



BromeliAdvisory

Mar 2026

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

Directors:

Alex Bello, President
Tina Severson, Immediate Past President
Pam Neumann, Vice President
Patty Gonzalez, Director
Blanca Clusman, Treasurer
Barbara Partagas, Secretary
Peter Kouchalakos, Director
Denise Karman, Director
Raquel Contreras, Director

Committees:

Editor: Tina Severson
Webmaster: Bob Benaim
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

Upcoming Meeting Preview

Our President, Alex Bello, will be leading an important discussion at our upcoming meeting as we begin preparations for our **Annual Show coming up in May**.

With just two months to go, now is the perfect time to start getting your plants show ready!



Alex will share insights on the **show rules, judging categories, and tips on how to prepare your plants** so they look their best on the show table. Whether you're a seasoned exhibitor or thinking about entering a plant for the first time, this will be a helpful and informative session.

Since our meeting falls on **March 17th**, we'll also be celebrating **St. Patrick's Day** with a festive **potluck dinner**. Please consider bringing a dish to share to help make the evening extra special for everyone.

📍 **Location:** Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden – *Corbin A*

🕒 **Time:** Meeting begins promptly at **7:30 PM**

We look forward to a fun and informative evening as we get ready for the big show!



Your Bromeliad Society Membership Is Due

It's renewal time! Please don't forget to see **Patty** if you are ready to renew your membership for **2026**. Your Bromeliad Society membership is important to us, as it helps support our operating costs and future planning.

Membership Rates:

- Single Membership: \$30
- Dual Membership: \$40

Payment Options:

Memberships may be paid by **credit card, cash, or check**.

Thank you for your continued support—we truly value your membership and involvement in our Society

President's Message

As we look ahead to our next meeting, we will begin preparations for our most important event of the year—our **Annual Show in May**. This event is a wonderful opportunity to share our passion for bromeliads with the community and recruit new members to join our society.

To make this event a success, we will need volunteers—so it will truly be **all hands-on deck**. We especially encourage our new members to get involved and consider entering plants in the show.

If you have bromeliads you are thinking about entering, please bring them to the meeting. We'll be happy to answer questions and share tips on the ins and outs of preparing them for the show. We look forward to working together to make this year's show a great success.



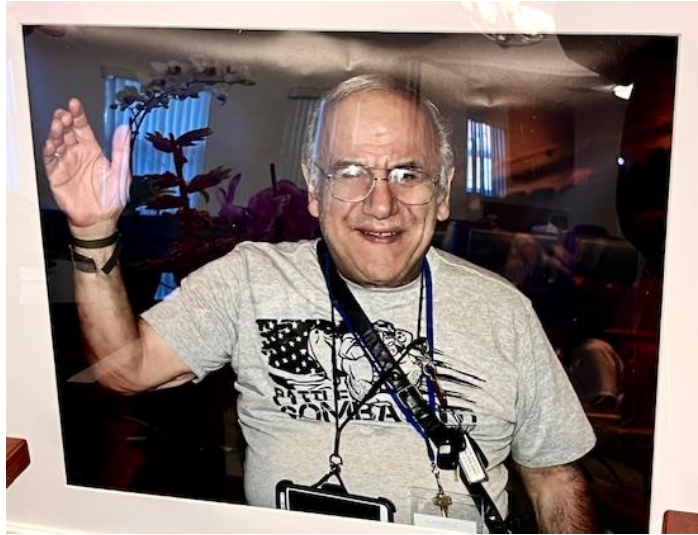
- Alex Bello

In Memory of George Katsaras

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Bromeliad Society and its members for supporting my family during the difficult time of losing my father, George Katsaras. I truly appreciate all the calls, texts, and kindness you showed us. The beautiful bromeliad planter meant so much to our family made by Hospitality, Denise Karman on behalf of BSSF.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Mike

Michalski and Patty Gonzalez. When I gave them a small budget, they somehow managed to fill my



car with bromeliads and orchids fitting for a king for the memorial. When I asked them if I owed them more, they simply said no. That generosity meant more than I can express.

