



BromeliAdvisory

July 2025

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

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Alex Bello, President
Tina Severson, Immediate Past President
Barbara Partagas, Vice President
Patty Gonzalez, Director
Samantha Jones, Treasurer
Maria Almodovar, Secretary
Sandy Roth, Director
Maureen Adelman, Director
Lynn Gordon, Director

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



Creative Bromeliad Workshop



Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025



Time: Workshop begins at 7:30 PM



Come early! Light refreshments & socializing from 7:00 – 7:30 PM



Location: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden – *Garden House*

Join us for a fun, hands-on evening as we get creative with **mini bromeliads!** Whether you're an experienced enthusiast or just love a good plant project, this workshop is a perfect chance to relax and create something beautiful.



What's Included for Just \$10:

- A selection of mini bromeliads
- Choice of decorative or standard pots
- Potting medium
- Step-by-step guidance and tips



Bonus: Additional decorative pots will be available for purchase—affordably priced if you'd like to further personalize your creation.

Let's Celebrate July with Good Food & Great Plants!

Bring a **potluck item to share** and receive a **raffle ticket** for a chance to win a **beautiful bromeliad!**

Everyone looks forward to the delicious food and gorgeous plants, it's the perfect combination for a fun and flavorful evening with fellow plant lovers.



Great Participation & Even Better Snacks!



Huge thanks to everyone who brought dishes to share... because let's be honest: bromeliads look even better when

you're admiring them with a plate of something tasty in hand!

President's Message

Let's keep the momentum going, our turnout has been fantastic, even during these summer months! Thank you all for your continued attendance and participation.

We had once considered taking a break during the summer, but your enthusiasm has proven just how valuable and enjoyable these gatherings are. So, keep coming, keep learning, and keep having fun!

Remember, our meetings are **open to the public**, so feel free to invite your family and friends to join in the lessons and festivities.

If you have a great **Show & Tell** item, bring it in, we'd love to see it! And if you have questions or something you'd like help with, don't hesitate to bring that in too.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

- Alex Bello



A Special Thank You to Alex Bello

At our recent meeting, **Vice President Barbara Partagas** had the honor of presenting a cherished book from our Society's library to **Alex Bello**—a heartfelt gesture of appreciation from the Board.

The book, *Blooming Bromeliads* (as seen in the photo), was gifted to Alex in recognition of his **dedicated leadership** as both **President** and **Show Chairman**.

Thank you, Alex, for your tireless efforts, passion, and commitment to our Society—you truly deserve this and so much more!



The Raffle Table Is Always a Hit!

Our raffle table continues to be a highlight of every meeting—thanks to the generosity of our members!



At our most recent meeting, **Barbara Partagas** provided an **amazing raffle table** that had everyone running to see **Patty** to purchase tickets! The excitement and energy it brought to the evening were contagious—thank you, Barbara!

If you're interested in **providing the raffle table**, please be sure to request in advance by contacting **Alex Bello**.



Many members choose to **donate 100% of the proceeds** to the Society, which goes a long way in helping us cover meeting costs and other expenses—after all, we are a **non-profit** organization.

That said, you are also welcome to **keep up to 80%** of the proceeds and donate **20% back to the club** if that works better for you. We truly appreciate **any amount you're willing to give**—every bit helps!

Thank you for supporting the Society and helping keep our meetings thriving!

In Case You Missed It:

-By Tina Severson

Exploring Bromeliads in Peru with Alex Bello



We were fortunate to enjoy a fascinating presentation by our very own President, Alex, who shared insights from his talk "*Exploring Bromeliads in Peru.*" One of the many perks of having Alex lead our society is getting a first look at his research and presentations—sometimes we may be his "guinea pigs," but we always walk away having learned something new!

This particular journey was inspired by Alex's friends, who traveled through various regions of Peru. The diversity of the country's landscape was striking—almost the entire area highlighted in red on the map are botanical hotspots. Many bromeliads in these regions grow in extremely dry, full-sun conditions, often with little to no soil, perched on rocks, cliffs, and ledges.



Alex noted how many of these species resemble *Alcantarea*, though many were unidentifiable even to him. These mysterious plants have now become the focus of his continued research.

