BSSF, INC BromeliAdvisory

June 2026

http://www.bssf-miami.org

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Hospitality: Denise Karman
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo
FCBS Reps: Maureen & Richard Adelman

Our Next BSSF, Inc. Meeting

Join us on **Tuesday, August 18, 2026**, in the **Garden House at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**. The meeting will begin **promptly at 7:30 PM**.

Please note: There will be **no vendor sales** this month, as our featured speaker will be bringing a wonderful selection of plants available for purchase.

Our **Silent Auction** will still take place. As a reminder, **you keep 80% of your plant sales and the club receives 20%**. Of course, if you'd like to donate more to BSSF, we'll gladly accept it! And please remember to **leave the bugs at home** by bringing only clean, pest-free plants. See Silent Auction Chairman, Rene Izquierdo for more details.

Don't forget to bring a **side dish to share** for a chance to win a beautiful bromeliad! Sharing a meal while enjoying an outstanding presentation is one of our favorite BSSF traditions.



Our featured speaker is traveling all the way from **California** to be with us, making this a program you won't want to miss.

BSSF is pleased to welcome Andy Siekkinen, an independent botanist and internationally recognized expert on the genus Hechtia. Andy's passion for bromeliads began in 2007 when a coworker gave him his first plant, Neoregelia marmorata. What started as a single bromeliad quickly grew into a lifelong passion for collecting, growing, hybridizing, and studying some of the most unusual bromeliad genera.

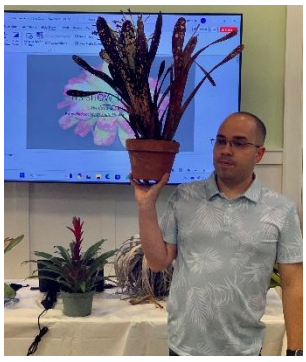
Over the past 15+ years, Andy has traveled extensively throughout Mexico researching Hechtia and other bromeliads, combining fieldwork, botanical systematics, genetics, microscopy, and horticulture. His work has led to the discovery and description of more than a dozen new Hechtia species.

Based in San Diego, Andy also operates Andy's Bromeliads, where he introduces new species into cultivation and develops hybrids of Hechtia, Billbergia, Deuterocohnia, Orthophytum, and other unique genera. His diverse collection reflects his love for the unusual and lesser-known bromeliads.

A past President of the San Diego Bromeliad Society and former Western Director for the Bromeliad Society International (BSI), Andy is a sought-after speaker who has presented at World Bromeliad Conferences, the Australasian Bromeliad Conference, the Huntington Succulent Symposium, and numerous bromeliad, cactus, and succulent societies throughout the United States.

We look forward to an informative and engaging presentation from one of the bromeliad world's leading experts.

President's Message



I encourage everyone to continue inviting your friends, neighbors, family, and fellow plant enthusiasts to our meetings and events. One of the best ways we can continue to grow our society is by sharing our passion for bromeliads, welcoming new members, and educating others about these amazing plants.

Our upcoming meeting will be a very special one, featuring a guest speaker traveling from California. We are truly excited about this opportunity and hope you will help us spread the word so we can share this exceptional experience with as many plant lovers as possible and inspire them to become fellow bromeliad enthusiasts.

Thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm, and dedication to BSSF. Your participation and passion are what make our society thrive. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meeting!

Alex Bello
President, BSSF, Inc.

In Case You Missed It...



By Tina Severson

What a fantastic night of **Bromeliad Bingo**! If you weren't there, you definitely missed out on an evening full of laughter, friendly competition, delicious food, and, of course, plenty of bromeliads!



A huge thank you to **Sandy Roth, our Queen of Bingo**, who once again proved that calling Bingo numbers is truly an art form! Sandy was the perfect **Bingo Whisperer** in more ways than one. Despite the less-than-perfect acoustics and no microphone, she somehow managed to keep everyone engaged, entertained, and listening closely for every number. She kept the games moving, the laughter flowing, and the friendly competition alive all evening long!





I think it's safe to say that just about everyone went home with at least one bromeliad...and many of us somehow managed to leave with several more! Funny how that happens!



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated beautiful plants and brought such a wonderful variety of food to share. Our potluck table was almost as impressive as our prize table!



It was also wonderful to welcome several first-time visitors. We hope they got a glimpse of what makes the Bromeliad Society of South Florida so special. Our meetings are about much more than bromeliads—they're about friendship, laughter, learning, great food, and sharing our passion for these amazing plants.

And let's be honest...having our meetings at the beautiful Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens certainly doesn't hurt! It's hard to imagine a better setting for an evening with fellow plant enthusiasts.

















Enjoy the photos...and if they give you a little case of Bromeliad Bingo FOMO, don't worry—we'll be doing it again next year...if not sooner! Until then, you might want to clear a little extra room in your car—you never know how many bromeliads you'll be taking home!



We even had the opportunity to celebrate Justin Severson's birthday with him! A special thank you to Denice Karman for making his delicious homemade German Chocolate Cake — it was a wonderful treat, and we know everyone enjoyed it. Justin was all smiles as we sang "Happy Birthday" to him, and he even joined in the celebration by enthusiastically waving his arms along with the music. It was a fun and memorable moment shared by all!









Tropical Plant Bazaar

Hosted by the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, featuring 12–15 vendors selling bromeliads, orchids, and tropical plants in the Palmetum and Rainforest areas. Regular admission applies.

Tropical Plant Bazaar
Saturday–Sunday, September 12–13, 2026
Palmetum & Rainforest Area
Adult $27.95 | Senior $20.95 | Child (3–11) $14.95 | Child (2 & under) Free

Join the Bromeliad Society of South Florida for a weekend plant sale featuring 12–15 vendors specializing in bromeliads, orchids, aroids, and tropical plants — a great chance to shop rare finds while supporting the Society's community mission.

Ticket Information

You will receive your confirmation and eticket(s) via email. If you do not receive your tickets, please check your spam or clutter folders. You must present your etickets upon arrival.

Tickets Click Here

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 itch even better!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Tina Severson