Your kindness helped make the memorial truly special, and I made sure everyone there knew the beautiful arrangements were thanks to the Bromeliad Society of South FL. I also want to thank those who attended and helped make the day so meaningful.



With sincere gratitude,
Tina Katsaras Severson and Family

*Cookies Made by Denise & Nicole
Karman*



In case You Missed It: A Creative Night with Kokedama –

By Tina Severson

Our recent meeting was a wonderful evening filled with creativity, learning, and community spirit. Denise Karman and Sandy Roth led an engaging Kokedama Workshop presentation, inviting members to get their hands dirty and

explore the art of this unique plant display.

For those new to it, kokedama is a Japanese gardening technique that translates to “moss ball.” Instead of a traditional pot, the plant’s roots are wrapped in soil and covered with moss, forming a natural sphere that can be displayed on a dish or suspended as a hanging plant. It’s a beautiful and artistic way to



showcase plants while connecting with nature.





Our director, Patty Gonzalez, shared her thoughts on the evening:

"Last night was a great success. I believe that everybody enjoyed the hands-on program. Sandy and Denise did a great job. Our new Vice President, Pam, ran the meeting very well. The whole board stepped up and helped out wherever needed. Kudos to everyone. Members were also very helpful. Ofelia brought plants to donate, and Mike shared his knowledge of plants. Great meeting."

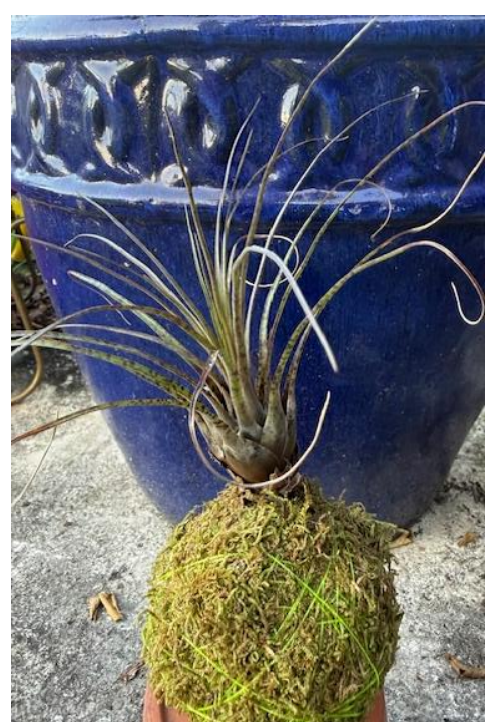
Adding to the fun, Sandy—who always makes sure no one leaves hungry—helped create a festive “LoveFest” themed gathering with plenty of delicious food. Denise prepared pulled pork, Sandy ordered a tray of chicken, and several new members contributed dishes as well. The result was a

wonderful spread that everyone enjoyed.

The meeting had a full house, and our new Vice President, Pam, did a fantastic job leading the evening. With great food, hands-on creativity, and members pitching in to help, it truly was a fun and memorable night for all.



Be sure to check out the photos below to see everyone's beautiful kokedama creations! 🌿



Community Events:

Orchids in Bloom



March 14 & 15, 2026

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

General admission included • Members get FREE tickets

Step into a Botanical Wonderland

Each spring, Orchids in Bloom transforms Fairchild into a multisensory celebration of color, fragrance, and conservation. With over 150,000 blooming orchids, world-class exhibits, captivating cultural performances, and hands-on science for all ages, this two-day festival is one of South Florida's most anticipated spring experiences .

Whether you're an orchid collector, a weekend wanderer, or a family looking for an unforgettable day out, Orchids in Bloom offers an experience like no other.