In coastal areas, despite persistent cloud cover, the conditions remain dry. In contrast, the rainforest regions are full of epiphytic bromeliads like *Guzmanias*, thriving in moss-covered trees with misty light





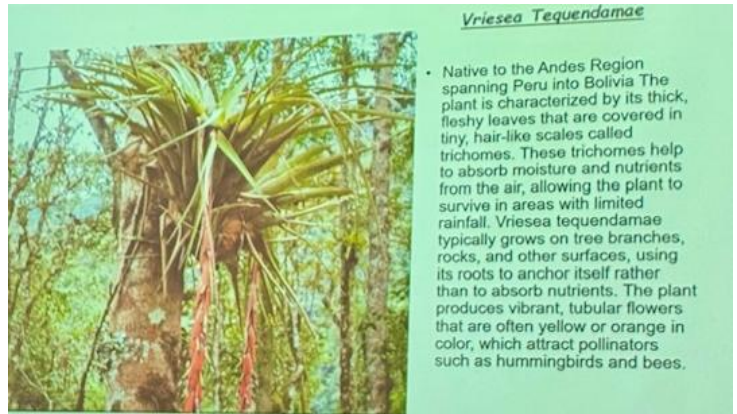
protecting the plants from sun damage. He also shared that many *Tillandsias* that struggle in our South Florida heat flourish in Peru's high-elevation climates.

One standout species discussed was

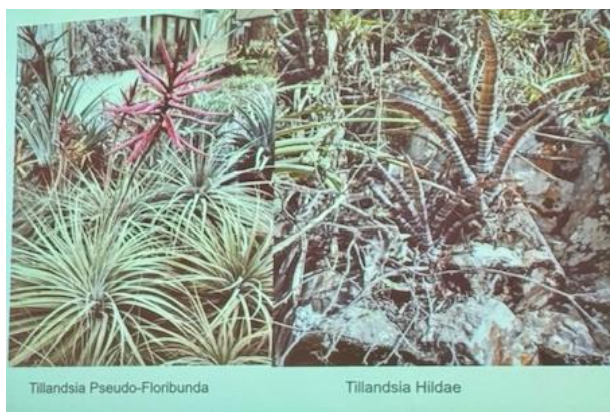


and gentle drizzle. The sun in Peru, while intense, feels different from the sun here in Florida, and bromeliads have adapted accordingly.

Alex emphasized the role of trichomes—tiny leaf structures that act like shields,



Tillandsia Hildae, the largest species of the genus, which grows directly on rocks without any soil and develops a rich purple hue in Peru, along with a massive inflorescence. Alex grows his in-milk crates, adding fertilizer to support their growth. This plant can be found from Venezuela all the way down to Peru



He also mentioned another plant in his nursery, *Tillandsia pseudofloribunda*, which he is currently observing.



Show & Tell Highlight:

Maureen Adelman brought in a striking Dyckia 'Hothead'. She shared that its inflorescence tends to lean toward the sun, a fun detail that had everyone nodding in

appreciation.



Silent Auction: Mike Michalski, Always Ready to Help!

With his signature grin, Mike happily handed off the winning silent auction plant—just one of the many ways he steps in to support the club!

Don't forget **everyone is welcome** to bring in silent auction plants. You can choose to **donate 100%** of the proceeds to the Society or keep **up to 80%**, with **20% going back to the club**. Of course, we always welcome any additional generosity!

Our Silent Auction Chairman, **Rene Izquierdo**, was out this month—please see him at the next meeting if you have any questions.

Upcoming Community Events

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza Sept 26th to 27th 2025 Kissimmee, FL (Near Disney)

<https://www.sanfordgardenclub.com/extravaganza>


Sanford Garden Club

200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL 32773

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2025 BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA

This page may be accessed directly by entering [BromeliadX.com](https://www.bromeliadx.com) in any browser.

The leadoff speaker on Saturday will be **Leonardo M. Versieux** whose topic will be **Brazil: Bromeliads of the Tropics**.

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 26th to 27th, 2025
Kissimmee, Florida (near Disney)
Conference Registration Fee: \$125
([Online Registration](#) or [Mail-In](#))

Sponsored by the [Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies](#) and hosted by the [Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society](#), this will be Florida's biggest Bromeliad event of the year!

