



Pup Talk

June/July 2026

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 33, Number 6 & 7

We Will Meet: Thursday, June 4, 2026, 7:00 pm.

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

Featured for June: Pineapple: The Cosmopolitan Bromeliad

No other bromeliad has traveled the world, captured imaginations, and triggered obsession, quite like the pineapple. Tracking down the history of this cosmopolitan fruit takes us from the tropical forests of South America to the Aztec Empire, the hothouses of 17th century Holland, the Philippines, Hawai'i, and more. In addition to inspiring recipes that range from sublime to scary, the pineapple is also an icon of hospitality and a strangely popular design element.

Sandy Masuo, one of our favorite speakers, will share her research on our most well-known bromeliad. She is an editor, educator, author, and conservationist on a mission to enlighten and to inspire wonder in the world around us. She currently serves as the botanical content specialist at The Huntington.

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.



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):



June 4 — Our meeting in Mission Viejo.

June 7 — South Bay Bromeliad Associates meeting in Palos Verdes.

June 13-14 — San Diego Bromeliad Society Sale and Show (see page 7).

July 2 — Our meeting in Mission Viejo. Please note: There will not be a July edition of *Pup Talk* because your Editor will be chasing bromeliads in Ecuador. See John's announcements for program information.

August 8 — Annual South Bay Bromeliad Associates Sale in Palos Verdes.

June Refreshment Signups: Wendy Grande, Daniel Delgado, Diane Pennica, Rose Wakely, and Doug Nadasdy. Thank you.



Society News: We are still basking in the joy of our very successful World Bromeliad Conference in April. We feel as though we have successfully climbed Mt. Everest! Over two years of planning began with our president and several committee members volunteering at the 2024 WBC in West Palm Beach, Florida, to see what was involved in one of these very complex world conferences. After a conference date was chosen, there were numerous visits to the Hilton Hotel to check out facilities and negotiate the costs of such a complicated conference. So many people were involved in the endless emails, texts, phone calls, and zoom meetings. We have wondered how on earth these conferences were ever created in the earlier years when they only had the telephone and snail mail!

At our May meeting we thanked all of our volunteers who helped with the numerous tasks that were involved in such a large conference. We had a pot luck dinner before our regular meeting, which included a celebratory cake. Chris and Hank Bruce gave a slide presentation of all of the conference activities. Thank you again to everyone who volunteered.

On May 18, we continued our celebration with a catered luncheon for all of the committee heads who spent endless hours planning the conference. Thank you to Mary Kermani for hosting in her garden (right). Several of us are already looking forward to the next World Bromeliad Conference in Thailand in 2028, where we won't have to do anything except enjoy the wonder of our favorite plants.



May Show and Tell

Cristy Brenner

Aechmea Flavomarginata (nudicaulis v. flavomarginata)

Aechmea gamosepala hybrid (by Bill Paylen)

Aechmea nudicaulis v. variegata #1

Billbergia Titan X Afterglow X Diane (by Bill Baker) #2

Hechtia species #4

Neoregelia Lila Candy Stripes #5

Charles Buckner

Tillandsia ionantha Fuego #3

Tillandsia stricta #3

Don DeBok

Aechmea recurvata

Tillandsia fasciculata (two)

Patti Dunn

Cryptanthus uelii

Tillandsia seideliana X mitlaensis



May Show and Tell, continued

Kate Guerra-Hershey

Aechmea Covata

Cryptanthus Absolute Zero #6 right

Tillandsia flabellata #6 left

Mary Kermani

Neoregelia Zeppo (two) #7

Norm Nakanishi

Aechmea America (variegated Blue Tango) #8

Tillandsia fasciculata

Tillandsia tomasellii (actually now a
xerographica!) #9

Vriesea Inferno #11

Vriesea Towering Flame

Jeff Sorensen

Tillandsia tectorum #10

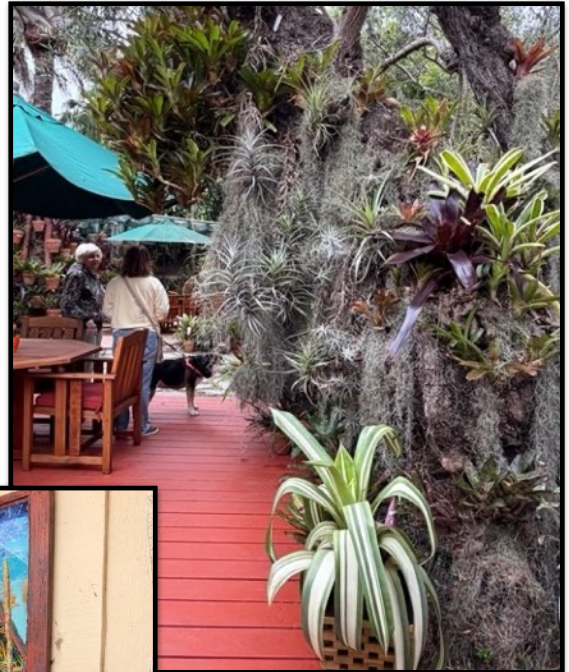


Garden Tour: Chris Lutz, long-time member and former president of SBVS, invited us to tour his Dana Point garden. This was a joint visit with the Laguna Beach Garden Club on May 23.



Chris Bruce and Jody admiring the very old olive tree that is covered in bromeliads (also below).

At right are some new plants acquired at the WBC.



Numerous palm trees (below) are surrounded with terra cotta pots mounted with special brackets (plastic pots don't fit). A great solution when you run out of space.



Future Garden tour: Recently several of us, who are also members of the San Diego Bromeliad Society, attended a garden tour and luncheon in Encinitas. Tyrone, the owner, has lived there for fifty years. He has created a wonderful collection of rare palms, bromeliads, succulents, and numerous other plants. We have seen many gardens over the years, and we all agreed that this was one of the best.

The good news is that Tyrone has invited our society to visit his garden. It might be a separate garden tour or combined with nearby Bird Rock Tropicals nursery.



San Diego Show and Sale: Just in case you didn't see enough bromeliads at the conference or you didn't add enough to your collection—you have another chance! The sale is located in Balboa Park and is always worth the trip to San Diego and you can arrange carpools at our June meeting.



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

Great Mosquito News: We are reprinting the information below from last year because apparently this program was successful and Vector Control began releasing more sterile mosquitoes in Mission Viejo last month.

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:

1. 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.
2. If you find mosquito larva, add a few "Mosquito Bits" to the tanks.
3. 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.



Learning About Bromeliads:

If you prefer your cozy armchair, we have many wonderful books in our library. You will make Sue, our librarian, very happy if you check one out. There are also many great internet sources:

Encyclopaedia of Bromeliads (bromeliad.nl)

Bromeliad Species Database (bsi.org)

Bromeliad Cultivar Registry (bsi.org)

Bromeliad Photo Index (www.fbcs.org)

Bromeliads in Australia (bromeliad.org.au)

One of my favorites is the Australian website. The Aussies are very serious bromeliad growers. They give the most comprehensive information about a particular plant with the greatest number of photos. Try it—you'll like it!

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Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society
1068 Santa Cruz Circle
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

FIRST CLASS PLEASE!

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The Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society next meets Thursday, June 4, at 7:00 p.m.

Festivities include a:

- * **Program:** Pineapple: The Cosmopolitan Bromeliad
- * **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.

