



Pup Talk

January 2024

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 31, Number 1

We Will Meet: Thursday, January 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

At the Norman Murray Community & Senior Center

24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA

FEATURED THIS MONTH:

We will be showing another PBS NOVA program entitled "Ancient Earth: Life Rising," (the last one that we watched was really interesting). This time the program will feature the origins of life on our planet. This primarily means the origin of plants, since there were plants on land long before there were other complex life forms, such as animals. "For billions of years, life teamed in Earth's oceans while the land was desolate and inhospitable. See how life made the leap to land, transforming a barren, rocky landscape into the lush, green world we call home." This is the story of how plants evolved from their simplest forms to the plants that we see today.

Please join us for this informative presentation and enjoy all of our other Bromeliad activities such as show and tell, a 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; buy lots of tickets!
 - * 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 4 — Our meeting with a video on plant evolution.

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

February 3 — Board meeting (stay tuned for more information on time and location).

May 22-25, 2024 — World Bromeliad Conference (BSI) in West Palm Beach, Florida.



January Refreshment Signups: Gloria Ballou, George and Marilyn Long, Zulima Storf, and Jeff Sorensen. Thank you!



Message from the Editor:

Happy New Year! I have survived my first year of trying to fill Joe Wujcik's shoes as *Pup Talk* editor. (Thank you again Joe for your many years of service). When Joe and his wife Carol became editors in 2001, *Pup Talk* was only two pages long. Over the years, it eventually grew to ten pages. It has been a challenge to fill ten pages each month, although this month it is a little shorter because of Holiday commitments of our *Pup Talk* team, which includes Pete Dunn and John Marzolino. Thank you to Pete Dunn, who proof reads and prints the newsletter for members who prefer a paper copy. A huge thank you goes to John Marzolino, who transfers my copy to our website (bromeliadsociety.org). John maintains our website and provides the invaluable service of sending out additional email messages about upcoming meetings and other important announcements. John also saved us during the Covid crisis by enabling us to hold Zoom meetings.



I would also like to thank all of the members who have sent me photos or other information that has helped to keep us updated on the events in our Bromeliad world. Another special thank you goes to Hank Bruce, who works very hard each month to photograph our show and tell plants. He sets up a special area with a large black-velvet background and then moves each plant to be individually photographed. (It was a dream of Joe Wujcik's to have photos of our actual show and tell plants, instead of pictures from the internet).

Finally, thank you to our new president, Chris Bruce, for an exceptional year of meetings and activities. We have a great group of board members who work very hard to make our society a success. By the way, the February newsletter will be very short because I will be chasing Bromeliads in Colombia for most of the month of January. Don't worry—John will keep you informed on our website.

Cheers, Cristy (shown with *Billbergia portezana*)

San Diego Field Trip:

On Saturday, December 2, about twenty-five SVBS members traveled to San Diego to visit Andy Siekkinen's amazing yard. This was our annual "member's appreciation" event where each attendee received a coupon to spend on their favorite Bromeliads. Andy had a large variety of plants for sale with lots of color, color, and more color! Andy's plants are grown outdoors, so they do much better in our gardens than plants that are greenhouse grown. We all had a great time and went home with lots of new additions to our collections, as is demonstrated by Zulima's smile (lower right).



2023 Holiday Party



First—The Feast: One of three tables full of delicious food.



After dinner: We assembled around the plant-related gifts.



Next: The rules for the gift exchange, such as how many times a gift could be “stolen.”

Last: The gifts were opened. There were many Bromeliads and this special home-made gift from Zulima.





Signup for BSI Membership & Register for WBC 2024

Would you like to be totally immersed in wonderful Bromeliads for several days? Consider joining about ten of our members in West Palm Beach, Florida, next May for a fantastic World Bromeliad conference. There will be spectacular show plants, beautiful garden tours, informative lectures, nursery tours, and so much more. Consider joining Bromeliad experts from around the world who love these amazing plants.

