



BromeliAdvisory

April 2026

<http://www.bssf-miami.org>

Directors:

Alex Bello, President
Tina Severson, Immediate Past President
Pam Neumann, Vice President
Patty Gonzalez, Director
Blanca Clusman, Treasurer
Barbara Partagas, Secretary
Peter Kouchalakos, Director
Denise Karman, Director
Raquel Contreras, Director

Committees:

Editor: Tina Severson
Webmaster: Bob Benaim
Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Membership, Patty Gonzalez & Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
Special Events/ Refreshments: Sandy Roth
Hospitality: Denise Karman
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo
FCBS Reps: Maureen & Richard Adelman

April Meeting Announcement – Let's Get Creative!

Our next meeting will be held on April 21st at 7:30 PM in Corbin A at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

We're excited to feature Diana Gonzalez, who will lead a special ceramics event designed to get our creative juices flowing—just in time for spring!

Enjoy a live potter's wheel demonstration, followed by a hands-on session where members will work with clay to create garden gnomes and/or decorative bells for the garden. All pieces will be professionally fired and returned to you in May.

Also happening:

- A **raffle table** courtesy of Ofelia Sorzano—always featuring her stunning bromeliads
- **Silent Auction:** See Chairman, Rene Izquierdo 80% of proceeds go to you, 20% support the Bromeliad Club. Feel free to donate more if you like. Please leave all bugs at home.

"Spring Has Sprung!" Food Theme – Let's Make It a Party!

Per Sandy's suggestion, we're going with a light and festive spread. Feel free to bring:

- Egg salad
- Tuna salad
- Ham salad
- Chicken salad
- Crab salad

Sandy will be bringing croissants to tie it all together!



Come ready to create, connect, and celebrate the beauty of the season. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Your Bromeliad Society Membership Is Due

It's renewal time! Please don't forget to see **Patty** if you are ready to renew your membership for **2026**. Your Bromeliad Society membership is important to us, as it helps support our operating costs and future planning.

Membership Rates:

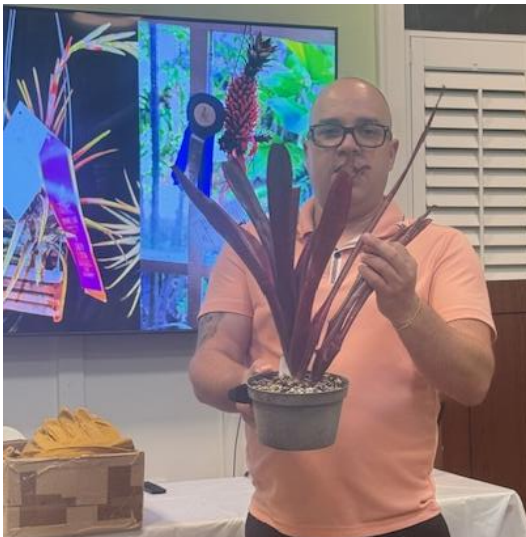
- Single Membership: **\$30**
- Dual Membership: **\$40**

Payment Options:

Memberships may be paid by **credit card, cash, or check**.

Thank you for your continued support—we truly value your membership and involvement in our Society

President's Message



Our upcoming show is the biggest community event of the year, and it takes all of us working together to make it a success.

We will need everyone's support, from volunteering your time to entering your plants. I especially want to encourage more plant entries this year, as we will be doing a special raffle for those who participate. More details will be shared soon.

Please keep our patriotic theme in mind as you plan for the show. It would be great to see everyone join in and help create a fun, festive atmosphere.

Thank you in advance for your participation and support. I look forward to seeing everyone and making this our best show yet.

- Alex Bello

BSSF 43rd Annual Show & Sale Show Timeline

Thursday May 21, 2026:

8:00am – 12:00pm	Show Area Setup (Garden House)
12:00pm-7:00pm	Plant Entry (Garden House) Hospitality Table

Friday May 22, 2026:

8:00am-9:00am	Judges Breakfast (Corbin A)
9:00am-12:00pm	BSI Judging (Garden House) Area Closed to everyone but clerks
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch (Judges, Clerks and Show Volunteers)
12:00pm-5:00pm	Vendor Sales setup and offload (Cycad Circle)
5:00pm-5:30pm	Final Preparations and close out for day
6:00pm-	Volunteer, Judges and Board Party at Sandys

