



## BromeliAdvisory

June 2025

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

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Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo  
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### June Meeting: Exploring Bromeliads in Peru + Indoor Summer Picnic

Join us on **Monday, June 17** for a special evening of food, fellowship, and a fantastic presentation by our very own President, **Alex Bello**, as he shares *Exploring Bromeliads in Peru*. Alex is a longtime member and passionate speaker, and this is a great chance to experience one of the programs he presents to our sister societies. Vice President, Barbara Partagas will be providing the raffle table! New members, you're in for a treat!

To celebrate summer, we're also having an **indoor picnic**. The club will provide fried chicken, and we invite everyone to bring a favorite side dish to share.



🔪 Bring a dish and receive a **food raffle ticket** for a chance to win a beautiful bromeliad!

📍 **Location:** Corbin A

🕒 **Food & Fellowship:** 7:00 PM

🕒 **Meeting Starts:** 7:30 PM sharp

Let's enjoy good food, great company, and beautiful bromeliads as we welcome summer together!

## President's Message

I'm looking forward to getting to know some of our new members and sharing my latest program with you all at this month's meeting.

I don't have to remind anyone—it's officially summertime! But I do want to give a quick reminder about your bromeliads. While many thrive in the heat, some may struggle with intense, direct sun. Now's a good time to move sensitive plants to bright, filtered light and consider using shade cloth or sails to protect them from sunburn. A little extra care now will go a long way in keeping your collection healthy and vibrant throughout the season.

*- Alex Bello*



# In Case You Missed It:

-By Tina Severson



## Meeting Recap: Hybridizing Bromeliads with Mike Michalski

At our most recent meeting, we were treated to an engaging and educational presentation by Mike, who



shared his hands-on experience and insights into hybridizing bromeliads. He brought along an impressive inflorescence that had most likely been pollinated by bees and walked us through the process of seed collection and propagation.

Mike showed us the black seed pods on the inflorescence and demonstrated how he extracts the seeds. He gently squeezes the pods into a small container of water to release the seeds and wash off the gooey substance that sometimes surrounds them. While seeds may still germinate with the goo intact, Mike prefers to remove it to prevent potential fungal growth. Once in water, the seeds must be carefully strained—a delicate task, as bromeliad seeds are incredibly tiny.



After drying, the seeds are placed into a growing medium of moss and perlite inside a small plastic container with a lid—no holes. He avoids using soil, as it tends to harbor weeds and fungus. Mike typically adds fertilizer to the mix, favoring Dynamite as his go-to. He places the containers in bright, indirect light to promote healthy growth.

Some bromeliad seeds may take up to four years to mature, although nurseries may be able to speed up the process. Once the seedlings reach the lid of the container, which can take over a year,





Mike separates them. He noted that Billbergias are among the easiest bromeliads to hybridize, and that perlite serves as a solid base for holding the seeds.

Mike also displayed several stunning examples of his hybridized plants. Interestingly, many of the resulting plants look nothing like the parent plants, often producing entirely unique appearances.



When asked about mosquito concerns in bromeliads, Mike suggested using a screwdriver to poke small holes in the base of the cup to allow water to drain out. Patty added that Mike heads out each morning with his trusty kitchen tongs to inspect their bromeliads, looking for those in bloom or already producing seeds.



We had a wonderful turnout and the food was fantastic—thank you to everyone who contributed! A special thanks to Mike for generously sharing his

knowledge, and for keeping us laughing along the way.

Mike and Patty truly make a great team. She tolerates his jokes—and even throws a few back at him! Be sure to check out the photo of Patty doing a spot-on impression of Mike with his tongs during his morning bromeliad rounds!



Mike also warmly extended an invitation to anyone with a bromeliad in bloom: if you'd like to try hybridizing with his help, just give him a call. He suggests around 10:00 AM as a good time to stop by. Thank

you to Mike and Patty for truly entertaining us!

