



# Pup Talk

*October 2024*

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

Volume 31, Number 10

**We Will Meet: Thursday, October 3, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**  
**At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center**

**FEATURED THIS MONTH: “Plant Outside the Box: Using Tillandsias for Art, Design, and... Privacy”**

Andy Cuffel will share his extensive knowledge about how and where to grow Tillandsias. Andy is the owner of Cuffel Farms, a Tillandsia nursery in the San Diego area. He has also worked with bromeliad experts such as Chris Davis, Jeffrey Kent, and Pam Koide Hyatt. He is a dynamic speaker who will give us an idea of just how limitless the possibilities are when it comes to using Tillandsias in the garden. He will focus on some of the unique display methods that he has had success with in his business and he will also include his latest project, a 70 foot-long Tillandsia fence in his yard.

**Added Bonus:** Andy will be bringing plants from his nursery for our plant table. He will also be bringing some plants to sell.

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):

October 3 —Our meeting with slides of Cuffel Farms bromeliads

October 6 — South Bay Bromeliad meeting in Palos Verdes.

October 26 — Field trip to Bird Rock Tropicals in Encinitas. More information at our meeting and see pages 5 and 6.

**October Refreshment Signups:** Launi and Tony Cory, Jeff Sorensen, Sue Campbell, and Melissa Rapp.  
Thank you!



**Society news:** Each year we award several scholarships to Saddleback College horticulture students. On Friday, September 6, Professor Ken Lee, Department Chair of the Sustainable Horticulture and Landscape Design School of STEM, gave us a tour of the college greenhouse area and classroom facilities. Even though it was one of those extremely hot days, Chris, Carolyn, Kate and Cristy thoroughly enjoyed learning about Saddleback's very successful program. Thank you to Ken Lee.



## Our September Show and Tell Featured:

Cristy Brenner

*Aechmea* 'Pilfered' #5

*Billbergia speciosa* (aka *elegans*)

*Billbergia pyramidalis* (see page 7)

*Portea* 'Pink' #1

Don DeBok

*Aechmea ramosa* #4

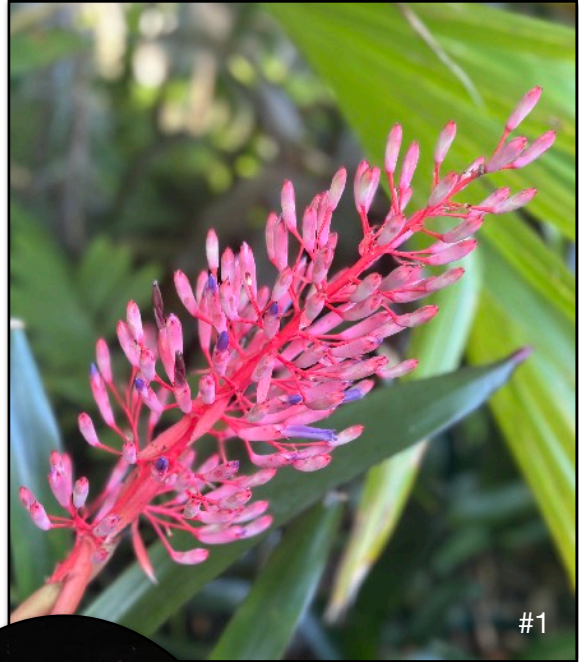
*Portea* 'Candy'

*Tillandsia juncea*

Patti Dunn

*Tillandsia intermedia* #3

*Tillandsia punctulata* X *T. chiapensis* #2



## September Show and Tell, continued

Mary Kermani

*Tillandsia tectorum* major #6  
*Tillandsia tectorum* (small form)



Lailene Leong

*Tillandsias* on wood

Michael McGuire

*Vriesea simplex* discolor #7

Carolyn Parsons

*Nidularium* 'Miranda' #10  
*Cryptanthus* assortment

Betsy Parker

*Cryptanthus* hybrid #8

Jeff Sorensen

*Guzmania lingulata*  
hybrid #9



**Field Trip to Bird Rock Tropicals:** We are invited to tour Pam Koide Hyatt's amazing nursery in Encinitas on Saturday October 26. Pam is a world-renowned Tillandsia expert (see page 6), and a visit to her nursery is always a wonderful bromeliad adventure. We will receive a 25% discount on a huge selection of Tillandsias and other bromeliads, plus there will be a special benefit from SBVS for our members.

We will visit from 9:00 a.m. until noon (Address: 221 Princehouse Lane, Encinitas). Come to our meeting for additional information and to arrange carpools with your friends. Parking is located in front of the shade house and the greenhouse. Leave early for best selection and to avoid heavy traffic heading to San Diego. Don't miss this chance to see and purchase some spectacular plants and visit with all of your bromeliad friends.



Pam in front of her award winning hybrid Tillandsia 'Samantha'.



Pam's private garden behind the greenhouse.



Views from our last visit to Bird Rock Tropicals.



**Pamela Koide Hyatt:** If you are a newer member of our society, you may not know how important Pam is to the bromeliad world. Below is a photo of Pam's biography from the program of the 2022 World Bromeliad Conference in Sarasota, Florida.

## WBC Speaker Biographies



**Pamela Koide Hyatt**, Bird Rock Tropicals  
Since starting Bird Rock Tropicals in 1981, Pamela has traveled extensively throughout Mexico, Central and South America in search of tillandsias. During these travels she has discovered more than a dozen species new to science as well as many natural hybrids.

