



# Pup Talk

*November/December 2024*

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

Volume 31, Number 11 & 12

**We Will Meet: Thursday, November 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center**

**FEATURED FOR NOVEMBER: Hummingbirds and Bromeliads**

**FEATURED FOR DECEMBER (6:30 p.m Dec. 5.): Our Holiday Party (See page 5 for details).**

The program for the November meeting will be a PBS *Nature* video about hummingbirds. It is all about what hummingbirds do for plants and how they and plants co-evolved and depend on each other to exist. The cinematography is stunning and there is a great deal of information about the importance of hummingbirds to bromeliad's existence.

Editor's note: Hummingbirds are the primary pollinators of our bromeliads in Southern California. In their native habitat they may also be pollinated by bats, moths, or other insects, including native bees. However, our European bees seem to totally ignore bromeliad flowers. In the almost thirty years that I have been collecting bromeliads, I have only seen two bees that were interested in visiting the flowers. One was on a *Dyckia* flower and the other was drinking a drop of nectar at the tip of a *Puya* flower. The photo at right is a hummingbird visiting the top of a 30 foot-tall inflorescence of *Puya raimondii*, the largest species of bromeliad. It is located at 14,000 feet in the Andes mountains of Peru.

Please join us for this informative presentation and enjoy all of our other bromeliad activities such as show and tell, plant 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):

November 3 — South Bay Bromeliad meeting in Palos Verdes. (Don't forget to change your clocks!)

November 7 — Our meeting with video of humming birds and bromeliads.

December 5 — Our annual Holiday party (see page 5 for details).

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

**November Refreshment Signups:** Sue Goldberger, Cerulean Asay, Diane Pennica, and Jerry Messer.

Thank you!



**Society news:** For many years the dining tables at our Holiday party have been festively decorated by Barbara Stewart (shown below). She would also make a turkey with all the trimmings. Unfortunately for us, she and her husband have decided to retire in another state to be closer to their children and grandchildren. She did leave many of her decorations for our new decorating committee to use. Barbara also donated several plants each month for the name tag raffle. Thank you Barbara for all that you have done for our society over the years—you are missed.



We have a **November/December** issue this month because your editor will be on a trip to Argentina and Chile with Plant Expeditions during the *Pup Talk* production time. 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 5. In January, we will also have photos of our October 26 visit to Bird Rock Tropicals in Encinitas.

?Would you enjoy reading about bromeliads in the comfort of your own home in your favorite easy chair instead of in front of a computer? We have just the job for you—club librarian! All that it requires is a place to store our books and to bring several of them to the meetings. If you are interested, please contact Chris Bruce.

Lastly, when Dylan Zoller, one of our youngest members, traveled to San Diego to speak on Brazilian bromeliads last month he received a special surprise: He was the recipient of the San Diego Bromeliad Society Award that is given annually to a person who is advancing conservation, education or horticulture related to bromeliads. Perhaps this award will help him to finance his next research expedition to Brazil.

## Our October Show and Tell Featured:

Cristy Brenner

*Alcantarea odorata*

*Hohenbergia correia araujo* #4

*Hohenbergia leopoldo-horstii* #5

*xSincoregelia* (*Neo. carolinae* X *Sincoraea navioides*) #1

Patti Dunn

*Tillandsia duratii* hybrid

Kate Guerra-Hershey

*Cryptanthus* hybrid #2

*Neorgelia* 'DeRolf'

*Neoregelia macwilliamsii* variegated

Mary Kermani

*Aechmea nudicaulis* (red) #3

Lailene Leong

*Tillandsia concolor* #6



## October Show and Tell, continued

Carolyn Parsons

*Orthophytum gurkenii* #12

*Orthophytum* 'Starlight'

*Tillandsia flexuosa* (display of five pseudoviviparous  
Tillandsias shown at right) #7

*Tillandsia intermedia*

*Tillandsia* 'Enano Latifolia'

*Tillandsia* 'Delgado'

*Tillandsia secunda*



#7

Jeff Sorensen

*Lutheria glutinosa* #11

Amy Uyemura

*Tillandsia ionantha* in rain  
chain #8 & #9

Kerry Wakely

*Tillandsia* bird #10



#8



#9



#10



#11



#12

# Holiday Party



One of three tables full of food!

