



BromeliAdvisory

May 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
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Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Hospitality: Denise Karman
Membership, Patty Gonzalez & Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
Special Events/ Refreshments: Sandy Roth
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo
Field Trip: Tina Severson
FCBS Reps: Maureen & Richard Adelman

The Bromeliad Society Meeting will be held in Corbin A. Join us for Our May Meeting on Tuesday 5/20/25 at 7:30 PM with our very own member, Mike Michalski, who always helps our society in

many ways, both learning and keeping us laughing along the way. He will be doing an interaction lecture on growing tips with a sub lecture on his tips for successful hybridization. He encourages members to ask questions about growing bromeliads successfully in our climate. Let's all show up and give Mike a great audience!



Let's Make this a Mexican Fiesta bring something for the theme of this month! After all this is the month of Cinco De Mayo! Please bring healthy choices and kindly leave the deserts at home!



President's Message Thank you to everyone who helped last month make our Annual Show & Sale successful! Looking Forward to sharing with you all the outcomes of our winners more to come on this. - *Alex Bello*



BSSF 42nd Annual Show & Sale – A Blooming Success!
April 12–13, 2025

We are thrilled to share that our **42nd Annual Bromeliad Show & Sale** was a tremendous success! Held on April 12–13, 2025, the event truly showcased the incredible beauty and diversity of Bromeliads, with stunning plant displays that spoke volumes on their own.

A special thank you goes to **Alex Bello**, our Show Chairman and President of the Society, whose tireless dedication and leadership were instrumental in bringing this event to life. His strong work ethic and commitment to excellence did not go unnoticed and were key to making the Show such a smooth and memorable experience for all involved.



We also extend our heartfelt thank you to all who participated—from our dedicated volunteers and knowledgeable judges to the many new members who joined us. Your teamwork, enthusiasm, and shared passion for Bromeliads are what make this event so special year after year.

A unique and cherished part of our show continues to be the **Student Artwork Exhibit**, brilliantly led by **Samantha Jones** who also recruited her daughter to volunteer for us. Under her guidance, the student art submissions added an extra layer of creativity and community spirit to the event. We dare say we are the *only* Bromeliad Society with such an initiative, and it truly sets us apart.



To our judges: thank you for lending your time and expertise. We are all continually learning from your insights, and your presence helps elevate our Show to new heights.



New Members stay involved—whether through our monthly meetings, hands-on



events, or educational workshops. There is always something to learn, share, and enjoy together.

Thank you once again to everyone who

helped make the 42nd Annual BSSF Show & Sale an event to remember. We look forward to seeing you at the next gathering!



I dare say... what *was* Tony Almodovar thinking? Probably that he needs just *a few more* Bromeliads in the yard!



Brandon Cornejo, caught in action—purchasing and immediately modeling his new blue Bromeliad shirt like a true fashion icon of the Society!



A big thank you to our Vendors! Not only do they help cover the costs of putting on the Show, but they also generously donate plants for our Auction. We hope your beautiful bromeliads were a big hit with buyers!



Our always-anticipated Bromeliad Auction was once again a hit, thanks to longtime member Peter Kouchalakos, whose lively descriptions and deep knowledge kept everyone on their toes! This year, in addition to rare plants, Peter auctioned off select items from our Bromeliad library—giving attendees a rare opportunity to take home treasures never offered before. A heartfelt thank you to our generous vendors for their Bromeliad donations, and to all our dedicated members who contributed plants. Your support played a vital role in making this year's auction such a great success



Justin Severson and Rhonda Herndon standing by—ready to deliver those winning plants to their rightful new owners with care and a smile!

Here are some of our winners from the Show & Sale! Stay tuned for more photos in upcoming issues!





Sandy Roth won for Best Artist arrangement with a little added photo bomb by her father! Truly beautiful work of art!