Saturday May 23, 2026:

8:00am-10:00am	Show and Sale Staff Setup
1:00pm-2:00pm	Live Auction (Garden House)
10:00am-5:00pm	Welcome and Show and Sale begins

Sunday May 24, 2026:

8:00am-10:00am	Show and Sale Staff Setup
1:00pm-2:00pm	Live Auction (Garden House)
10:00am-5:00pm	Welcome and Show and Sale begins
4:00pm-6:00pm	Show and Sale Tear down

In case You Missed It:

By Tina Severson

Bromeliad Society Update & Show Preparation Notes

At our latest meeting, our President, Alex Bello, reminded everyone that we gladly accept donations to support club expenses, field trips, and refreshments. Contributions are always appreciated—whether cash or extra plants to share with the group.



🌸 Upcoming Show & Sale – Memorial Day Weekend

This year's Show & Sale will take place over Memorial Day Weekend, celebrating 250 years with a **red, white, and blue bromeliad theme**. Now is the perfect time to begin preparing your plants.

Although this year hasn't been excessively hot, the cooler temperatures have helped enhance plant coloration—so take advantage of it. Start identifying which plants from your collection you'd like to enter. We encourage everyone to participate—this is not just for collectors. Don't be shy; we need plants in all categories, and Alex is working closely with judges to ensure fair evaluations.

🌿 Show Tips & Guidelines

General Preparation

- Cleanliness is critical—judges evaluate everything from leaf tips to the pot.
- Remove debris, weeds, and calcium buildup (tweezers can help with detail cleaning).
- Wash plants carefully, especially inside leaf axils, without causing damage.
- Use the **smallest appropriate pot**; plants should sit flush, not buried too deeply.

Top Dressing & Potting

- Keep top dressing even and level with the pot edge.
- Ensure the plant is centered and balanced.
- Black gravel is recommended, but clean soil is acceptable.
- Avoid excessive stem exposure—keep it flush with the soil line.

Leaf Care

- Remove dead leaves, especially on Tillandsias.
- Avoid over-trimming—cut tips to mimic the natural leaf shape if needed.
- Burnt tips may result in point deductions.

Pups & Growth

- You must own and care for your plant for at least 6 months (except artistic entries).
- Pups can remain if they do not disrupt symmetry.
- Remove larger pups if appropriate; very small pups may remain.
- For consistent color, single plants are often preferred over clustered ones.

Special Notes

- Rare Tillandsias will be recognized by judges.
- Pineapples may be entered in the fruiting category.
- Hanging Tillandsias can be displayed creatively (even resting above pots).

Artistic & Habitat Categories

- Artistic entries focus on design and flow—not plant health.
- You may use decorative elements, but note: glued designs indicate artistic category.
- Inflorescences displayed in glass vases should use **clear glass only**.
- Habitat entries must show plants naturally growing in place (not arranged).
- Spanish moss is not permitted in horticultural entries (it moves them to artistic).

We are excited to share that the **Adult Artistic Category** has returned this year.

Judging & Participation

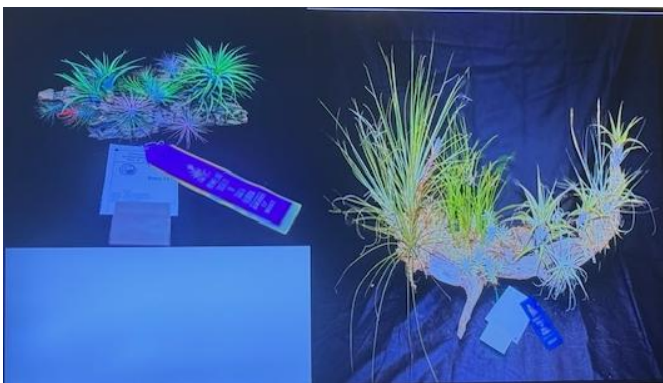
- Judges provide valuable feedback—entering is a great learning opportunity.
- Consider volunteering as a clerk to listen and learn directly from judges.
- You must have competition in a category to win a crystal award.
- A **Novice Category** is available for first-time entrants or those who have not yet won a blue ribbon.