**Important note: We will begin the dinner activities at 6:30 p.m. on December 5.** 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.



The circle for picking a gift.



Enjoying the feast.



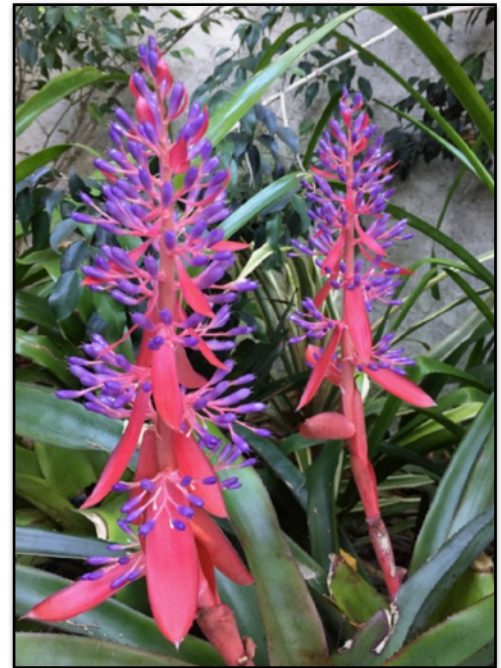
"Stealing" a gift.



Opening the gifts.

**Spotlight on Portea ‘Candy’:** Porteas bloom in the fall and provide long-lasting color in your garden. Portea ‘Candy’ doesn’t get as large as some other Porteas and Tropiflora nursery describes it as: “A clone of Portea alatisepala with an open rosette of wide green, black spined leaves which grows well over 24 inches. The inflorescence is a panicle of lavender berries and lavender flowers which rises well above the foliage.”

The photo of Portea ‘Candy’ shown at right was taken in October, when the plants were in full-bloom. The photo at left was taken in February, when the berries were still developing. The two-toned pale-blue and fuchsia-colored berries eventually become more rounded and very glossy. This plant will add many months of bright color to your garden. Our November meeting will feature several of these great plants for both the raffle table and silent auction.



The plant shown at right and in the BSI description below is Portea alatisepala, the species that the Portea ‘Candy’ clone came from. It is native to the Atlantic Coast of Brazil and grows very well in Southern California.





## BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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### Portea

- › [alatisepala](#)
- › [filifera](#)
- › [fosteriana](#)
- › [grandiflora](#)
- › [kermesina](#)
- › [nana](#)
- › [petropolitana](#)
- › - var. [extensa](#)
- › - var. [noettigii](#)
- › - var. [petropolitana](#)
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**Genus: *Portea***

Portea is a genus of the subfamily Bromelioideae. The eight known species are closely related to the Aechmea genus and are native to the Atlantic coast of Brazil, where they mainly grow as terrestrials. It is named for Dr. Marius Porte, a nineteenth-century French naturalist who died in 1866 in Manila while on a collection expedition for the National Museum of Natural History.

Number of **accepted** species in this genus is **8** (source: species [counts](#) in the Encyclopaedia of Bromeliads).

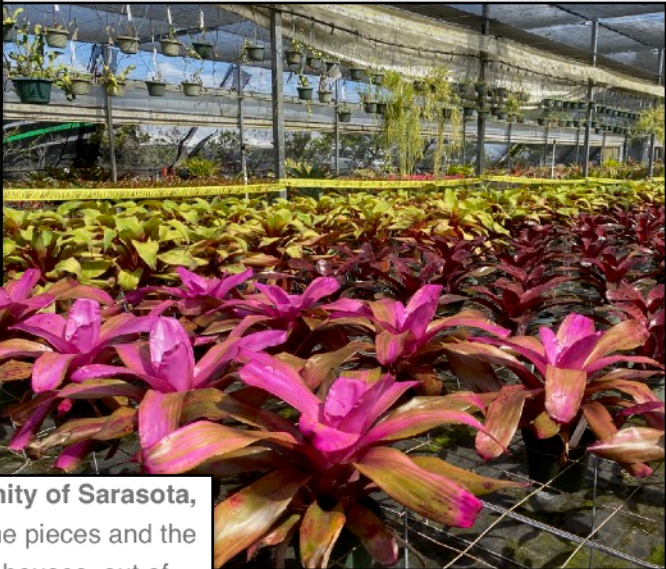


*Portea alatisepala* Photo by Matthias Asmuss

**Hurricane Milton:** The recent hurricane in Florida had a large impact on the bromeliad world. It made landfall in Sarasota, Florida, where two important bromeliad facilities are located. Many of our society members visited both Tropiflora nursery and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens during the World Bromeliad Conference in Sarasota in 2022. Below and on page 8 are before and after photos of both places.



