



Pup Talk

April 2025

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 32, Number 4

We Will Meet: Thursday, April 3, 2025, 7:00 pm.
At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA

Featured for April: “How Bromeliads Changed My Life”

This month Jerry Robinson, owner of Rainforest Flora in Torrance (shown at right), will share his adventures in search of Tillandsias, other bromeliads, and exotic plants for the development of this well-known nursery. He founded the nursery in 1976 with Paul Isley III, who sadly passed away in 2024. In the early days, they traveled together to many countries in search of plants to develop their nursery. Jerry has explored off the beaten path in Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Argentina, Peru, Paraguay, Bolivia, Panama, and Brazil. He has also made many product sourcing trips for the business to China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Singapore.

We are planning a Rainforest Flora field trip during the World Bromeliad Conference that SVBS is organizing in April, 2026. Don't miss this chance to learn how this amazing nursery was created.

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):

April 3 — Our meeting about the founding of Rainforest Flora.

April 6 — South Bay Bromeliad meeting in Palos Verdes.

April 5-6 — Our Spring Garden Show and Sale at Sherman Gardens (Please see page 8).

April 12 — Master Gardeners Plant Expo at Norman Murray Center (see page 7).

April 24-27 — Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza. (see below).

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

April Refreshment Signups: Dale Palas, Wendy Grande, Dana Leahy, Jerry Messer, and Ann Schwenk.
Thank you!



Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza:

In the past, before we started having our Spring Show and Sale at Sherman Gardens, we sold our bromeliads at South Coast Plaza. It was our major annual fund raiser, but since our affiliation with Sherman Gardens, we have not returned to the huge sale at the mall. Each year, they have asked us to return, but we are much happier at Sherman Gardens.

This year they have offered us a new opportunity: We will share an information booth (no plant sales) with three other plant societies. We will have a small bromeliad display and distribute our bromeliad pamphlet. This will give us a chance to introduce our beautiful bromeliads to thousands of people over the four-day event and perhaps gain some new members. Most of us attend the Spring Garden Show each year, so consider staffing our booth while you take a break from the show. Please sign up at the April meeting.

Racinaea dyeriana (left) purchased from a vendor at South Coast Plaza.

Our March Show and Tell Featured:

Cristy Brenner

Aechmea apocalyptica

Aechmea 'Carla'?

Aechmea gamosepala hybrid #2

Billbergia amoena 'Red' #1

Chris Bruce

xBiltanthus 'Rattanothoina' #3

Tillandsia confertiflora #5

Tillandsia crocata

Tillandsia juncea

Tillandsia species #4

Don DeBok

Tillandsia neglecta #6

Vriesea 'Christiane' #8



March Show and Tell, continued

Patti Dunn

Aechmea 'Covata' #7

Billbergia 'Tarantella' #10

Neoregelia farinosa v. *rosea lineata*

Michael McGuire

Billbergia 'Simpatico' #9

Zulema Storf

Neoregelia (mini)

Jann Van Hamersveld

Aechmea recurvata 'Aztec Gold' #11

Kerry Wakely

Aechmea 'Covata'



Huntington Gardens Bus Trip

We will have a SVBS sponsored bus trip to Huntington Gardens in San Marino on Thursday, May 8. The cost to our members is ONLY \$30.00, which includes transportation, garden admission (\$23), and a boxed lunch in the Celebration Garden (\$24). Don't miss this chance to visit this amazing Southern California garden gem. Registration will begin at the April meeting and payment is required when you register. Space is limited. Additional information will be available at the meeting.



The cactus garden at the Huntington is filled with many bromeliads such as Puyas, Dyckias, and Hecthias. May is the perfect time of year to see them in full bloom and the photos below were taken in May, 2005. Don't miss this chance to tour this amazing garden.



Plant Preparation Event: Thank you to Zulema for opening her beautiful garden for us to prepare our plants to sell at Sherman Gardens. The event was well-attended, especially by many of our newest members who were very impressed by Zulema's amazing collection of Tillandsia artistic pieces. Newer members also had a chance to learn how to mount Tillandsias from our experts.



Photos by Cristy and Hank.



UC Master Gardeners of Orange County Expo and Plant Giveaway & Sale

Come to the first annual Master Gardeners of Orange County Expo on Saturday April 12 at the Mission Viejo Norman Murray Center.

The Expo will have free/sale plants, gardening talks, and information tables on a huge number of gardening topics. This will be a fun, informative, and inspirational event that will kick your garden into high gear.



