



## BromeliAdvisory

Mar 2025

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

### Directors:

Alex Bello, President  
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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 – March 18th, 2025

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

### Thank You for the Delicious Food!

A big thank you to everyone who brought food to share at our last meeting! Let's continue focusing on healthier options, as Sandy suggested.

Remember, if you bring food, you'll get a raffle ticket for a chance to win a Bromeliad! We had a great turnout with healthy choices last month, and we ask that you avoid desserts due to dietary restrictions. Thanks again, and we look forward to more tasty, healthy treats at our next meeting!



## **Our March speaker: David Sands – Hybridizing Bromeliads**



David Sands first ventured into the world of bromeliads as a part-time job in high school, working alongside Michael Kiehl. Over the 17 years they worked together, David developed a deep fascination for these unique plants and became dedicated to learning everything he could about them.

In this program, David will share his expertise on hybridizing bromeliads—a process that can be both fun and challenging. He'll cover the fundamentals of hybridization, including how to get seeds to grow, and will showcase the easier groups of bromeliads to hybridize and germinate, with visual examples to guide us through the process.

We are thrilled to welcome David to our club and are eager to learn from his wealth of experience in the fascinating world of bromeliads. As a special bonus, David will be bringing many of his rare and beautiful bromeliads for sale, so don't miss this opportunity to add something unique to your collection!

**If You haven't renewed your membership, you still have time before our April Show**

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/T7SSVJJC5HMU7HJNYYZBNN6R>



**Alex Bello proudly presents Rene Izquierdo's Tillandsia, sharing valuable tips on how to enter it in our upcoming show. He also holds Maureen Adelman's stunning Dyckia, showcasing its unique beauty. Get ready for the show and join us for expert advice and inspiration!"**

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## Volunteer for Our Upcoming Show & Sale!



We need your help to make our Show & Sale a success! If you're interested in being a judge's clerk, please see Maureen Adelman. This is a great way to learn from what the judges have to say about plants. If you're entering plants for the Member Sales Table, see Denise Karman. To sell plants at the Member Sales Table, we ask that you volunteer your time, unless you donate 100%



of the proceeds to the club. Remember, the sale is a 50/50 split between the club and the seller if you volunteer. As per Denise, "These are the club rules!"

Other volunteer positions are available as well at our hospitality table. Join us at the next meeting if you're interested in helping. We're also seeking food donations for the event. If you'd like to contribute, please see Sandy Roth who can let you know how to assist. The club will provide the main courses, but any additional help is appreciated.



As a thank-you, all volunteers are invited to the Volunteer Dinner at Sandy Roth's house on Friday night April 11<sup>th</sup> immediately after the judging event. Enjoy her beautiful artistic garden and a wonderful evening of fellowship with our team and judges! Thank you for your support in making this event fun and successful!

Sandy has always been supported by the unwavering love of her father Rudy—his embrace has undoubtedly helped shape the incredible person she is today.

## Silent Auction Welcome!

Have extra plants you'd love 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 even more? Feel free, it's a win-win for everyone! Be sure to connect with Rene Izquierdo, our Silent



Auction Chairman, for more details. He's pictured here with some of his stunning plants, alongside Vice President Barbara and his sister Neyda, who's always there to cheer him on. A big thank you to Rene for all your hard work!



**Big thanks to Rhonda Herndon for providing beautiful bromeliads for our door prizes—just by attending as a member, you could win! Also, thank you to Laura Schrier for sharing the love with our members, and to Gloria Golightly for coming early and helping Sandy set up the food. We truly appreciate all you do!**







## President's Message:



**It's Show Time!** Get ready for an exciting time ahead! We have an amazing speaker lined up, and we'll be finalizing the Bromeliad Show & Sale volunteers for our committees. This meeting will also be a great opportunity to get answers to any questions you may have as we approach the big

day.

Your participation and support are crucial to ensuring its success, and we truly appreciate all the help we can get. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to make this an unforgettable experience!

*- Alex Bello*

## Key Points.....

- \* Center your Plant
- \* Over potted
- \* Plant Crooked
- \* Excessive Leaf Trimming
- \* Dead Leaves
- \* Pot too large for the Plant
- \* Clean Pot
- \* Proper Dressing for Pot

## In Case You Missed It:

-Tina Severson

### Bromeliad Show & Sale: Tips for Entering Plants

As we prepare for our upcoming Bromeliad Show & Sale, Alex Bello, our President and Show Chairman, shared some valuable tips on entering your plants. While the guidelines may seem detailed, don't be intimidated, this is an opportunity to learn, grow, and improve each year with helpful feedback from our judges. Here are some key takeaways:

#### 1. Clean Pots Are a Must

Judges place significant importance on the pots. Always use a clean pot—if needed, buy a new one. Opt for green, black, or clay pots, and be mindful not to over-pot your plant. The pot should be just the right size for the bromeliad.

#### 2. Symmetry Matters

A well-shaped, symmetrical plant is preferred. Don't remove too many leaves from the base, but feel free to trim any leaves that are longer than the top of the plant. The goal is a nice rosette appearance.



