



BromeliAdvisory

February 2024

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

Directors:

Alex Bello, President
Tina Severson, Immediate Past President
Patty Gonzalez, Vice President
Samantha Jones, Treasurer
Maria Almodovar, Secretary
Sandy Roth, Director
Karen Bradley, Director
Denise Karman, Director
Lynn Gordon, Director

Committees:

Editor: Tina Severson
Advertising: TBD
Webmaster: Bob Benaim
Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Hospitality: TBD
Membership, Patty Gonzalez & Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
Special Events/ Refreshments: Sandy Roth
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo
Field Trip: Tina Severson

February 20, 2024, Next Meeting 7:30 PM

Corbin A

(No Member Sales, We will have Silent Auction & Raffle Table, Food Items welcomed)

About the Speaker

Jason Mellica graduated from the University of Florida with a botany and horticulture degree. He did an internship at Selby Gardens where he learned about Bromeliads. He has been growing and hybridizing Bromeliads for 30 years. He has 169 registered hybrids and many more to register. He has 2 Greenhouses in the South Sarasota Gulf gate area. He is the former President of the Sarasota Bromeliad Society and the current Vice President.

His presentation is called Rise of the Tiger Neoregelia Bromeliads. I will talk about my newest hybrids as seen below. It will be a hands-on presentation. I will bring my newest hybrids and talk about how I made the crosses. I will explain how to hybridize. Will have examples of young seedlings to adults. I will also explain how I grow them including the light, watering, and fertilizing.



Membership Drive

Time again for our annual membership drive. Your membership is important to us. Please take the time to renew your membership or join if you are new. Dues remain \$25.00 per person and \$35.00 per couple. Please see Patty Gonzalez, membership chair. The deadline for renewal is March 1, 2024, to be included in the FCBS roster. You can click on our website above to access the membership form and pay through the links below.

[Double Membership - \\$35](https://square.link/u/LpDC7hqv)
<https://square.link/u/LpDC7hqv>

[Single Membership - \\$25](https://square.link/u/3a3y4W9z)
<https://square.link/u/3a3y4W9z>

BSSF, INC Logo

Time for a change! If you have the talent to create a logo, we want to see it. We will be bringing the logos to the general meeting to decide on the final one.

President's Message:

“Welcome to February one of the best months to enjoy the weather and work in our landscapes and garden! I really want to encourage all of you to participate and come to our meetings. We have been having fantastic speakers and this month a favorite from Sarasota Jason Mellica. Please make sure you have paid your membership because we have lots of great things upcoming that your board of directors are planning.”

- Alex Bello



From the Editor:

All members are welcome to submit your bromeliad or tillandsia photos and articles related to our mission. If you'd like to be included in our newsletter, please submit your content at least 2 weeks prior to our general meeting. We would love to see your show & tell items. - Tina Severson

Last Month's Fundraiser

“Thank you to BSSF for participating in The Tamiami International Orchid Festival! It was wonderful to have you at our festival again. I am very glad we have made this connection! “

The Orchid Festival donated \$195 to your society in the names of volunteers:

Lynn Gordon
Tina Severson
Justin Severson

-Karina Motes

Our President, Alex Bello also recognized those who volunteered in our meeting and called Karina Motes up and she gave us our check for volunteering. She thanked us for our participation and said she would love to see us sign up for their Redlands International Orchid festival that will be May 17-19th, 2024 at the Fruit & Spice Park. Many others had signed up from our club to volunteer, however, the times they chose were not available. She let us know that if we are more flexible the next time then more of our members will be able to participate. **Sign up list will be available in our next meeting.**



Karina Motes

This festival was not just about orchids, we had Bromeliads and Tillandsias also represented. There were some familiar faces you can see below some of our vendors!

Bello's Tropicals



Alex Bello



Peter Kouchalakos

Tropiflora



Lynn Gordon & Tina Severson volunteering



Happy 97th Birthday to Elaine Mills!



She is an inspiration to so many of us and her hospitable ways have always welcomed new members. Wishing her a full recovery so that she can be in our midst again soon.

