Chair, gave a short presentation on automatic Bromeliad irrigation. He showed us several different products, but the one at right looked particularly useful because it can be used as a sprayer or a mister. It is called the “Dceyaor Three-Way Adjustable Garden Irrigation Nozzle.” Other products that he showed were the “Garden/Roof Cooling Atomizing Plastic Nozzle” and the “Greenhouse Vegetable Irrigation” system.





The East London Bromeliad Society in South Africa has a very active society and they send a wonderful newsletter each month. We have permission to use parts of their their newsletter (with credit given). Apparently, at one of their recent meetings they used the questions below for a quiz competition between two groups. They have published these questions with the answers and I think that you will enjoy them and you may learn some new Bromeliad information.

1.	How old is ELBSSA today?	14
2.	What is the plural of genus?	genera
3.	How many genera are in the bromeliad family? Can you name them?	80
4.	Are all bromeliad species found in Central USA and South America	No
5.	Can you name where else bromeliads are found? And how many and the names.	West Coast of Africa, <i>Pitcairnia feliciana</i>
6.	What is an epiphyte?	A plant that does not need to have its roots growing in soil
7.	What do you call a bromeliad that grows on a rocky surface?	A saxicole
8.	How does the scale insect move from one plant to another?	They crawl from plant to plant
9.	What conditions does scale thrive in?	Dry and over crowded bromeliads
10.	How many South Africa bromeliad Societies were there in 2017?	One
11.	Which bromeliad species is named the same as the great white shark?	Carcharodon, eg. <i>Neoregelia carcharodon</i>
12.	What do you call a Tillandsia that has a symbiotic relationship with ants?	Mermecophyte
13.	How is it an advantage to the Tillandsia?	Ants bring food which is a natural fertiliser and they protect it from scale and other insects
14.	How can one tell if a bromeliad can take direct sunlight?	Tough texture of the leaves and they usually have heavy spines on the leaves
15.	How can one tell if a Tillandsia can take direct sunlight?	They have silvery trichomes to protect them. Green leafed Tillandsia need more shade to grow well
16.	What is the flowering section of a bromeliad called?	The inflorescence
17.	What is referred to as an Earth Star?	Cryptanthus
18.	Is a Cryptanthus an epiphyte?	No, it is one of the bromeliads that has to have its roots in the soil
19.	What is the name of a bromeliad baby?	A pup or offset
20.	What is that long branchy stem between the mother plant and the pup called?	A stolon.
21.	Can an epiphyte become a terrestrial?	Yes, but the reservoir will still take in nutrients
22.	Can a terrestrial become an epiphyte?	In certain cases no, unless it sends out stolons and pups up the trunk of a tree. That is referred to as a hemiepiphyte. Until it loses all contact with the ground
23.	When one says the plant is growing ageotropically, what does it mean?	The plant grows in all directions, eg, <i>Tillandsia butsii</i>
24.	True or false: <i>Aechmea nudicaulus</i> leaves spread out flat as the plant matures and thrives in the shade?	False, <i>Aechmea nudicaulus</i> is upright and tubular in shape, likes to grow in full sun
25.	What is referred to when a bromeliad has discolour leaves?	Green on top and rich purple underside of the leaf. In shady areas the light that does penetrate, reflects off the ground, is absorbed by the purple under the leaf and photosynthesis occurs, which assists the bromeliad to survive in shady areas

For Our New Members: Have you been to one of our sales or our raffle tables and seen Bromeliads on their sides with no roots at all? Did you think that you shouldn't select the plant because it wouldn't survive? Not a problem because many Bromeliads primarily use their roots to attach to a tree branch or rock, and not for nutrition. The only problem is how to stabilize the plant until it forms attachment roots. Two methods of stabilization are shown below: Use rocks to hold the plant in an upright position, but don't forget to remove the rocks before new offsets (pups) grow. Offsets may be removed when they are 1/3 to 1/2 the size of the "mother" plant. The second stabilization method is to use chopsticks or skewers to hold the plant upright. The soil mix should be well-draining, such as 1/3 potting mix, 1/3 orchid bark, and 1/3 perlite or pumice.



Our raffle table plants often do not have roots.



Billbergia Domingos Martins stabilized with rocks.



An *Aechmea recurvata* 'Aztec Gold' was recently shipped to a friend in Tennessee. He removed the offset (pup) and stabilized the plants with skewers.



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		



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

Tillandsia ionantha 'Rubra'. Photo by Ed Voelker



SVBS 2023 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, October, 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, October 5, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- * **Program** on Bromeliads in Colombia;
- * **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, Don DeBok, 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.