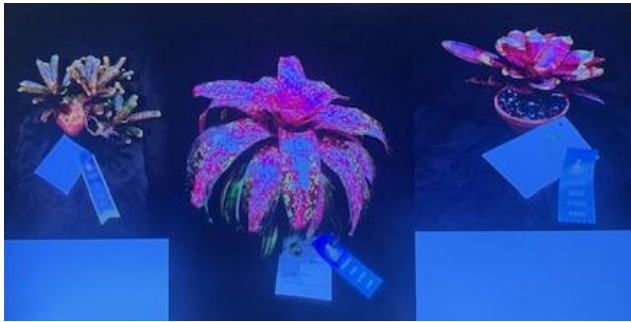
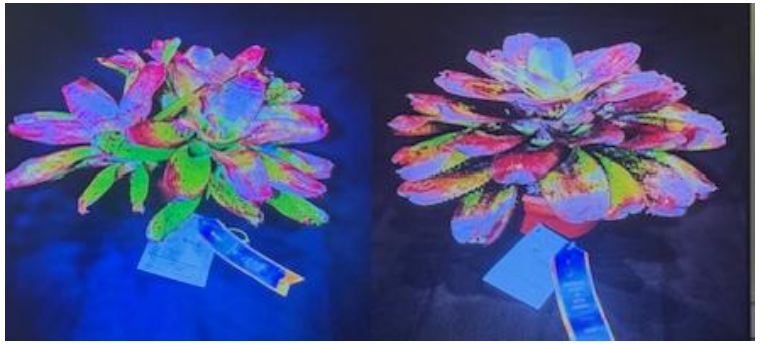
As Ofelia shared, if you have a plant you love—enter it. Judges love plants too, and many first-time entries make it to the head table.

Final Encouragement

The goal is simple: **participate and enjoy**. Don't be afraid to enter your plants—this is a supportive environment where everyone learns and grows together.

We look forward to seeing what you bring to the show! See Recap photos below!





“We had a fantastic St. Patrick’s Day Bromeliad Meeting! 🍀 A big thank you to everyone who joined, enjoyed the Irish-themed treats, and brought the festive spirit!”



Community Events:



The banner features a background image of a person playing a guitar at night. The title "BOOTS & BLOOMS" is in large, bold, yellow letters, with "at Fairchild" in a smaller, cursive font below it. A row of yellow stars is above the title. Below the title, the date and time are listed: "SATURDAY, APRIL 11" and "7:00 PM - 10:30 PM". A description reads: "A Night of Country Music and Good Old-Fashioned Line Dancing, featuring the Back Country Boys Live." A yellow button with the text "GET TICKETS" and a right arrow is on the right side.

BOOTS & BLOOMS
at Fairchild

📅 SATURDAY, APRIL 11
🕒 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM

A Night of Country Music and Good Old-Fashioned Line Dancing,
featuring the Back Country Boys Live.

GET TICKETS →

EVENT DETAILS

Boots & Blooms: A Country Night 2026

Date: April 11, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM

Location: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Parking & Entry: Gift Shop (main entrance)

[Click For Tickets](#)



The section is titled "Your Ticket Includes" in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the title are five dark blue boxes, each containing a yellow star icon and text describing a benefit of the ticket. The icons are: a cowboy hat, a microphone, a pair of boots, an acoustic guitar, and a pie.

Your Ticket Includes

- 
Live country music
by the Back
Country Boys
- 
Line dancing for
all levels
- 
Food and drinks to
purchase
- 
Classic country-style
contests, including pie-eating
and best get-up
- 
The firefly sunset magic of
Fairchild after hours



