



BSSF, INC BromeliAdvisory

June 2026

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

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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

Bromeliad Bingo Night — Let the Fun Begin!

Tuesday, July 21, 2026 • 7:30 PM • Corbin A, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Get ready for one of BSSF, Inc's most cheerful annual traditions: **Bromeliad Bingo!** The evening will once again be led by **Sandy Roth**, whose energy, humor, and bromeliad know-how always make this a lively night to remember.

Bingo Cards: Every BSSF member receives **one complimentary Bingo card** to join the fun. Want to boost your chances of shouting "Bingo"? Additional cards will be available for **\$5 each**.

Plant Donations: Have extra **healthy, pest-free bromeliads** ready for a new home? Bring them along! Your generous donations help fill the prize table and give more members a chance to leave with a beautiful bromeliad treasure.

Refreshments: Please bring a favorite dish to share as we enjoy an evening of good food, great company, friendly competition, and plenty of bromeliad excitement.

Come for the bingo, stay for the laughter, and go home with bromeliad memories—maybe even a prize plant!

The club will provide the raffle table this month, giving everyone plenty of chances to take home some wonderful bromeliads! Please note that there will **not** be a Silent Auction at the July meeting.

President's Message

As we begin a new season for the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, I encourage everyone to invite friends, family, neighbors, and fellow plant enthusiasts to join us. We would love to keep growing our membership and sharing our passion for bromeliads.

September is the perfect time to join! Anyone who joins or renews during September will have their membership extended through the end of 2027. This is a great value, especially with our Annual Auction, guest speakers, educational programs, and Holiday Party coming up.

Together, we can keep growing our membership and our love of bromeliads.

- Alex Bello



Thank You for a Fantastic Bromeliad Show & Sale!

Written By Tina Severson

Our May 2026 Bromeliad Show & Sale was an incredible success, and it would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm of our members and volunteers. To everyone who helped make this event such a success, thank you!

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the judges who generously shared their time and expertise. Their thoughtful evaluations and valuable comments provided encouragement and education for our exhibitors, making the competition even more meaningful.



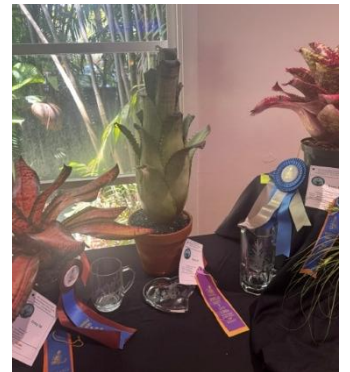
Putting on a show of this caliber takes a tremendous team effort, and every volunteer played an important role. We would especially like to recognize Alex Bello, our Society President and Show Chairman, for his outstanding leadership and tireless commitment. Alex truly went above and beyond, even navigating an unexpected power outage just before the show opened, while ensuring every plant entry was received, organized, and ready for judging.



Please enjoy the photos from this year's event and take pride in what we accomplished together. Our Show & Sale is successful because of the time, talent, and dedication of so

many members. It truly takes all of us to make this event such a memorable success.

Thank you for helping make the 2026 Bromeliad Show & Sale one to remember!







Friday's Judges & Volunteers Enjoyed a Well-Deserved Lunch!

Special Thank You to Sandy Roth for her dedication and hospitality during our Show & Sale weekend. Sandy coordinates and manages the food for our volunteers throughout the event and graciously opens her beautiful home to host our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Everyone who attended enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship in her beautiful garden and welcoming home. Thank you, Sandy, for all you do to support our Society!



In Case You Missed It: June 16, 2026 BSSF General Meeting

This article was written and edited by Tina Severson, based on meeting notes from Pam Neumann and Maureen Adelman. Photographs by María Almodovar.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Terrie Bert presented “How to Be a Collector,” sharing her enthusiasm for bromeliads along with practical guidance drawn from decades of collecting, growing, and studying these remarkable plants.

Members who attended the June meeting enjoyed an engaging and informative program filled with useful advice, memorable stories, and close-up examples from Terrie’s own collection.



A Room Full of Bromeliads: Terrie transformed the meeting room with bromeliads displayed across three tables. She walked members through each arrangement, explaining the plants’ characteristics, histories, and growing habits. Her enthusiasm was contagious, making the presentation both educational and entertaining.



Collect What You Love: One of Terrie's key messages was to choose a bromeliad group you truly love and focus your collecting efforts there. By growing many plants within one genus or species, collectors develop a deeper understanding of that group's traits and cultural needs. This approach helped Terrie build an impressive collection of more than **2,000 bromeliads**.

Terrie's Growing Method: Terrie also described her distinctive approach to growing bromeliads. Instead of using a traditional potting mix, she places plants in empty pots, anchoring them upright with rocks or broken clay pot shards before hanging them on scaffolding. For fertilizer, she prefers **Nutracote**, placing just a few pellets in the outer leaf axils while avoiding the plant's center.



Helpful Tips from the Presentation: Terrie shared many practical insights for collectors and growers, including:

- Species bromeliads are becoming harder to obtain as nurseries close and some South American countries restrict plant exports. Preserving species is especially important because they form the foundation for all hybrids.
- Non-registered hybrids are now permitted in bromeliad shows.
- To prevent lost plant labels, place a second tag in the bottom of the pot. Position the primary tag along the pot's edge with the writing facing inward to help reduce fading.
- Remove acorns promptly, as they can smother a bromeliad's growing point.
- **Aechmea charcharodon** gets its name from its shark-like spines.
- Brown or dead leaf tips may indicate that the plant's center is clogged. Cleaning out the center can improve plant health.
- The term **discolor** describes bromeliads that are green on top and red underneath.
- **Pitcairnia**s benefit from regular fertilization to bloom well in South Florida.
- Hybrid bromeliads cannot have Latinized names, which is why many have creative cultivar names such as *Neo. "Sandy."*
- The silvery coating known as **scurf** helps bromeliads shed water and stay dry.
- Soft-leaved tillandsias generally prefer more moisture, while **Nidularium**s are among the most cold-hardy bromeliads.
- If a plant has a **Selby Gardens accession number**, valuable information about its history and identification may be available through their records.
- **Hohenbergias** are especially worthy of conservation because their native habitats are disappearing, and some frog species depend on them for breeding.



A Lively Plant Sale: After the presentation, Terrie offered her entire display for sale. As soon as she finished speaking, members eagerly gathered around the tables to choose new additions for their collections. It was wonderful to see so much excitement as everyone searched for that special bromeliad to take home.

With Appreciation: A sincere thank you to Dr. Terrie Bert for an informative, inspiring, and

thoroughly enjoyable evening. We appreciate her generosity in sharing her knowledge, experience, and exceptional collection with the Bromeliad Society of South Florida.



Board of Directors Meeting

Our Board of Directors was graciously hosted by Maureen and Richard Adelman for this month's meeting. We were treated not only to their warm hospitality, but also to a tour of Maureen's meticulously maintained bromeliad collection—truly an inspiration for all who attended.

Thank you, Maureen and Richard, for opening your beautiful home and sharing your remarkable garden with us!



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