



BromeliAdvisory

Sept 2025

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

Directors:

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
Lynn Gordon, Director

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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

Next Bromeliad Society Meeting – Tuesday, September 16th, 2025, 🍁

Fall is in the air (hopefully bringing some relief from South FL's heat!), and we're celebrating with a Squash-Themed Potluck featuring delicious seasonal foods!

Our society will provide meatloaf and mashed potatoes, and we invite you to bring a side dish to share. Sandy suggests butternut squash, acorn squash, pumpkin, corn casserole, or any other Fall-inspired favorite.

Important Notes:

- Silent auction items are welcome and greatly appreciated—see details below.

Schedule:

- 7:00 PM: Arrive early for refreshments.
- 7:30 PM: Meeting begins promptly.

Come join the fun, share some tasty dishes, and enjoy the company of fellow bromeliad enthusiasts!

We're in for a treat this September! Our very own President, Alex Bello, will be sharing a surprise presentation he's been preparing just for us. We're so lucky to have a leader who also enjoys teaching and inspiring. Can't wait to see what Alex has in store — you won't want to miss it!

President's Message:

We had a fantastic turnout at last month's meeting, thank you to all our members for your continued support! Let's keep the momentum going. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again, and don't forget to invite your family and friends to join in the fun and beauty of our bromeliad community!

- Alex Bello



Raffle Fun with Maureen Adelman and Happy Members



We appreciate our enthusiastic members! Many left with wonderful prizes from our raffle tables and special purchases they selected. You can see the beautiful bromeliads and members thoroughly enjoying the presentation.



Board Nominations Are Underway

The Nominating Committee, chaired by **Maureen Adelman**, is now accepting nominations for the Bromeliad Society Board of Directors. Open positions include **President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Director roles**, all of which serve as key leadership opportunities within our society.

Several members have already accepted nominations and will be presented for a vote at the **November meeting**. If you are interested in running for any of the open positions, you may announce your candidacy at the meeting to be added to the **ballot**, or you may notify **Maureen Adelman** in advance of your interest.

We encourage all members with the desire to volunteer and help guide the future of our society to consider serving.

NOTICE – BSSF By-Law Update

As approved by the BSSF Board of Directors, the following change has been made to:
Article VII – Nominations and Elections, Section 4

◆ Change from:

Article VII, Section 4:

Notwithstanding the provision of this Article VII, Section 3, the Treasurer's or Secretary's position may be renewed on a yearly basis upon approval by the Board.

◆ Change to:

Article VII, Section 4:

Notwithstanding the provision of this Article VII, Section 3, the Treasurer's, Secretary's, or President's position may be renewed on a yearly basis upon approval by the Board.

Silent Auction – All Are Welcome!

Have extra bromeliads to share? Bring them in for our Silent Auction! It's a great way to share your plants and support the club. You'll keep **80% of the sale**, and the club receives **20%**—unless you'd like to donate more, of course.

It's a win-win for everyone: members get to enjoy new plants, and we all benefit from the exchange. Just be sure your plants are **clean and bug-free**—let's leave the pests at home!

If you have any questions, please see our Silent Auction Chair, **Rene Izquierdo**.



These artistic driftwood arrangements were created by **Denise Karman**

In Case You Missed It:

-By Tina Severson



At our August meeting, we were delighted to welcome Dr. Terrie Bert as our featured speaker. Dr. Bert much prefers giving live talks, and her passion for bromeliads is truly contagious. She packed the house, as many



came to hear her speak! Our recent talk was a great success, drawing strong interest and enthusiasm from members. Her presentation focused on what it means to be a bromeliad collector, someone who specializes in certain groups of plants, while often exploring far beyond them.



She arrived with a car packed full of bromeliads—barely able to fit them all in! And used them to illustrate her talk. Beginning with Amazonian *Neoregelias* and moving on to *cruentas*, she explained that some bromeliads thrive in blazing sun, turning brilliant red, and can grow up to 50% larger than expected. She often grows hers in bare pots with exposed roots, using little to no potting soil except for terrestrials.