Pamela soon began growing from seed and hybridizing tillandsias. Of the more than 3000 hybrids that were made, many have bloomed for the first time over the past five years. One of her early hybrids, *Tillandsia Samantha*, won the

FloraHolland 'Glass Tulip Award' (2013) one of the most prestigious awards in Horticulture.

Additionally, Pamela is an Internationally Accredited Bromeliad Master Judge, past President and Newsletter Editor of both the San Diego Bromeliad Society and the North County Bromeliad Society. She has served as a Director of the Bromeliad Society International, Publications Chairman for the BSI, and currently on the Editorial Advisory Board for the *Journal of the Bromeliad Society*.

In 1992 she contributed to the revision of the *BSI Cultural Manual* and in 1998, she revised and compiled *A Bromeliad Glossary*, published by the BSI, and is currently working on an updated version of the Glossary which should be available at the WBC in June 2022. Pamela has been a frequent speaker at bromeliad conferences in the US, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, and many different plant societies throughout the United States.

In 2014 Pamela published *Air Plant Tilli-Cards™*, a collection of 100 reference cards for species and hybrid tillandsias. In 2015, Pamela created and developed the first Application for IOS smart phones related to Tillandsias. The app, *Air Plant Tilli-Cards™*, is a reference guide to the identification and cultivation of tillandsia air plants.

In 2017, Pamela began collaborating with Jeff Chemnick, owner of Mexico Nature Tours, to co-lead EcoTours in Mexico to see Bromeliads, especially *Tillandsia* in habitat.



**Spotlight on *Billbergia pyramidalis*:** I brought a *Billbergia pyramidalis* for Show and Tell, but after several days of 100°+ weather, the inflorescence was not worthy of a photo. Because I donated it for silent auction, I want to show the new owner what a beautiful plant they have acquired.

This is a wonderful *Billbergia* to have in your collection for several reasons: Most *Billbergias* have blue or green flowers, so the vivid red flowers with violet edges and white-frosted floral bracts is a delightful treat. Also, while the majority of *Billbergias* bloom in the Spring, these always bloom in September, adding a splash of color to your Fall garden.



There is also a cultivar of *Billbergia pyramidalis* called *Billbergia 'Kyoto'* (below). The variegated leaves make the plant more attractive throughout the year, however, the red color of the inflorescence is lighter and less vivid.

The Bromeliad Society International (BSI) maintains the *Bromeliad Cultivar Register*, which is a great resource for you to learn more about your hybrid plants.

### Bromeliad Cultivar Register (944) 2012-07-07

#### **BILLBERGIA 'Kyoto'**

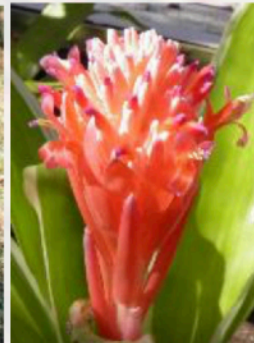
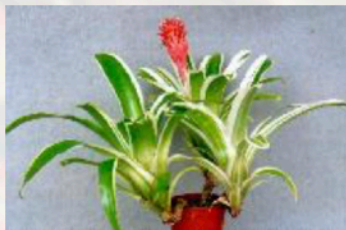
Japan

<1975

cv. of *Billbergia pyramidalis* v. *concolor* in a stable albo-marginated form from Japan? - Rich green leaves contrastingly and uniformly edged in pure creamy-white - w/type inflorescence - In Los Angeles area in 1975 as import from Japan by Jean Kerlin who operated a tropical nursery. See *Pyramidalis* Group

Seed Parent: **pyramidalis v. concolor**

JBS 25:121ill,144ill, 160ill, Baensch 84ill, PineapplePI 85, TF1978, GolinskiVideo1997



The following article is reprinted by permission from the September edition of *The Bromeliad Blade*, newsletter of the San Diego Bromeliad Society. Dylan Zoller, who gave us a presentation on Brazilian bromeliads in August, will show this once-beautiful region to us in the future.

## Sad News from Brazil

### Tres Picos State Park, Home to Botanical Treasures, Burned for Days

August 19 – A blaze broke out in a bromeliad-rich habitat in the mountains of Rio de Janeiro. Rodrigo Freitas, our 2023 SDBS Award Recipient, posted dramatic images of the burning flora on social media. The area affected is well known to the club, as we had 2 programs by me and Freitas showcasing the Tres Picos flora. I also had the opportunity to visit these areas a year ago.

The fire was triggered by a *balao*, a type of flying lantern that is traditional in festivals at this time of the year. A lot of rare and endemic inselberg vegetation was lost to a blaze that reduced giant alcantareas to fireballs rolling downhill. See video:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1007996144438437>

Rodrigo works as a park ranger in Tres Picos. He said that all the highland vegetation in this area was lost. It will take decades to recover. Some of the bromeliads affected were *Alcantarea imperialis*, *Vriesea pseudoatra*, *Tillandsia tenuifolia rupicola*, *Vriesea poenulata*, *Vriesea aracnoidea*, *Vriesea billbergioides*. Then there are the orchids, begonias, cacti and other plants, and the animals that burned alive.

Brazil is going through a dry winter supercharged by El Nino/La Nina and climate change. Large fires are burning in the Amazon, the Pantanal wetlands and areas of Atlantic Forest in the Southeast.



*Smoldering Alcantarea imperialis in Tres Picos State Park, Rio de Janeiro. The park is one of the few protected habitats for the species, which is only grows in the Organ Mountains region. Photo by Rodrigo Freitas.*

## 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)

*Billbergia 'Moulin Rouge'.* 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, October, 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, October 3, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- \***Program:** “Plant Outside the Box: Using Tillandsias for Art, Design, and...Privacy”
- \* **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 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.