**Tropiflora Before:** Patti, Nancy, and Jeff (can you spot them?) in the sales area at left. Below is one of many shade houses full of colorful bromeliads that we toured. Tropiflora also specializes in growing many rare species and ships plants around the world. We purchase bromeliads from them for our plant table and they are scheduled to sell plants at our 2026 WBC Conference in Costa Mesa.



**Tropiflora After:** Below is information and photos that were posted after the hurricane as part of their GoFundMe request.

**Hurricane Milton devastated us, along with our community of Sarasota, FL.** Fortunately, in the past, we have been able to pick up the pieces and the plants after every storm, but this is different. Fourteen greenhouses, out of twenty, have completely collapsed on the plants and are unrepairable. Our nearly four acres of shade greenhouses are without shade. With the sun peeking through every day, we are unsure how many plants will make it.

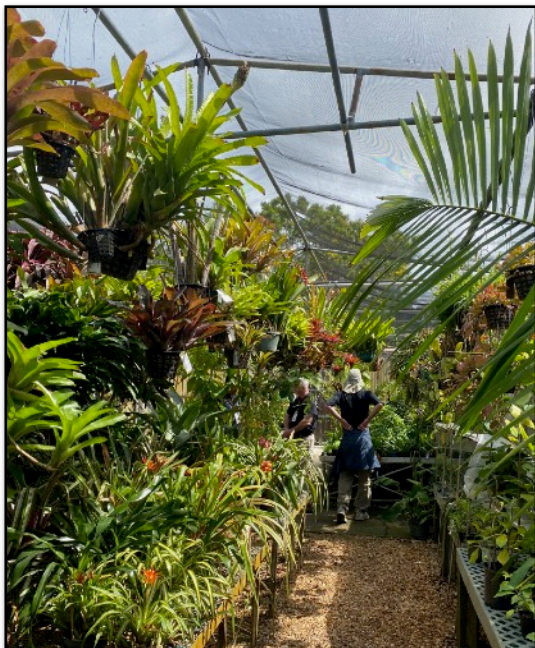




More Tropiflora damage shown at left. To donate to their recovery, just search Tropiflora GoFundMe.



**Selby Gardens Before:** This Sarasota botanical gardens is located in a beautiful setting along the water front. It has several shade houses and green houses that are full of rare tropical species that are often used for scientific research.



**Selby Gardens After:** There is little information at this time about the extent of their damage. They reported that a seawall collapsed, a small bridge was damaged and the storm surge washed out pathways. Debris needs to be cleared, shown at right, but there is no information about damage to the plant growing areas shown above.



## 2024 Society Officers/Committee Heads

<b>President:</b>	<b>Chris Bruce</b>	<b><i>Pup Talk</i> Editor:</b>	<b>Cristy Brenner</b>
<b>Vice President/Programs:</b>	<b>Jeff Sorensen</b>	<b><i>Pup Talk</i> Team:</b>	<b>Pete and Patti Dunn</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Carolyn Parsons</b>		<b>John Marzolino</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Mary Kermani</b>	<b>Refreshments:</b>	<b>Launi &amp; Tony Cory</b>
<b>Fundraising:</b>	<b>Yvonne Wilson</b>		<b>Kate Guerra-Hershey</b>
<b>Librarian:</b>	<b>(open)</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>		



### 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.

**Our Web Address:** [bromeliadsociety.org](http://bromeliadsociety.org)

*Tillandsia tectorum*. Photo by Ed Voelker.



### **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, November/December, 2024

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 7, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

**Our Holiday party is Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 6:30 PM.**

Festivities include a:

- \* **Program:** Hummingbirds and Bromeliads
- \* **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 and 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.