The **World Bromeliad Conference (WBC 2024)** will be held on **May 22-25, 2024** in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA. For more information on West Palm Beach, see the **Travel & Leisure** article, [This Idyllic Florida City Is a Hidden Gem Near Palm Beach, and Just As Chic and Happening](#).

WBC 2024 will include speaker presentations, a judged plant show, a special plant sale, a rare plant auction, bus tours, a banquet with keynote speaker, and more! Check out the WBC 2024 Schedule on the WBC 2024 Menu on the [home page](#).

Worlds largest bromeliad **sale**, judged bromeliad **show** and **auction**..... fun, fun, fun.

The **keynote speaker** for the Banquet on Saturday night, May 25, 2024, is **Andrew Devonshire from New Zealand** with his presentation, *Hybridizing: The Kiwi Way*.

The hotel venue will be the **West Palm Beach Marriott**. There is a special hotel rate for registrants with online reservations now available for booking in the [Members area](#) of this website. Regular daily hotel rates in May for the Marriott are \$300 and up, but the special WBC rate is \$179 and comes with a reduced parking rate of \$10 (regularly \$16). The special hotel rate is available until the earlier of April 30, 2024 or whenever the special block of rooms is fully booked. When reserving your hotel dates, you need to enter your arrival and departure dates prior to selecting the "check availability" button or you will see an error message stating "no available rooms".

You may cancel your room reservation for no charge before 11:59 PM local hotel time 2 day[s] before arrival. There is a one-day cancellation penalty if one departs early after checking in.

WBC 2024 Registration Fees are \$295 if paid by March 31, 2024; \$335 from April 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024; or \$395 from May 1, 2024. Registration fees may be paid in the [Members area](#) of this website. To register for **WBC 2024**, you must be a [BSI member](#). Paid registrations are 100% refundable through March 31, 2024 and not refundable thereafter.

Additional information on **WBC 2024** will be posted here as it becomes available. The conference co-chairs are Alex Bello and Tom Ramiccio who may be reached at WBC2024@yahoo.com.



Will there be plants for sale at the World Bromeliad Conference and can they be brought to California? Absolutely! There will be agricultural inspectors who will clear your plants to come here. A portion of the sales area at the 2022 WBC conference in Sarasota, Florida, is shown here. Most of the major nurseries in Florida will be selling plants at the conference. And—you don't want to miss the always-exciting rare plant auction. Once, a single plant sold for over \$4,000!



Post Conference Field Trip

The following tour is planned as a post trip for the world bromeliad conference, so why not complete your conference experience with a [field trip](https://www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador) to see over.

ECUADOR: Over 150 Bromeliad spp. in habitat!

<https://www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador>

This trip will combine the best of Southern and Northern Ecuador. A must for anyone into Bromeliads. I have traveled to Ecuador on eight different occasions. I am planning to add and explore a few new places on this trip (hence the additional days) to allow longer stays in places rich in bromeliads. Apart from the rich flora, Ecuador offers some great wildlife: butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys in the Amazon!

Dates: May 29 - June 13, 2024

Duration: 15 days

Included: All inclusive, starting in Guayaquil, ending in Quito

Participants: 8-12 participants

Price: US\$4750 All-inclusive except air fare (single occupancy + \$580)



150 bromeliad species in habitat!

2024 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:	Carolyn Parsons		John Marzolino
Treasurer:	Mary Kermani	Refreshments:	Launi & Tony Cory
Fundraising:	Yvonne Wilson		Kate Guerra-Hershey
Librarian:	Paul Selzer	Supplies:	Amy Uyemura
Membership	Nada Chatwell	Webmaster and Zoom	John Marzolino
Plant Table:	John Marzolino		
	Michael McGuire		



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

Aechmea blanchetiana. Photo by Ed Voelker



SVBS 2024 DUES/MEMBERSHIP (It's time to renew)

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, January, 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, January 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- * **Program:** Presentation on plant evolution.
- * **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, Patti & 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. 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.

