



## BromeliAdvisory

Feb 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

### **Committees:**

Editor: Tina Severson  
Advertising: TBD  
Webmaster: Bob Benaim  
Door Prize: Alan Herndon  
Hospitality: Denice 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

### **Bromeliad Society Meeting - February 18th, 2025**

Join us for our next Bromeliad Society meeting at **The Garden House**, located within Fairchild Tropical Garden, on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, at 7:15 PM.

We kindly ask attendees to bring a side dish to share, with a preference for healthier options. As noted by Sandy in our last meeting, many of our members have dietary restrictions, so your thoughtful contribution is greatly appreciated. Please note that desserts are best avoided to accommodate these needs.

### **Our speaker for the meeting will be Alex Bello, our President and Show Chairman.**

He'll be discussing the upcoming Show & Sale and inviting anyone who can bring in bromeliads to learn how to prepare them for the show in April. We encourage everyone to look through their plants and bring one that looks good, even if you think it's not "good enough." This is a great opportunity to get your entries ready, as Alex will cover the ins and outs—the good, the bad, and the ugly—of prepping your plants for the event. You won't want to miss this meeting! Alex will also call on some of our members to share their experiences in entering plants, as we value everyone's input, especially from those who have been successful in past years.

## **If You haven't renewed your membership, you still have time to be in our Roster.**

We've got an exciting year ahead in 2025, with a fantastic lineup of speakers that promise to keep things both fun and educational! Membership for 2025 is \$30 for one person and \$40 for two at the same address. If you haven't paid yet, please use the links provided to submit your payment. Alternatively, if you prefer the traditional method and need to pay by check, be sure to catch up with Patty Gonzalez at our upcoming meeting.

Single Membership: <https://checkout.square.site/buy/DRRBMLMKT5C6HKFHIK3VXOKZ>

Double Membership

<https://checkout.square.site/buy/T7SSVJJC5HMU7HJNYZBNN6R>

## **Silent Auction Welcome!**

Got extra plants you'd like to share? Bring your beautiful, clean, and bug-free specimens to our Silent Auction! You'll keep 80% of the winning bid, and the club will receive 20%. Want to donate more? Feel free! It's a win-win for all!

## **From Karina Motes:**

Thank you to BSSF for participating in The Tamiami International Orchid Festival!

The Tamiami Int Orchid Festival has made a donation of \$130 to your society in the names of:

Linda Pacun  
Wayne Pacun

Please take a moment at your next meeting to recognize these wonderful members!

## President's Message:



We'll need everyone's help for our upcoming Show & Sale. This meeting is essential, not only to learn about bromeliads and how to prepare them for the show, but also to sign up for volunteer committees.

We need all hands-on deck to ensure the success of our April event, which is our largest of the year and a vital fundraiser. It's also a great opportunity to engage with the community, showcase our incredible society, and share our passion for bromeliads.

*- Alex Bello*

**Mike Michalski, always there to support and assist our President, Alex—let's just call him the ultimate sidekick!**



**Wishing the lovely Elaine Mills a very Happy 98th Birthday! We are truly blessed to have you in our Bromeliad Society. Your positivity, warmth, and welcoming spirit have touched all of us, and we are so fortunate to benefit from your presence. Thank you for everything you've done for our society. We love you, Elaine!**





## A Heartfelt Thank You for a Successful Garage Sale!

We are excited to announce a grand total of \$1,000.50 raised! A huge thank you to everyone who generously donated items, helped with setup, and worked the event. Special recognition goes to Maureen and Richard Adelman for their incredible support. Not only did they give their time, but they also graciously hosted the sale at their home. I've also heard they went above and beyond by providing meals for the crew – truly remarkable!

We deeply appreciate Maureen, Richard, and everyone who contributed to the success of this event. According to Maureen, this was one of the best financial outcomes we've had for the Society in quite some time!

Thank you again for your generosity and hard work!



Maureen Rocking the Lamp Shade!