## What a Great Turnout!



We had a fantastic turnout at last month's meeting, and we're hoping to keep the momentum going all year long! Thank you to everyone who came out, contributed, and helped make it such a fun and engaging evening. We love seeing our members come together to enjoy fellowship, share delicious food, and of

course—learn more about our favorite plants, bromeliads! Take a look at some of the great moments we captured. Let's keep the energy going, bring a friend next time and help us grow our community even more!



## Silent Auction – Plants Always Welcome



Have a beautiful bromeliad to share? Bring it to our Silent Auction and take a chance on what it might earn for both you and the club.

You'll receive 80 percent of the final bid, and the club will receive 20 percent. Of course, you're welcome to donate more if you choose.

Please bring only clean, healthy, bug-free specimens. Plants do not need to be potted.

Make sure to get your bids in early. Our auction chairman, Rene Izquierdo, can close the auction at any time.

Thank you for supporting the club and helping make each meeting more fun and rewarding for everyone.





## Discover More About Cryptanthus: Visit Their Newly Renovated Website

For those interested in learning more about *Cryptanthus*, we're excited to announce the launch of their newly renovated website, now live and fully operational after a long hiatus. Check it out using the link below and explore all the fascinating information about this unique genus. Let's show them our support!

[www.cryptanthussociety.net](http://www.cryptanthussociety.net)

In case you're wondering, *Cryptanthus* is a genus of flowering plants in the *Bromeliaceae* family, specifically within the *Bromelioideae* subfamily. The name *Cryptanthus* comes from the Greek words "kryptos," meaning "hidden," and "anthos," meaning "flower," reflecting the plant's distinctive, often concealed blossoms.

Don't miss out on exploring the world of *Cryptanthus*—visit their site today!

# Upcoming Community Events

🌴 Summer Plant Sale – Southwest Ranches 🌸

Father's Day Weekend | June 14-15

Jeff Searle invites all plant friends!

Celebrate Father's Day weekend with a special Summer Sale in Southwest Ranches, featuring a hand-picked collection of rare and unusual palms and tropical plants.

Whether you're a collector, enthusiast, or just love unique greenery, you'll find something special.



*Rainforest Collection*®  
By Jeff Searle  
Presents

**A Palm and Tropical Plant Sale**  
from our Private Collection!

**Huge Selection!**

Featuring Palms, Gingers and  
Heliconia Rhizomes, Aroids,  
Flowering Trees  
and Many One of a kinds

**All future sales notifications will be by email only!**

Please send us your name and email address to:  
[Palms@Rainforestcollection.com](mailto:Palms@Rainforestcollection.com)  
or call  
Jeff and Andrea Searle at (954) 658-4317



Saturday, June 14th - 8:00AM - 4:00PM  
Sunday, June 15th - 9:00AM - 3:00PM

**2 Days Only!**

**18200 SW 52nd Lane  
SW Ranches, FL 33331**

**\*No pre sales prior to day of sale\*  
\*No bathrooms will be available\***

We accept Cash, Zelle, and all major Credit Cards



*Rainforest Collection*®



## 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza Sept 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 Kissimmee, FL (Near Disney)

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

Nov 4-7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# 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** 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 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 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. 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> for those who would like to make a vacation out of their stay, but you need to book before August 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

A green poster for the Aussie Broms 2025 conference. The top section is dark green and contains the dates "4<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> November 2025" and the location "Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane, QLD" in white text. The middle section is a lighter green and features the text "INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL EXPERT SPEAKERS DISCUSS ALL THINGS BROMELIADS" in white, hand-drawn style font. A yellow starburst graphic on the right lists activities: "Plant Sales - New Releases!", "Taxonomy Botany Cultivation", "Rare plant auction", and "Garden tours". The bottom section is dark green and includes the website "www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp", the registration link "https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS", the email "AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au", the logo of The Bromeliad Society of Queensland, and a QR code.

**4<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp)  
Register at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS>  
✉ [AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au](mailto: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*