The **Bromeliad Extravaganza** will include a Friday night dinner (BBQ buffet), three Saturday afternoon seminars (including [Leonardo Versieux](#) from Brazil), a Saturday night banquet (Italian buffet) with a rare plant auction, and last (but not least), the biggest Bromeliad sale of the year in Florida. The Bromeliad sale (an area of almost 6,000 square feet) is open to the public on Saturday from 9 to 4.

Bromeliad growers and enthusiasts from all over Florida will bring a large selection of top quality Bromeliads for your purchasing pleasure. Those who register for the Conference will get first stab at acquiring some of these fantastic plants on Friday evening.



Register online today at:
<https://sbtps.square.site/>

[Mail-in Registration Form](#)

[Schedule of Events](#)

Click below for hotel pictures:



Hotel Reservations

The special hotel room rate for Conference registrants is only \$85.80 per night (\$67.80 plus \$18 resort fee) plus 13.5% taxes. This rate includes free parking and breakfast discounts. Deluxe tower rooms are also available for only \$105 (\$87 plus \$18 resort fee). Rooms are King or 2 Queen bed rooms.

The hotel is the **Ramada Gateway**, 7470 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy 192, Kissimmee, FL 34747. To obtain the conference rate, call the hotel (407-396-4400 or 407-997-6662 from 9am to 5pm) and ask for the special **Bromeliad Extravaganza** rates.

A deposit for one night's room rate plus taxes (\$67.80 plus \$9.16 or \$76.96 for the courtyard or poolview rooms) will be required at the time of booking (refundable up until 72 hours before the scheduled arrival date). The special rates will also be available from Sept. 23rd to 30th for those who would like to make a vacation out of their stay, but you need to book before August 26th to get this special rate. Hotel check-in time is 4pm and check out time is 11am.

You should book the hotel as soon as possible.



Volunteers Needed for Motes Event & Redland Orchid Festival!

Our President, **Alex Bello**, is looking for volunteers to help with the **Motes Orchid Event** on **October 17–19, 2025**. If we gather enough support, we'll be eligible to host **two tables** at the **Redland Orchid Festival**—a fantastic opportunity to promote our Society!

Alex plans to have our members sell bromeliad books and hand out non-plant materials **for free** to attract new members. But to make it happen, we'll need **several volunteers** for both **Saturday and Sunday**.

If you're able to help, please **email or call Alex Bello right away** so he can confirm our participation and begin planning accordingly.

We'll also need to provide a **tabletop display** at the Orchid Festival, so let Alex know if you can assist with that as well.

Let's come together to make this event a success and grow our Bromeliad Society!

The 22nd Australasian Bromeliad Conference - Aussie Broms 2025 – has been launched! The theme is ‘Exploring Beauty and Diversity’. The Bromeliad Society of Queensland invites the global Bromeliad community to participate.



The poster features a green background with a faint pattern of bromeliad leaves. At the top, the text 'EXPLORING DIVERSITY & BEAUTY' is written in a green, curved font, with '2025' in large orange letters below it. The main title 'AUSSIE BROMS' is in large green letters, with a stylized bromeliad flower icon between the words. Below this, the dates '4TH - 7TH November 2025' and the location 'Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane, QLD' are listed. A yellow starburst graphic on the right lists activities: 'Plant Sales - New Releases!', 'Taxonomy Botany Cultivation', 'Rare plant auction', and 'Garden tours'. The central text reads 'INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL EXPERT SPEAKERS DISCUSS ALL THINGS BROMELIADS'. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'Full details at www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp', 'Register at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS>', and an email address 'AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au'. The logo of The Bromeliad Society of Queensland is on the bottom left, and a QR code is on the bottom right.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY & BEAUTY
2025
AUSSIE BROMS

4TH - 7TH November 2025
Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane, QLD

Plant Sales - New Releases!
Taxonomy Botany Cultivation
Rare plant auction
Garden tours

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL
EXPERT SPEAKERS DISCUSS
ALL THINGS BROMELIADS

Full details at www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp
Register at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS>
✉ AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au

THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

The website can be accessed at [Aussie Broms 2025 Conference](http://www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp), a Facebook page will also be live soon.

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