In Case You Missed It by Tina Severson

Alex Bello gave a truly impressive slide presentation, he discussed “South FL Tillandsias Hybrids & More”. Alex spoke about Hybridizer Steve Correal and Nestor Delria. He showed beautiful Tillandsias that were Hybrids. Alex also mentioned that many of our South FL members are also Hybridizers including himself. Our very own Mike Michalski has also taught us how to make Hybrids. Alan Herndon with Tradewinds Tropicals and several others are also known for their Hybrids.

Alex said that Steve Correal spent from morning till sundown working in his garden to separate and hang his tillandsias. He had several homes in which the yards were filled with amazing plants which Alex was fortunate to be able to visit. As seen in the first slide photo below with the title, it shows one of Steve’s many backyards.

When asked the best way to hang Tillandsias he shared how Nestor and Steve typically use just a wire, fishing line or string. Alex suggested that we use shallow baskets because you want the offsets to be unobstructed. He recommended using a small wire basket, typically the ones used for Vanda orchids work best and to hang them. Tillandsias can also be mounted on trees both in the sun and in shade. Alex spoke about making a shade house that he does for his special tillandsias out of 60% shade using a car port. He mentioned how his father helped him make it secure and strong by cementing it into the ground.



Alex Bello Has his own Hybrids notice
Tillandsia Cousin It! You can tell our
President is passionate about tillandsias!



Upcoming Community Events

Coconut Grove Arts Festival

Festival

60th Annual | FEB 17 - 19, 2024

👤 280+ Artists

💧 Flavors of the Grove, Arts & Drafts, and much more!

Pinecrest Gardens

Pinecrest Gardens Chili Cook Off

Next date: Saturday, March 02, 2024 | 12:00 PM to 05:00 PM

Fairchild Tropical Garden

Orchids in Bloom: The most beautiful weekend of the year!

Saturday & Sunday, March 9-10, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fairchild Tropical Garden

Bromeliad Society of South FL Show & Sale 2024

Rare Plants, Artistic Arrangements, Student Artwork, Auction

Saturday & Sunday, April 20-21 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Mounts Botanical Garden

Of Palm Beach County

Plant-a-Palooza Spring Plant Sale 2024

April 27 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

REDLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

MAY 17-19, 2024 | 10 AM – 6 PM DAILY

24801 SW 187TH AVE

REDLAND, FL 33031

FRUIT AND SPICE PARK

World Bromeliad Conference 2024

22 - 25 May 2024 West Palm Beach Marriott, West Palm Beach, USA

Bromeliad Society International Presents World Bromeliad Conference 2024 May 22-25, 2024 • West Palm Beach, Florida

WBC 2024 will feature an exciting slate of events including a welcome reception, botanical tours, a banquet dinner, several world-renowned speakers & guests, the world's largest bromeliad sale and a professionally judged bromeliad show.

Conference registration for attendees includes:

- Welcome Reception — International poolside barbecue
- Historic WBC 2024 tote bag
- World conference banquet dinner with speaker Andrew Devonshire on 'Hybridising, The Kiwi Way'
- Mounts Botanical Garden tour by luxurious motor-coach
- Access to world renowned speakers & honored guests
- World's largest bromeliad sale
- Professionally judged bromeliad show



Don't wait — register and reserve a hotel room online soon to save!

(Special reduced rates are available to all current BSI members.)

Grant's Farm Nursery Tour



Join us for a special, behind-the-scenes tour to Florida's oldest bromeliad nursery! Reserve your space online for only \$25.

WBC 2024 World-Renowned Speakers



Find the latest WBC 2024 news and registration links online:
www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/

We look forward to seeing you at WBC 2024!

Conference Chairman Tom Ramiccio (Tramiccio@aol.com) & Conference Co-Chairman Alex Bello

Post-Conference Ecuador Field Trip with Plant Expeditions



Complete your conference experience with a 15 day tour through Ecuador. See over 150 bromeliad species in their native habitat! Also see wildlife—butterflies, birds, insects and monkeys! For more tour information and to reserve your space visit:
www.plantexpeditions.com/plant-tours/2024/ecuador

