



Pup Talk

May 2024

THE SADDLEBACK VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Volume 31, Number 5

We Will Meet: Thursday, May 2, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

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

FEATURED THIS MONTH: “Bromeliads in Australia: The 2008 BSI World Conference”

Cristy Brenner will share her experiences at the 2008 BSI World Conference in Australia. She has attended all of the BSI World Conferences (WBC) since 2000, and states that this conference was definitely one of the best. The conference was held in Cairns, in the tropical area of Northeastern Australia. Many members from our society and other Southern California societies attended. The Aussie's are exceptional growers and hybridizers and created beautiful displays. We also toured many amazing gardens and enjoyed the Aussie's great hospitality.

This talk is designed to get us excited about the 2026 World Conference that our society will be hosting. We will have the opportunity to see how an international conference is organized to give us some ideas for our future conference. Hopefully, all of the Southern California Bromeliad societies will participate with us to make this a very successful conference.



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):

May 2 — Our meeting with slides of the 2008 BSI World Conference in Australia.

May 5 — South Bay Bromeliad Associates (SBBA) meeting in Palos Verdes.

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

May Refreshment Signups: Wendy Grande, Johanna Browne, Sean Donlin, and Irv & Sharon Gram. Thank you!



Sherman Show and Sale:

Our annual spring event at the Sherman Library and Gardens was a great success. Thank you to Sherman Gardens for providing a wonderful venue to display and sell our favorite Bromeliads. Fortunately, we dodged the “weather bullet” with torrential rain the weekend before our event and light rain the weekend after. We had beautiful weather, which was very important since we had an outdoor plant sale in the Tea Garden.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who worked so hard preparing plants to show and sell and to those who worked long hours, especially our cashiers. Special thank you's go to Norm Nakanishi for arranging the event with Sherman and overseeing the show; to Don DeBok for his exceptional construction skills in our sales area; and to our President, Chris Bruce, for keeping everything well-organized. Finally, thank you to all of our members who provided Bromeliads for our show, especially to the newer members who participated for the first time.

At left is a photo of Bromeliad inflorescences from Cristy's garden that she used for two lectures to introduce the public to our amazing plants. Please see pages 6 and 7 for more photos of our show and sale.

Our April Show and Tell Featured:

Cristy Brenner

Aechmea 'Covata' #4

Aechmea 'Pie in the Sky'

Aechmea racinae v. *tubiformis* #3

Billbergia 'Perriam'sPride' #5

Neoregelia 'Yellow Fellow' #1

Johanna Browne

Tillandsia diaguatensis #2

Tillandsia straminea

Don DeBok

Neoregelia johannis 'DeRolf'

Patti Dunn

Tillandsia seleriana hybrid #6



April Show and Tell, continued

George & Marilyn Long

Tillandsia bulbosa (large form) #8

Tillandsia bulbosa (small form) #7

Carolyn Parsons

Aechmea distichantha #9

Billbergia leptopoda #11

Jeff Sorensen

Aechmea 'Pie in the Sky' #10

Ed Voelker

Aechmea hybrid (gamosepala X
caudata?)

Kerry Wakely

Assorted pitcher plants in "island
planter"

Tillandsia ionatha bird #12



Plant Preparation Workshops: On Saturday, March 30, we held our second workshop to prepare plants for our Sherman Gardens Show and Sale (photos below). Workshops are usually located in Patti and Pete's beautiful garden, but a rainy day necessitated moving it into the covered patio and garage area. (Photos by Hank Bruce)



*Thank you
Pete and Patti*



Sherman Gardens Show and Sale



Our non-judged show (above) is designed to educate the public about the diversity of Bromeliads.



The Saturday morning crew (above)—only some of our many volunteers.





Show and Sale (continued)



In Memoriam: The Bromeliad world recently lost two of its very special people. **Derek Butcher**, from Australia, conducted Bromeliad research and had a profound effect on our ability to find information about our plants. Below is a small article about Derek that was sent to BSI members.

Derek Butcher, OAM

Derek Butcher made significant contributions to the bromeliad world. "Uncle Derek", as he was widely known, devoted over 40 years of his life to learning about bromeliads and then disseminating his vast knowledge worldwide. He was instrumental in building up the early Bromeliad Species Picture database and Bromeliad Cultivar Registration (BCR) database at the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS).



Collaborating with Geoffrey Lawn and Webmaster Eric Gouda, a new [Bromeliad Cultivar Registry](#) was introduced on the BSI web site. In 2022, the [Bromeliad Species Database \(BSD\)](#) was launched—a collaboration between Derek, Eric and Graeme Barclay. BSI will dedicate the upcoming World Bromeliad Conference to Derek.

Closer to home, we have lost **Paul Isley**, co-owner of Rainforest Flora in Torrance. If you have any Tillandsias, there's a good chance they were hybridized by Paul or at least grown at his nursery. Unfortunately, we have lost another very important member of the Bromeliad world. (Thank you to SBBA Editor Katherine Poehlmann for allowing me to use her edited article below from the Rainforest Flora Facebook post.)

More sad news: We have recently learned that long-time member **Catherine Petit** has passed away after her long health battle. We will miss seeing her at our meetings.

[From Rainforest Flora's Facebook post]

On Monday, March 18th, we said goodbye to a friend, father, husband, and one of the greatest influences in the bromeliad and exploration world, Paul Isley III.

Paul, also known as "Ty" and "Mr. Tillandsia," has had a passion for Tillandsia since 1969. He founded Rainforest Flora, Inc, and traveled all over the world: Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Brazil, and many more, collecting and registering Tillandsia.

Paul has developed, named, or registered many Tillandsia hybrids: T. Betty (after his wife), T. PJ's Pride (his son), T. Kimberly (his eldest daughter), T. Kacey (his youngest daughter), T. JR (his business partner, Jerry, of 48 years), T. Kendra (Jerry's eldest daughter), T. Kaylan (Jerry's youngest daughter), T. Bishop John Fisher (his latest book and historical religious role model), T. Jes (long-time employee and friend), T. Redy (long-time employee and friend), and many more!

He was the conference chairman of the 1984 Bromelympics, a featured speaker at many Bromeliad Society International (BSI) World Bromeliad conferences, on the board of directors for Southern California Bromeliad Counsel and for BSI, and participating in countless horticultural shows throughout the U.S. and the world.

In 1987, he published the "Genus: Tillandsia" booklet, a beginner's guide for the Tillandsia grower, now in its 16th edition. He published *Tillandsia*, a full color 256-page source for Tillandsia information in 1987, with a revised publication in 2009 of *Tillandsia II*.

He set foot on every continent (Antarctica recently in 2022), climbed to the first summit of Mount Everest, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, went to the bottom of Lake Baikal, was an active member of the Los Angeles Adventurers' Club, proud UCLA alumni, and a devout Catholic.

He loved his books, morning runs, evening scotch, hosting grand parties, tillandsia, the people he worked with, friends, and most of all, his family.

From all the lives you've touched, thank you!

You are missed ❤️ Rest in Peace 🙏



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 apocalyptica X *Ae. caudata*?
Photo by Ed Voelker



SVBS 2024 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, May, 2024

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society
1068 Santa Cruz Circle
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

FIRST CLASS PLEASE!

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society

Pup Talk

May, 2024, Page 10

The Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society next meets Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Festivities include a:

- * **Program:** Presentation on World Bromeliad Conference in Australia
- * **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.