Neoregelias, she noted, are excellent for mounting in trees and thrive in shade. In the forest, only about 3% of sunlight filters down, so their red pigments help capture reflected light. Hybrids such as *compacta* and *oland* are often used in breeding programs.

Double-tagging plants is a smart practice, and Dr. Bert prefers placing her labels down the side or at the bottom of the pot, facing inward.

The beauty of many *oland* hybrids is that they stay small, making them ideal for collectors with limited space. She highlighted the work of Chester Skotak, whose hybrid crosses are stunning but sometimes finicky—successfully growing and showing them often leads to awards.



She also shared practical advice: no bromeliad tolerates acorns, though many can handle leaves. However, too much leaf litter smothering the center can kill the plant. Some *Alcantareas* may take up to 30 years to bloom. She also praised Ray Coleman's remarkable hybrids, though his reluctance to share cross information made registration

difficult.



When mounting bromeliads on trees, Dr. Bert does not recommend wiring. Instead, she advises starting the plant at the base of the tree and letting it climb naturally. She also spoke about *Billbergias*, many of Don Beadle's

hybrids, which are compact, beautiful, and space efficient. Some hybrid names are so long they fill the entire tag! After Don's passing, many of his hybrids were left with numbers instead of names when his collection was sold.



Dr. Bert reminded us that to register hybrids with the BSI, you must submit a photo of the plant in bloom and follow their rules. She also brought a "potpourri collection" of bromeliads and shared how she covers tree stumps with *Quesnelia marmorata*.

She encouraged members to attend bromeliad extravaganzas, where you can meet fascinating people, discover incredible bargains, and expand your collection. With a laugh, she reminisced that in her younger days, she even hosted a few late-night "lectures" with her roommates that were quite risqué and amusing!

Her passion extended into pollination, noting that nearly all *Pitcairnias* are pollinated by hummingbirds. These plants often grow near water, sending up long inflorescences that naturally angle toward water sources—even backyard pools.



Among her favorites, she highlighted *Tillandsia bergeri*, *Tillandsia hildae* (which can easily be killed by overwatering), and *Tillandsia polystachia*. She fertilizes sparingly, placing just a few Dynamite pellets in the outer leaves.

She also noted that *Dyckias* can grow in desert conditions.



Dr. Bert speaks the language of botany with ease, and while many of the hybrid names rolled off her tongue too quickly for me to capture, her enthusiasm and depth of knowledge were unmistakable. It was clear to everyone in attendance that bromeliads are not just a hobby for her, they are a lifelong passion. We were truly fortunate to have her share her expertise and energy with us at our August meeting.



Upcoming Community Events

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

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


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](https://www.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.



Our President, **Alex Bello**, is looking for volunteers to help with the **Motes Orchid Event** on **October 17–19, 2025**

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Our Bromeliad Society has been invited to volunteer and participate in this year's **Orchid Festival**, and we need your help!

Volunteer Details:

- A **\$65 donation per shift** will be made in the name of each volunteer to our Society.
- Volunteers also receive **free entry to the show, raffle tickets, and a small token of appreciation.**

Available Dates & Shifts:

- **Friday, October 17**
- **Saturday, October 18**
- **Sunday, October 19**

👉 **Shift One:** 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

👉 **Shift Two:** 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Important:

Please let us know **all the shifts you are available for** (not just one preference). The more options you provide, the better chance you'll have of being selected, as many societies are being invited.

Don't wait—send me your availability quickly so we can forward our volunteer list to the **Motes Family**.

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, the dates '4TH - 7TH November 2025' and the location 'Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane, QLD' are listed. A yellow starburst graphic on the right lists 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.

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/>

World Bromeliad Conference 2026 — “California Dreaming”



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