PERFECT DOUBLE BUT LOOK AT LOWER LEAVES NOT EVEN

#### 3. Handling Blemishes

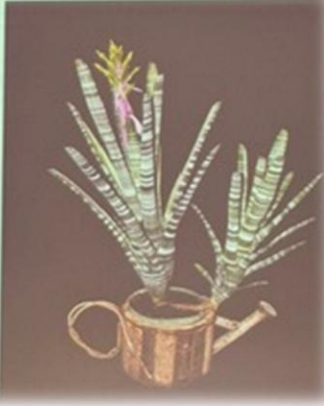
Blemishes may result in a few points being deducted but be cautious when trimming leaves. If you trim, ensure it follows the natural growth pattern of the plant—incorrect trimming can often result in more deductions than simply leaving the blemish.

#### 4. Thorough Cleaning

Clean your bromeliads thoroughly before entering, as Alex has learned from Mike Michalski. Use a hose and shake the plant vigorously to ensure it's free of dirt, insects, or scale.



Plant Not Straight & Decorative Container Smaller than Plant Size

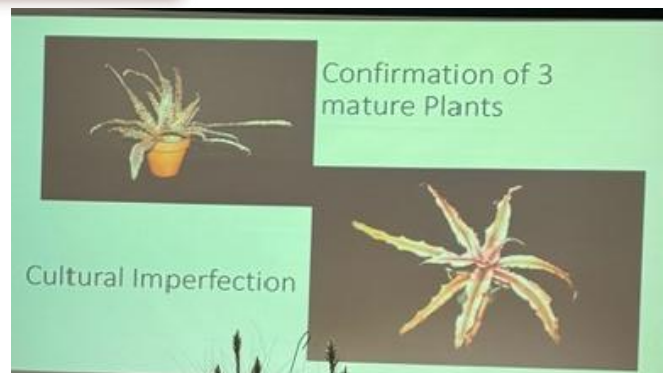


#### 5. Decorative Containers

If entering your bromeliad in a decorative container, choose one that is appropriately sized for the plant and complements its beauty—not one that distracts from it. For multiple plants, ensure they are spaced appropriately.

#### 6. Inflorescences

For bromeliads with an inflorescence (flower spike), ensure the flower stalk is straight. Some plants, like Vriesea, may be difficult to straighten, but with practice, our growers have mastered it. One way is to rotate the pot as it's growing towards the sun. If entering a Tillandsia or a plant with blooms,



remove any spent blooms to enhance the plant's appearance.



Examples of Head Table Plants





## 7. Avoid Over Potting



should never be too large for the plant. New baskets and pots are preferred, and you can top the soil with aquarium gravel (preferably black) or fresh soil to add a clean, polished look.

## 8. Cut Inflorescences

If you are entering a cut inflorescence, keep it centered in a clear glass vase. A simple vase without distractions works best, and you may add clear glass beads to keep centered for the presentation.

Remember, you can enter as a novice if this is your first time or if you haven't received an award of merit. For detailed rules and more tips, be sure to consult the Show schedule. If you have any questions, Alex Bello is happy to assist.

We're excited about the upcoming Show & Sale and look forward to seeing everyone's beautiful entries. Don't be afraid to participate—this is a wonderful opportunity to share your plants, get them judged, and learn from the experience. Let's make this event a great success together!

For Tillandsias, use orchid pots or wire hangers that are appropriately sized. They



Hard to beat Lori Weyrick when it comes to Tillandsias! Here she is, sharing her stunning hanging beauty in full bloom!





## 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



**APRIL 12-13, 2025**

**BROMELIAD  
SHOW & SALE**

**10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens**

10901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral Gables, FL

- 1,000s of unique species for sale
- Rare Plants
- Over 8 vendors from around the United States

For more information contact:  
Alex Bello, Show & Sale Chairman  
BelloTropicals@yahoo.com

**Bromeliad Society  
of South Florida**

### 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!





## 2025 Student Art Contest

**Studio Art:**  
Painting/Drawing



**Photography:** Color or  
Black and White



### Contest Rules:

- Open to students in grades 6, 7 and 8 in Miami-Dade county.
- Limited to one entry per student in either the studio art or photography category.
- Deliver entries to Fairchild's Garden House, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 - 11 am, unless other arrangements have been made. Entries must be matted and ready for hanging in the gallery.
- Judging will be conducted at noon on April 10<sup>th</sup> with results posted on our website, [bssf-mia.org](http://bssf-mia.org), by 5 pm. Criteria includes interpretation of theme (bromeliads), originality, creativity, and composition.
- Cash prizes and ribbons awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category, as determined by the judges.
- Student artwork will be on display for the **Annual Show and Auction, Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13, from 10 am – 4 pm**. Works should be picked up between 4 and 6 pm on Sunday.
- Any Questions? Contact Samantha Jones, Student Art Director at 305-975-1538.

**To submit an entry**, email details by April 1: Student name, Grade, Contact email and phone number with a photo of the entry to [samanthanjones100@gmail.com](mailto:samanthanjones100@gmail.com)



10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami, FL, 33156



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.

## 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza Sept 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 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.sanfordgardenclub.com/extravaganza) 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 Irla 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.

**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 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 a large, bold, orange font below it. The main title 'AUSSIE BROMS' is in a large, green, stylized font, with a red and yellow 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 in white. 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](http://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**

**4<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> November 2025**  
Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane, QLD

**INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL  
EXPERT SPEAKERS DISCUSS  
ALL THINGS BROMELIADS**

Plant Sales - New Releases!  
Taxonomy Botany Cultivation  
Rare plant auction  
Garden tours

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*