Save the Date: April 2026 BSI World Conference

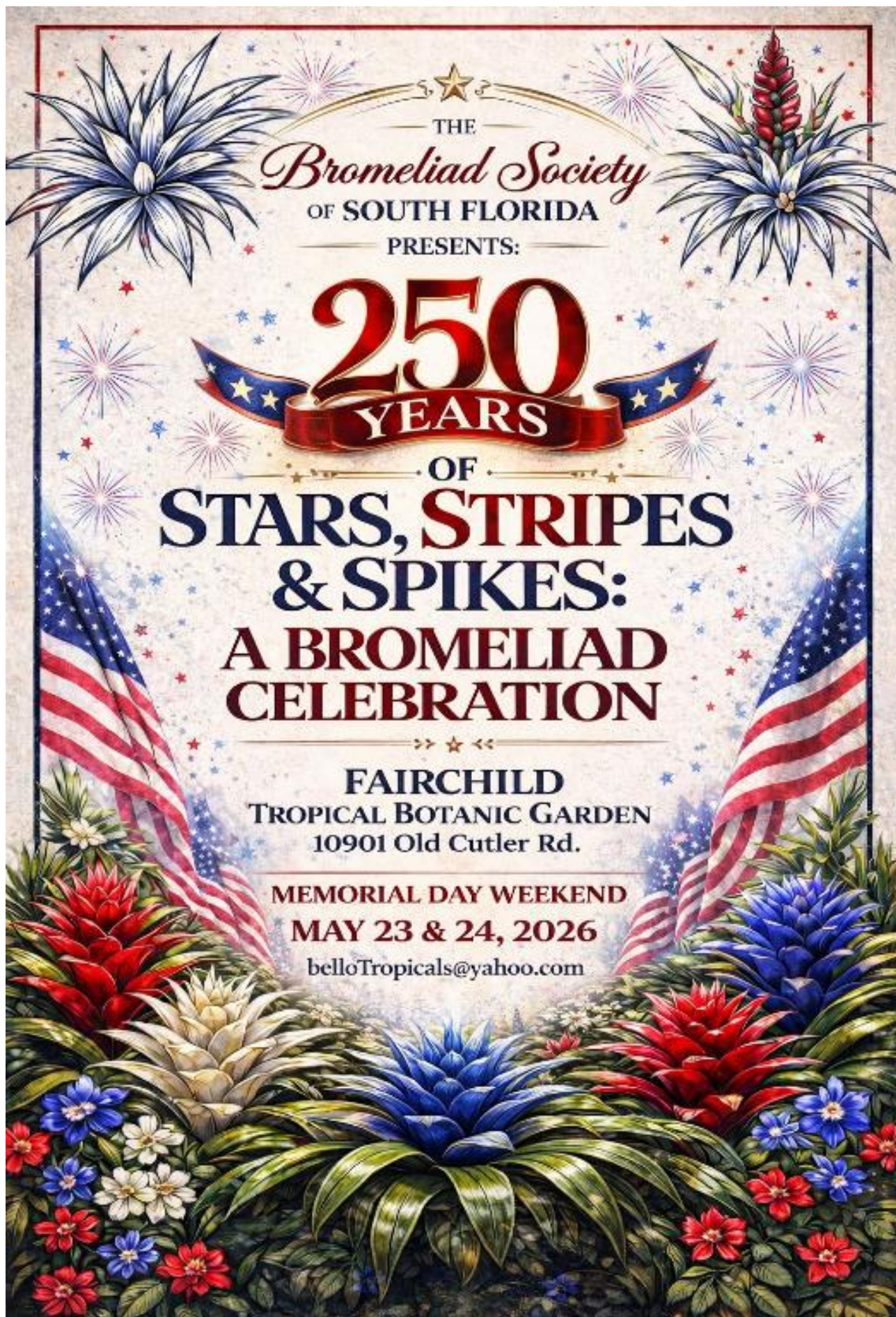
The 2026 BSI World Conference (WBC) will take place from April 14–18 at the Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa, California.

Plan your visit to Costa Mesa, located in Orange County, which was recently named the Fourth Safest City in California. Notably, eight of the top ten safest cities in the state are in Orange County.

Travel is convenient with John Wayne Airport (SNA) just three miles from the venue, and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) approximately 42 miles away.

For the latest updates and information, please visit the official conference website:

<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>



THE
Bromeliad Society
OF SOUTH FLORIDA
PRESENTS:

250
YEARS
OF
**STARS, STRIPES
& SPIKES:**
**A BROMELIAD
CELEBRATION**

FAIRCHILD
TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN
10901 Old Cutler Rd.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
MAY 23 & 24, 2026
belloTropicals@yahoo.com

From the Editor: Share Your Exciting Community Events!

Do you know about an upcoming community event that our members would enjoy? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please send me the details, along with any photos or links, for inclusion in our upcoming Advisories.

While we are particularly interested in events related to botanical gardens, plants, and horticulture, we welcome submissions on any topic that might be of interest to our members. Whether it's a local workshop, garden tour, or any exciting community event, your input is always appreciated.

To ensure your event makes it into our next issue, please send the information to me at least a week before our meetings. I always strive to highlight events that I think our members will find exciting, but your contributions will make it even better!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Tina Severson