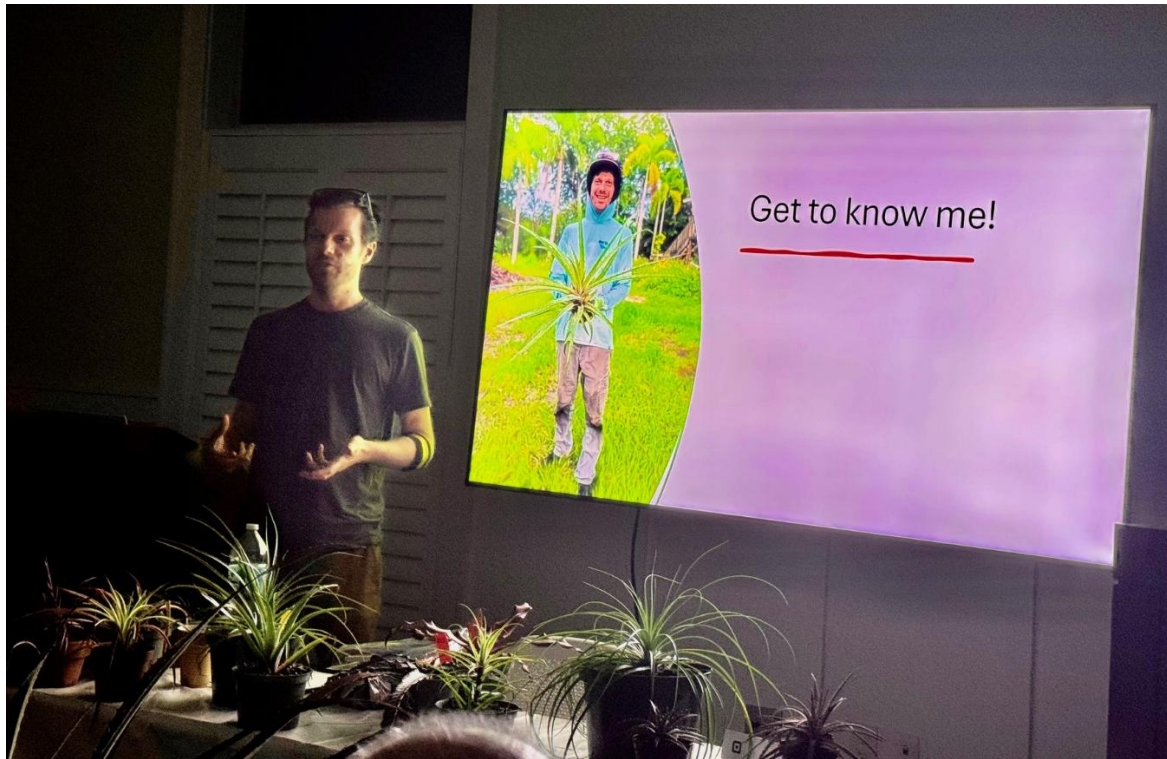


**Alex Bello showcasing some of Rene Izquierdo's incredible Tillandsias. As always, Rene not only brings these stunning plants but also knows the perfect way to display them**



Rene Izquierdo receiving a hug from Board Member Maria, showing our appreciation for his contributions and show-and-tell items.





## In Case You Missed It:

*-Tina Severson*

Matt Bagley spoke to our group last month, sharing both personal insights and fascinating information about bromeliads. His presentation was truly engaging, and the specimens he brought with him were nothing short of incredible! You can see them in the photos below. Matt, tired of the cold northern weather, decided to move to Florida, where he purchased a nursery and began his bromeliad journey.

Matt discussed terrestrial bromeliads, emphasizing that there are no strict rules when it comes to their classification. Bromeliads are highly adaptable, and many can thrive in various environments. While some may appear to be succulents, the more Matt learns, the more he realizes the crossover potential of many species. For example, Tillandsias are highly adaptable, and pineapples are classic terrestrials that require consistent water and the right environment to thrive. Cryptanthus also need constant water, while Deuterocohias and Ochoas prefer a terrestrial habitat but can grow on rocks. On the other hand, Dyckias favor soil, and Orthophytums are particularly remarkable as they pup from the bloom.