Save the Date: April 2026 BSI World Conference

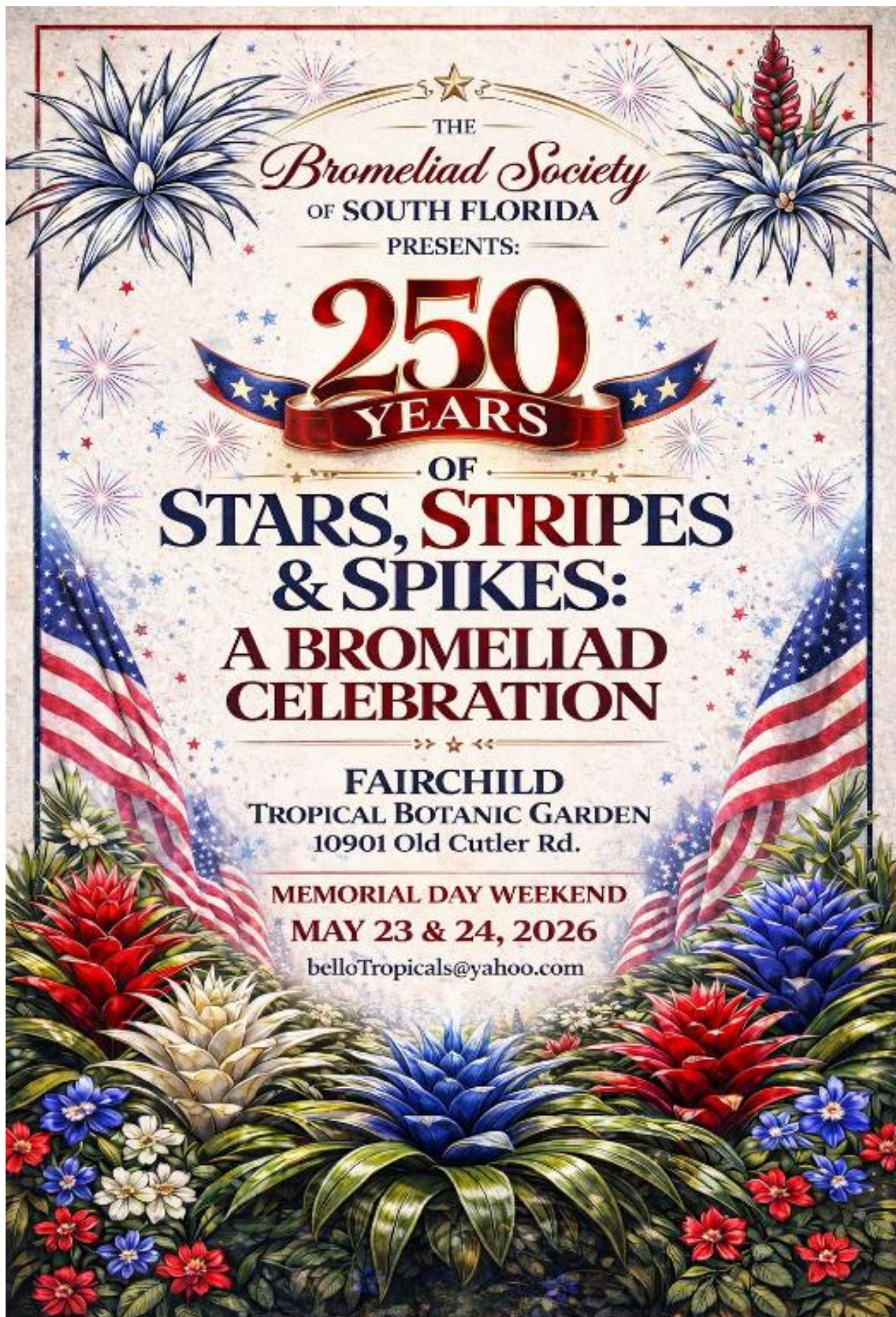
The 2026 BSI World Conference (WBC) will take place from April 14–18 at the Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa, California.

Plan your visit to Costa Mesa, located in Orange County, which was recently named the Fourth Safest City in California. Notably, eight of the top ten safest cities in the state are in Orange County.

Travel is convenient with John Wayne Airport (SNA) just three miles from the venue, and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) approximately 42 miles away.

For the latest updates and information, please visit the official conference website:

<https://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>



THE
Bromeliad Society
OF SOUTH FLORIDA
PRESENTS:

250
YEARS
OF
**STARS, STRIPES
& SPIKES:**
**A BROMELIAD
CELEBRATION**

FAIRCHILD
TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN
10901 Old Cutler Rd.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
MAY 23 & 24, 2026
belloTropicals@yahoo.com

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