



# Pup Talk

*January/February 2026*

## ***THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY***

Volume 33, Number 1 & 2

**We Will Meet: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 7:00 pm.**

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

**No meeting on January 1—Happy New year!**



**February Program:** Last November, several of our members attended the Austral-Asian Bromeliad Conference in Brisbane, Australia. Cristy Brenner will share slides of this amazing event called “Aussie Brooms.” This conference featured beautiful displays (left), plant sales (yes, some rare ones were shipped to the U.S.), excellent seminars (two by SVBS member Dylan Zoller), and tours of several exceptional bromeliad gardens.

This conference is very similar to the BSI World Bromeliad Conferences. In April, we will be hosting the WBC in Costa Mesa for the international bromeliad community. Let’s see how the Aussie’s did it, and perhaps we may wish to borrow some of their great ideas.

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.

## 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):

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

January 4 — South Bay Bromeliad Associates meeting in Palos Verdes.

February 5 — Our meeting: “Aussie Broms Conference”

April 14-18, 2026 — World Bromeliad Conference, Costa Mesa. Please see pg. 5 & 6 and Conference Corner at [bsi.org](http://bsi.org).

**February Refreshment Signups:** Mary Kermani, Nada Chatwell, Amy Uyemura, Patty Williams, and Joan Melia.  
Thank you



**Society News:** As we start the New Year, we may reflect back on a very successful 2025. In April, we held our very successful annual show and sale at Sherman Gardens. We also had a booth at the first Orange County Master Gardeners Plant Expo at Norman Murray center. At the end of April, we had an information table at the South Coast Plaza Spring Garden Show. In July, we were back at Sherman

Gardens to participate in the Plant-O-Rama sale. In October, we traveled to Encinitas for our annual visit to Bird Rock Tropicals, Pam Koide-Hyatt’s wonderful bromeliad nursery.



Several of these activities brought financial resources, but the most important resource for any organization is the acquisition of new members. Many of these new members are younger and we treasure them. (I recently spoke at a Cactus society meeting and I believe that everyone was on Social Security—not a healthy situation for the future of their society). We have at least five members in their early twenties and the great news is that three of them are now working because of their bromeliads! One works at a botanical garden, one at a large bromeliad

nursery, and one at private homes. Pictured at left are Ana and Michael, who are very happy with their Holiday gifts, and Michael even has a greenhouse for the beautiful tropical *Guzmania sanguinea*.

## Our November Show and Tell Featured:

Show and tell is a bit different for November. There were fewer plants because two of our usual participants were at the Aussie Broms conference. Also, the name slips were not available. So, we may not know the names of all of the plants and the owners may also be a mystery.



*Aechmea 'Sueños'*



*Tillandsia xerographica* or X



*Wallisia cyanea*

*Tillandsia* cluster



## November Show and Tell, continued



Jeff Sorensen's *Tillandsia* 'Chula' (*T. punctulata* X *T. chiapensis*)



Cary Serklew's *Neoregelia* hybrid

*Neoregelia* hybrid



Kerry Wakely's *Tillandsia* bird



**Have you registered yet? Don't miss this chance to attend a World Bromeliad Conference in Southern California:** The registration fee will increase on January 15, and also before that deadline you will be entered into a drawing for a free registration. This may be your last chance to attend one of these great conferences in Southern California, where you can share your

love of bromeliads with people from around the world. Is it too expensive? Well, the next world conference is scheduled to be in Thailand, and that might just cost you a bit more!



Conference registration gives you the opportunity to attend all activities: Two days of seminars presented by world-renowned experts and authors of famous bromeliad books; A very entertaining rare-plant auction (bidding on an Alcantarea once reached \$4,200!); The opening reception that includes a buffet dinner; And the conference banquet with a very dynamic speaker. If you choose not to register, you will still be able to attend the judged show and see rare plants such as the one at left. You will also be able to shop in the extensive plant sales area. Please visit the BSI website (web address and QR code below) to see the list of plant vendors who will be selling at the conference. Jerry Robinson, from Rainforest Flora, has arranged for a special truck to transport bromeliads from all of the participating Florida nurseries. There will also be numerous vendors from San Diego and other Southern California areas. Please see page 6 for photos of many of the activities from previous conferences.

## **BROMELIAD PLANT SHOW & SALE**

**Don't miss the first World Bromeliad Conference in the greater Los Angeles area since 1984!  
Sponsored by the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society**

- When:** April 15-18, 2026
- Where:** Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa
- What:** Huge Bromeliad Sale
- Judged Bromeliad Show
- Seminars by speakers from around the world\*
- Garden and nursery tours\*
- Rare plant auction\*



\*Requires conference registration at [BSI.org](http://BSI.org) or use QR code below:



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

**World Bromeliad Conference Photos from various locations:** Since I began attending in 2000, conferences have been held in San Francisco (2000), St Petersburg (2002), Chicago (2004), San Diego (2006), Cairns, Australia (2008), New Orleans (2010), Orlando (2012), Honolulu (2014), Houston (2016), San Diego (2018), Sarasota (2022), and West Palm Beach (2024). I am happy to say that I have attended all of these conferences because they are so amazing. If you love bromeliads, you have to join us in Costa Mesa in April.



Seminar: West Palm Beach 2024



Bird Rock Tropicals display: San Diego 2018



Rare plant auction: Orlando 2012



Huge plant sale: West Palm Beach 2024



Banquet: Sarasota 2022

# Our 2025 Holiday Party



One of three tables full of food!



Enjoying the feast.



Dessert time.



Calling the tickets.



Selecting a gift.



“Stealing” a gift.



Eight plants!



New tools.



Showing a gift.



Happy people.

Holiday photos by Cristy and Hank.



# Pup Talk, January/February, 2026

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, **February 5**, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- \* **Program:** “Aussie Broms Conference”;
- \* **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](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.