Matt mentioned that many bromeliads share genes with Tillandsias, making them versatile in how they adapt to different environments, though they are primarily terrestrial. He sources many of his plants from collectors and is always on the lookout for rare specimens. He also noted that



bromeliads benefit from granular fertilizers. One of the most interesting bromeliads he shared was the Balansae, which produces berry-like fruit that, when ripe, turns yellow. The fruit has a unique taste, like pineapple but sweeter.



Matt's journey into the world of bromeliads began with a background in music and organic agriculture. He later worked at a mushroom farm but is largely self-taught in the field of bromeliads.



He also shared some insights on fertilizers, recommending Florian 8-2-14, a low-phosphorus formula perfect for promoting healthy growth in bromeliads.

Barbara Partagas has truly embraced her new role as VP with enthusiasm, jumping right in to introduce our speaker. In addition, she has begun sharing some of the magazines that have been cherished by our society over the years, offering them to members as she works to organize and clear out our library for those interested in print.

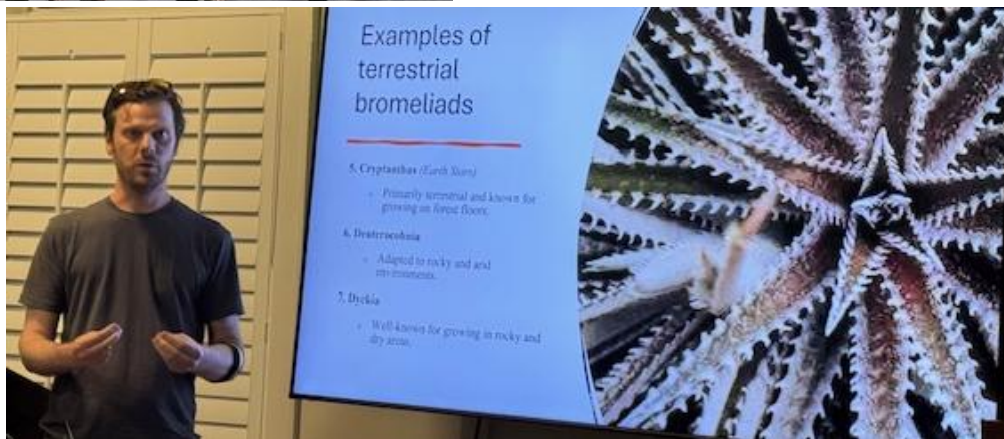




Matt Bagley brought in an impressive collection of rare and collectible terrestrial bromeliads, many of which were sold to our fortunate members who had the opportunity to purchase these unique bromeliads. As always, we hosted exciting raffles, including food raffle tickets, attendance prizes, and a variety of specimens on our raffle table.











## 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](http://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!

## **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!

## **Upcoming Community Events**



### **Orchid Society of Coral Gables "Fairchild Orchid Festival"**

The Orchid Society of Coral Gables "Fairchild Orchid Festival" is being held March 8 - 9, 2025 at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral Gables, FL 33156.





Event of the Year for the Bromeliad Society of South Florida  
This is our biggest event of the year, and we need all our members to volunteer! Please be sure to

connect with the Committee Chairs at our next meeting to see how you can help. Your support is crucial to making this event a success!



The [Rare Plant Festival](#) will take place April 18-20 at the Fair Expo Center. Please let us know if you would like to also volunteer as this is a great fundraiser for our BSSF club if you are chosen. The more flexible you are the more likely you are to be picked. Please let Tina Severson know as soon as possible so she can get the list over to Karina Motes.

**Nov 4-7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 for the Aussie Broms 2025 Conference features a green background with a faint pattern of bromeliad leaves. At the top, the text "EXPLORING DIVERSITY & BEAUTY" is written in a green, curved font, with "2025" in large orange numbers 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 "4<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> 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, it provides the website "www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp", the registration link "https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS", and the email "AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au". The logo of The Bromeliad Society of Queensland is in the bottom left, and a QR code is in the bottom right.

**4<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp)  
Register at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS>  
✉ [AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au](mailto: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*