

BSSF, INC BromeliAdvisory

October 2026

http://www.bssf-miami.org

Directors:
Alex Bello, President
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Pam Neumann, Vice President
Patty Gonzalez, Director
Blanca Clusman, Treasurer
Barbara Partagas, Secretary
Peter Kouchalakos, Director
Denise Karman, Director
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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

BSSF, Inc. Annual Auction

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, is the date for our **Annual BSSF, Inc. Auction!** Please see the flyer for all the details.

Be sure to **come early to preview the auction items**, as the auction will begin promptly at **7:30 PM in the Garden House at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**.

Please bring a **side dish to share** and, if you have any **clean, healthy plants** you would like to donate, we would greatly appreciate them.

This is our **biggest fundraiser of the year**, so come out, enjoy an evening with fellow bromeliad enthusiasts, find some great plants and goodies, and help support BSSF, Inc.!

We look forward to seeing everyone there! Bring your neighbors, family and friends!

Bromeliad Society
OF SOUTH FLORIDA

BSSF, INC.

AUCTION

Rare Bromeliads & Tillandsias at Fantastic Prices!

A great opportunity for collectors
or novice plant lovers!

Tuesday, October 20, 2026
7:30 PM Sharp

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Garden House

Open to the Public!
Food and Fun!

If you have extra beautiful bromeliads you want to donate please make sure they are clean and bug free.

BSSF, INC. will appreciate it!

President's Message



We are excited about our Annual Auction this month! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and helps support all the wonderful events we have planned.

Come out, bring your friends and family, and enjoy the opportunity to find rare and beautiful bromeliads at great prices. Most of all, let's share our love of bromeliads and make this year's auction a great success!

Alex Bello
President, BSSF, Inc.

In Case You Missed It...

By Tina Severson

We started the evening with an update on the **FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza**, which BSSF will be hosting with the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies in July 2027. This is going to be a very special event for our club and the bromeliad community. There will be vendors, incredible plants, an auction, food and special speakers, with plenty of opportunities for our members to get involved.

Because we will be putting our time and energy into the Extravaganza, the Board has decided that we will not have our traditional annual Show and Sale at Fairchild in 2027. It simply does not make sense to take on two major events of this size in the same year. FCBS will be taking on the liability for the Extravaganza, while BSSF will be helping to run the event and will benefit from the profits from the vendors' plant sales. We are excited about what this event will bring and look forward to making it a great experience for everyone.

At the beginning of the meeting, we also heard an interesting update from our Treasurer, **Blanca**, and Alex. They recently reinvested the club's **CDs** and were surprised to discover that the **seven-month CDs were actually paying more interest than the longer-term CDs**. It was a good reminder that it pays to look at the different options when it is time to reinvest.

Alex Bello's Presentation



Our evening continued with a wonderful presentation by our President, **Alex Bello**, who shared his experiences and knowledge about **Vriesea**, including his travels and observations of these beautiful plants growing in Hawaii.

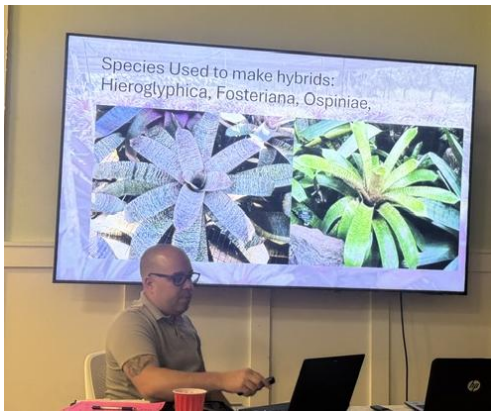


Alex talked about the very different growing conditions in Hawaii and how they can grow such spectacular plants there. One of the



things that stood out was the **light misting** they use, creating a very different environment from what many of us are accustomed to here in South Florida.

He also talked about growing plants using **lava rock rather than traditional soil**, and how different combinations of rocks can be mixed to create the right growing medium. It was fascinating to see how something as simple as the choice of growing



medium can make such a difference in how these plants are grown.



Alex showed us some of the incredible plants being grown in Hawaii, including the amazing size and beauty they can achieve under those conditions. Some of these specimens are truly

spectacular, and he explained that certain large and exceptional plants can be valued at **as much as $1,000**.



His presentation gave us a wonderful look at how growers in Hawaii approach these plants and the different techniques they use to produce such impressive specimens. The photos and information made it easy to appreciate just how beautiful and unusual these plants can become when given the right conditions.



Thank you to Alex for sharing his knowledge, experiences and beautiful plants with us. It was another informative and enjoyable BSSF meeting, and a great reminder of how much there is still to learn from fellow bromeliad growers.









Longtime member Elaine Mills enjoying the presentation looking cool as ever!

Community Events:

[For Tickets Click Here]





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Fall Maker's Market

Saturday, October 24th
10 am - 3 pm

Come join us for a day of fun, creativity, and caring!

A variety of makers will be at our studio selling their unique creations, including jewelry, candles, pottery, wood turned items and more. Take a tour of the Ceramic League studios and watch artists at work.







305 PINK PACK
For ALL Cancers!

Featuring an Empty Bowls benefit for 305 Pink Pack in support of breast cancer awareness month.

Ceramic League of Miami

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Vendor spaces available

Call Diana Gonzalez at 305-793-0597

For more information

8873 SW 129th Street • 305-233-2404

www.ceramicleaguemiami.org

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 itch even better!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Tina Severson