



BromeliAdvisory

May 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

Our next Bromeliad Society meeting will be held on May 19th at 7:30 PM in Corbin A
We are excited to welcome our guest speaker, **Dave Johnston.**

Dave's interest in Bromeliads began in 1985 when he purchased the only two Bromeliads available at Frank's Nursery — a *Cryptanthus* 'Pink Starlight' and a *Neoregelia carolinae* type. Shortly thereafter, he discovered Bromeliad societies and clubs filled with enthusiasts who shared his passion, which inspired him to become actively involved in the Bromeliad community.

By 1990, Dave had accumulated such a large collection that he launched *Bromeliads Galore*, a collector's nursery. Over the past 41 years, he has grown and collected more than 2,000 different species and hybrids. While he has scaled back over the years, he still maintains an impressive collection of more than 1,000 different Bromeliads today.

Dave has also been a dedicated leader within the Bromeliad community, serving as President of The Bromeliad Guild of Tampa and President of Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society. In addition, he has served in nearly every club office imaginable, as well as with the Florida Council.

The title of Dave's presentation is:

“Billbergias Are Awesome”

Dave will also be bringing Bromeliads for sale following the meeting, so there will be no vendor sales this month.

Please bring a potluck dish to share with fellow members. Silent Auction donations are also welcomed and appreciated.

We look forward to seeing everyone there for what promises to be an informative and enjoyable evening!

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. **If you are planning to help with the Show you do need to be a member to be covered by our insurance.**

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



Please remember to submit your Show Schedules to me this week if you plan on entering plants in the Show. This is our biggest event of the year, and we need everyone's help to make it a success. I encourage all members to enter plants and participate.

I will be available Tuesday evening to answer any questions you may have regarding entries or the Show.

We are also asking members to donate any extra clean, healthy, and bug-free plants for our Member Sales Table.

For those participating in the 50/50 sales program during our Show & Sale, please remember that you must volunteer your time helping at the sales table to receive 50% back on your sales. Please sign up with Denise or Blanca for a minimum of 3 hours.

Let's work together to make this a fun, successful, and enjoyable event for everyone!

Thank you for your support and participation.

- Alex Bello

BSSF 43rd Annual Show & Sale Show Timeline

Thursday May 21, 2026:

8:00am – 12:00pm	Show Area Setup (Garden House)
12:00pm-7:00pm	Plant Entry (Garden House) Hospitality Table

Friday May 22, 2026:

8:00am-9:00am	Judges Breakfast (Corbin A)
9:00am-12:00pm	BSI Judging (Garden House) Area Closed to everyone but clerks
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch (Judges, Clerks and Show Volunteers)
12:00pm-5:00pm	Vendor Sales setup and offload (Cycad Circle)
5:00pm-5:30pm	Final Preparations and close out for day
6:00pm-	Volunteer, Judges and Board Party at Sandys

Saturday May 23, 2026:

8:00am-10:00am	Show and Sale Staff Setup
1:00pm-2:00pm	Live Auction (Garden House)
10:00am-5:00pm	Welcome and Show and Sale begins

Sunday May 24, 2026:

8:00am-10:00am	Show and Sale Staff Setup
1:00pm-2:00pm	Live Auction (Garden House)
10:00am-5:00pm	Welcome and Show and Sale begins
4:00pm-6:00pm	Show and Sale Tear down

In case You Missed It:

By Tina Severson



Vice President Pam welcomed special guest Diana Gonzalez from the Miami Ceramic League, who treated us to a wonderful pottery demonstration. She made working on the wheel look effortless as she showed us how to create a piece from start to finish, including her technique for making a pinch pot.

At our last meeting, President Alex Bello shared that upcoming gatherings will be a bit more tailored to everyone's interests and what you'd most enjoy. We won't just be focusing on bromeliads but also exploring topics that benefit our gardens as a whole—so expect a nice mix and something for everyone.



Recycling is at the heart of Diana's work. She repurposes just about everything and has an impressive collection of tools. That said, she reminded us that getting started doesn't require anything fancy—simple household items like chopsticks, wooden spoons, or even toothpicks work just fine. In fact, some of the best tools are already in your kitchen.

One key tip she emphasized was keeping your hands wet while working with clay. Diana shared that she grew up making mud pies, so she's always been comfortable getting her hands dirty. It's all about learning to shape the clay without letting it control you, and over time, you begin to feel exactly what it needs.