Plant Giveaway & Sale

There will be over 1,500 beautiful plants! Come early for best selection.

- Tomatoes, peppers, herbs, veggies, succulents, houseplants, milkweed, natives, and flowers.
- 1 FREE plant for each family
 - 500 free plant tickets will be available, first come-first serve, while supply lasts
 - Choose from any of the \$2 plants- tomatoes, peppers, herbs, veggies, succulents, flowers (4-inch pots)
- Additional plants for sale at \$2 - \$25 each
- Cash ONLY sales, no bills larger than \$25

April 12
9 am - 1 pm

Special Garden Event:

On Saturday, April 12, there will be a special garden event at the Norman Murray Community Center, our usual meeting place in Mission Viejo. We all have many other kinds of plants besides our bromeliads and you might be interested in the plant sale, gardening talks and other activities listed on this announcement.



Norman P. Murray Community & Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way
949-470-3062

Gardening Talks: Enjoy fun and informative talks from great speakers 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

- 9:30 - 10:00: Terrific Tomatoes, Culinary Herbs
- 10:15 - 10:45: Fire Safe Landscaping, Warm Season Veggies
- 11:00 - 11:30: 10 Easy California Natives, House Made Pickles Demonstration
- 11:45 - 12:15: Terrific Tomatoes, Gardening Mini "Bootcamp"
- 12:30 - 1:00: Mexican Paletas Frozen Treat Demonstration, Fire safe landscaping



Garden Expo - all the gardening info you need for success

- Advice on growing tomatoes, peppers, veggies, herbs, plumeria, and more
- Ask-a-Master-Gardener - get answers to your tough gardening problems
- Succulents- centerpiece demo, free make-and-take succulent-egg creation
- California natives, including milkweed
- Emerging tree pests - learn about new invasive pest threats to trees
- Hydroponic vegetables- create a make-and-take lettuce (\$7 cash)
- Pest Management - take care of those pesky mosquitoes and ants
- Kids/adults coloring fun
- Mission Viejo Library seed library - learn about the free seed program
- Many more: bees and pollinators, composting, worms, Master Food Preservers





Sherman Gardens Show and Sale: We have been advertising this event for several months, but in case you have lost the announcement, here it is again if you would like to duplicate it for a friend. Sherman Gardens is relatively small, but it has some very beautiful areas such as the cactus garden shown at left. This area has many bromeliads including *Deuterochonia brevifolia* (large mounds), *Dyckias*, and *Othophytums*.

Here is a recap of basic information for the show and sale:

- Don't forget to wear your badge for free admission.
- Setup Friday, April 4, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Show plants may also be entered between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m on Saturday, if necessary.
- All show plants must be named and stay in place until the show closes on Sunday.
- For detailed information on selling plants, please refer to the March *Pup Talk* on our website: **bromeliadsociety.org**
- Please sign up to volunteer at the show and sale at our April meeting. No experience necessary—it's a great way to learn about bromeliads.

BROMELIAD PLANT SHOW & SALE

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society

Saturday & Sunday April 5-6, 2025, 10:30 am-4:00 pm

Sherman Library & Gardens
2627 Pacific Coast Highway
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

Admission \$5.00 (members free)



Meetings 7:00 p.m on the first Thursday of the month @ Norman Murray Center in Mission Viejo

bromeliadsociety.org



Come and see our lovingly home-grown **BROMELIADS**, including **Tillandsias (air plants)**, and also receive growing information.

2025 Society Officers/Committee Heads

President:	Chris Bruce	<i>Pup Talk</i> Editor:	Cristy Brenner
Vice President/Programs:	Jeff Sorensen	<i>Pup Talk</i> Team:	Pete and Patti Dunn
Secretary:	(open)		John Marzolino
Treasurer:	Mary Kermani	Refreshments:	Launi & Tony Cory
Fundraising:	Yvonne Wilson		Mary Kermani
Librarian:	Kate Guerra-Hershey	Supplies:	Amy Uyemura
Membership	Nada Chatwell	Webmaster and Zoom	John Marzolino
Plant Table:	Michael McGuire	New Member Liaison:	Patti Dunn



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

Vriesea 'Grandiose X 'California Gold'.
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, April, 2025
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, April 3, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- * **Program:** Jerry Robinson will speak on how bromeliads changed his life.
- * **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. 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.

