



BromeliAdvisory

January 2024

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

Directors:

Alex Bello, President
Tina Severson, Immediate Past President
Patty Gonzalez, Vice President
Samantha Jones, Treasurer
Maria Almodovar, Secretary
Sandy Roth, Director
Karen Bradley, Director
Denise Karman, Director
Lynn Gordon, Director

Committees:

Editor: Tina Severson
Advertising: Samantha Jones
Webmaster: Bob Benaim
Door Prize: Alan Herndon
Hospitality: Elaine Mills & Barbara Partagas
Membership, Patty Gonzalez & Melody Ray
Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello
Special Events/ Refreshments: Sandy Roth
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo
Field Trip: Tina Severson

January 16, 2024, Next Meeting 7:30 PM Corbin A

(No Member Sales, We will have Silent Auction & Raffle Table, Food Items welcomed)

Alex Bello our New President will be our speaker and will be discussing tillandsias.

He is a collector and an avid grower of tropical plants ranging from bromeliads, orchids, ferns, aroids and beyond. He has been collecting all types of tropical plants for over 25 years with his specialty being bromeliads. Alex first fell in love with bromeliads when he was gifted a variegated neoregelia which took off and then it became an out-of-control hobby that he truly loves. Alex has held high level positions in the plant industry as Southern Regions Director for the Bromeliad Society International. Alex makes history for his second time around as President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, he held the office in 2017-2018 and voted back again for 2024. In addition, part of Florida council of Bromeliad societies and President of the International Aroid Society. He has been Show and Sale Chairmen for both organizations. Alex is an avid outdoorsman whose love for the Everglades and Florida's ecology is truly remarkable. He also enjoys fishing, swamp walks, "any outdoor adventure in any environment", and is a 23-year veteran of the Miami-Dade

County public schools as a high school administrative assistant over school operations, budget, and personnel. He is the owner of Bello Tropicals Nursery as seen below in photo. He has donated many plants to our society, including our holiday party to help make it a success. Let's welcome our President and support him in his efforts.



Membership Drive

Time again for our annual membership drive. Your membership is important to us. Please take the time to renew your membership or join if you are new. Dues remain \$25.00 per person and \$35.00 per couple. Please see Patty Gonzalez, membership chair. The deadline for renewal is March 1, 2024, to be included in the FCBS roster. You can click on our website above to access the membership form and pay through the links below.

[Double Membership - \\$35](https://square.link/u/LpDC7hqv)
<https://square.link/u/LpDC7hqv>

[Single Membership - \\$25](https://square.link/u/3a3y4W9z)
<https://square.link/u/3a3y4W9z>

2023 Board of Directors Appreciated

“I could not have been President for the last two years if it wasn’t for the amazing board that has helped guide me. We accomplished many things including getting back out into the public with two shows after being shut down for 2 years due to Covid. We enjoyed numerous educational field trips. We had many fundraisers and began the start of Student Scholarships. Also, we voted to add new procedural documents for the Board of Directors to formalize our processes. Your support has truly been amazing and greatly appreciated!”

- Thank you, Tina Severson, Immediate Past President



Board members:

Maria Almodovar, Denise Karmen, Patty Gonzalez, Maureen Adelman, Sandy Roth, Tina Severson
(not pictured: Samantha Jones and Karen Bradley)

Presidents Message

“It is with great honor to be back and retake the helm of the oldest Bromeliad Society in the state of FL. This is an honor and privilege to be serving as president for the second time. As we open 2024 with this year’s theme, “The Grand Return & Back to Basics.” We will emphasize the World Conferences grand return to South FL after 34 years and the push to bring Southern FL front and center in the bromeliad world. As your new President, I could not be prouder of all the dedication and devotion you give back. Our organization would not be where it is today without your support, and I look forward to bringing back the best of the best.”

- Alex Bello

Volunteer of the Year 2023 Melody Ray

Melody has been doing our roster for many years. She has had her position longer than any other volunteer and has been maintaining our membership files for our roster for more than 15 years.

This award is long overdue and well deserved. She may be out of sight because of her work schedule but she is meticulous and has always been the first person to respond when we need something corrected. Thank you, Melody!



Melody Ray Volunteer of the Year! Bromeliad donated by Chip Jones.
Presented by Past President, Tina Severson 2022-2023

BSSF, INC Logo

Time for a change! If you have the talent to create a logo, we want to see it. We will be bringing the logos to the general meeting to decide on the final one.

December 2023 Holiday Party

Our members sure know how to put on a party! Thank you to Sandy Roth and everyone involved in the beautiful setup. It's so nice that we have members that take the time to make this event special for us every year. It takes a team to do this, and everyone is important! We appreciate all of you that helped decorate, donated plants and brought food! Our society always does things first class! This is the event that makes the whole year worth it when we come together and celebrate!

The photos speak for themselves.





Welcome our new member on the left Attorney, Sasha Kaskel who attended our last field trip and discovered she loves tillandsias. Also, welcome Dr. Andrew Podley, a plant enthusiast and traveling anesthesiologist. He will attend our meetings when he is in town. Sitting with Athena Severson and Niko Katsaras.

NightGarden Miami at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

We are fortunate to have our meetings at one of the most beautiful gardens! Added benefit for those who were up to walking around the award-winning light spectacular in the garden after our holiday party!