Working on the wheel, especially when forming that first opening, takes care and practice. Keeping the clay centered is the most important part, and it becomes more natural the more you do it. One essential tool is a wire, used to cut and lift the clay from the wheel.

We also had the chance to get hands-on. Everyone received clay and let their creativity flow—some made gnomes, while others made bells or pots. It was a fun, creative experience for all.

Be sure to enjoy the photos from this engaging and inspiring meeting!



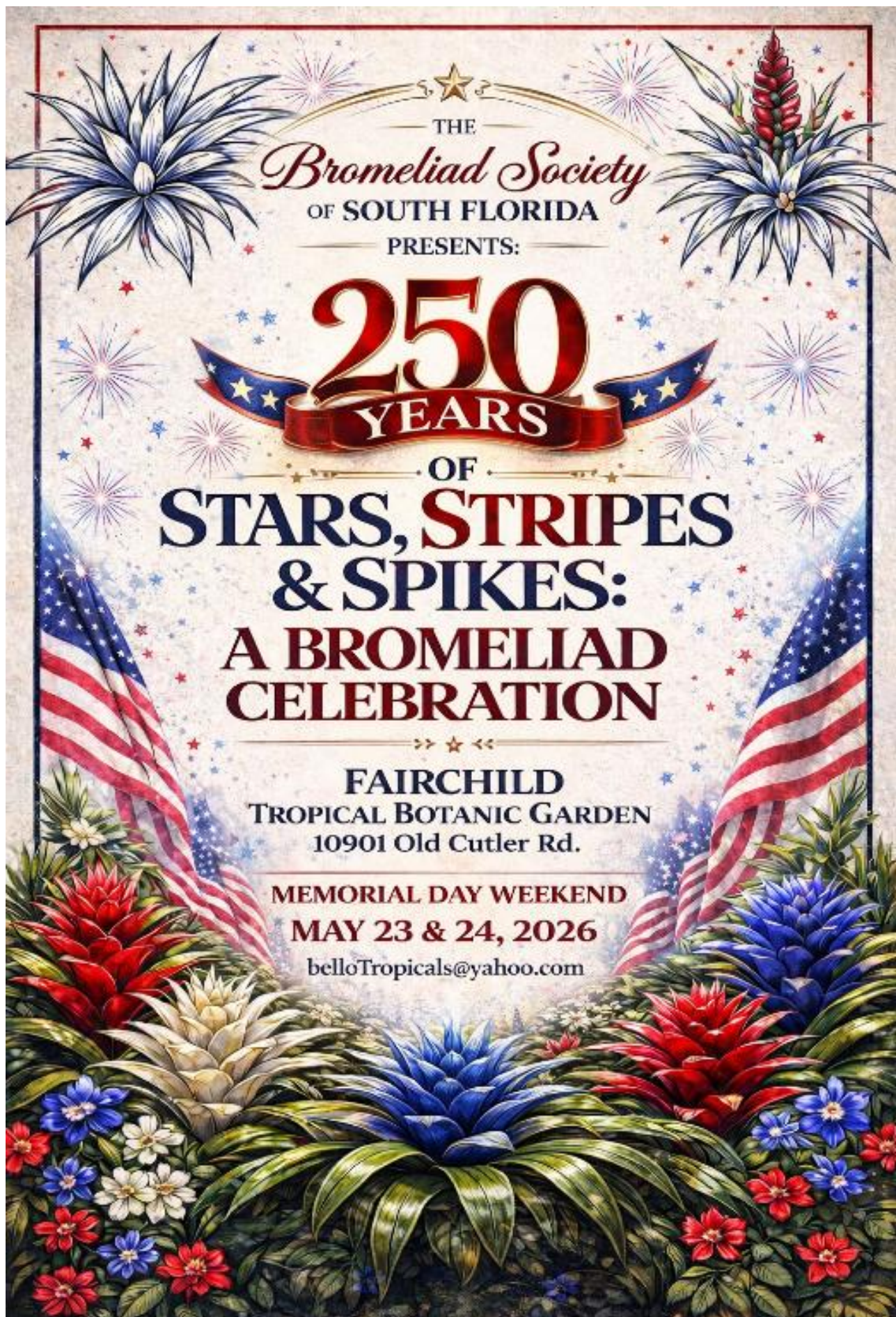
My progression of creating my version of a bell transformed into an octopus! A special thank you to Lenny for taking photos throughout the process while my hands were occupied.

I truly enjoyed making this piece and can't wait to see the final fired creation at our next meeting.



— Tina Severson

Community Events:



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