People Choice award for Decorative Container by Tina Severson (right)

Also, People's Choice award for Artistic Arrangement by Stephanie LaRusso (Bottom)



Tina Severson proudly displays the Habitat entry she's cared for in memory of Antonio Arbelaez. Gifted to her by his family after his passing, this striking Dyckia took a bit of cleaning, a few pricks, and maybe even a little blood—but it was all worth it. Tina was honored to win a silver award on Antonio's behalf. Let's aim for even more Habitat entries next year!!



Huge thanks to our incredible Member Sales and Hospitality teams! If you stopped by, you likely snagged



some stunning bromeliads at great prices!



Thanks to Maureen Adelman for recruiting our Judges' Clerks, those who volunteered had a front-row seat to the judging process and gained invaluable insights into what makes a winning plant. It was an incredible learning experience and one of the most rewarding roles of the show!



Paella under the stars—nothing but the best for our Volunteer Dinner, hosted at the beautiful home of Sandy Roth. It's always a highlight of the year, offering a chance to unwind and enjoy great fellowship after a busy day. Events like this are what make our Society so

special—and a big reason to volunteer! If you missed out this year, be sure to get your name on the list for next year!



Sandy's artful creations are a true feast for the eyes, scattered all over her garden like little masterpieces! They bring so much inspiration and make the event feel festive all on their own. We're beyond grateful for all the hard work she puts into getting her house and yard ready—she's basically a garden superhero every year!

Still accepting donations! It's not too late to help for next year.

Request for Crystal Donations

Dear Members,

As the show approaches, it is time to ask for donations to cover the cost of our crystal prizes. Our prizes are unique to our society. No one else gives such gorgeous prizes and we are proud to give them every year.

In past years, we solicited our members by phone for donations. As no one has time for that task this year we are soliciting by email.

We are happy to accept anything you can afford to give, be it \$5, \$20 or \$100 or anything in between. You can send a check to:

Maureen Adelman, 9421 SW 134 St., Miami, Fl 33176

Or you can drop off your donation to my home. My number is 305 255 3895.

Your donation helps to offset the cost of the show. Last year we did not ask for donations and the show lost money. We do not want to see that happen again.

Our annual Show and Sale is our biggest community service project. We share our love of these beautiful plants with the public by exhibiting winning plants of the highest quality and by offering plants for sale along with advice for growing them. The sight in the Garden House is something to behold, with breathtaking plants and shimmering crystal beside them.

Please help us to keep this tradition alive by sending in your donation now.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Maureen Adelman, Board Member, Show Committee Member and Past President

In Case You Missed It:

-By Tina Severson



Bromeliad Bingo is always a blast, and when it's led by our very own Sandy

Roth, it's like a second career for her! No rookie when it comes to running the show—she loves being the boss! Everyone went home with plants, and we had some amazing donations, plus bromeliads from our last Show & Sale. They might've been leftovers, but they were definitely no discards! Enjoy the photos, and if you missed out, we'll be doing it again next year!



Our Vice President, Barbara Partagas, is always ready to step in and run the show when needed. The quiet mastermind behind the scenes, her experience is truly unmatched. If you've ever wondered who's making sure everything runs smoothly, it's Barbara—and she does it all with a smile



We're excited to welcome several new members! Thank you for introducing yourselves and becoming part of our organization. Your presence helps our society grow, and we look forward to all the contributions you'll make. We also hope you enjoy learning and growing with us along the way!





Calling All Charter Members: Share Your Early Photos of the Club!

We'd love to invite our Charter Members to share any early photos of our club that you may have! If you have photos, especially those taken before 2010, please consider bringing them in for us to scan. Alternatively, you can scan and email them to Alex Bello. Our goal is to create a comprehensive photo archive documenting the club's history, and your contributions would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing these priceless memories!



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

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

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

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

Nov 4-7th, 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 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.

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, arched 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, a dark green banner contains the dates '4TH - 7TH November 2025' and the location 'Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane, QLD'. To the right of the banner is a yellow starburst containing a list of 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' with an envelope icon. 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