



BromeliAdvisory

Nov 2024

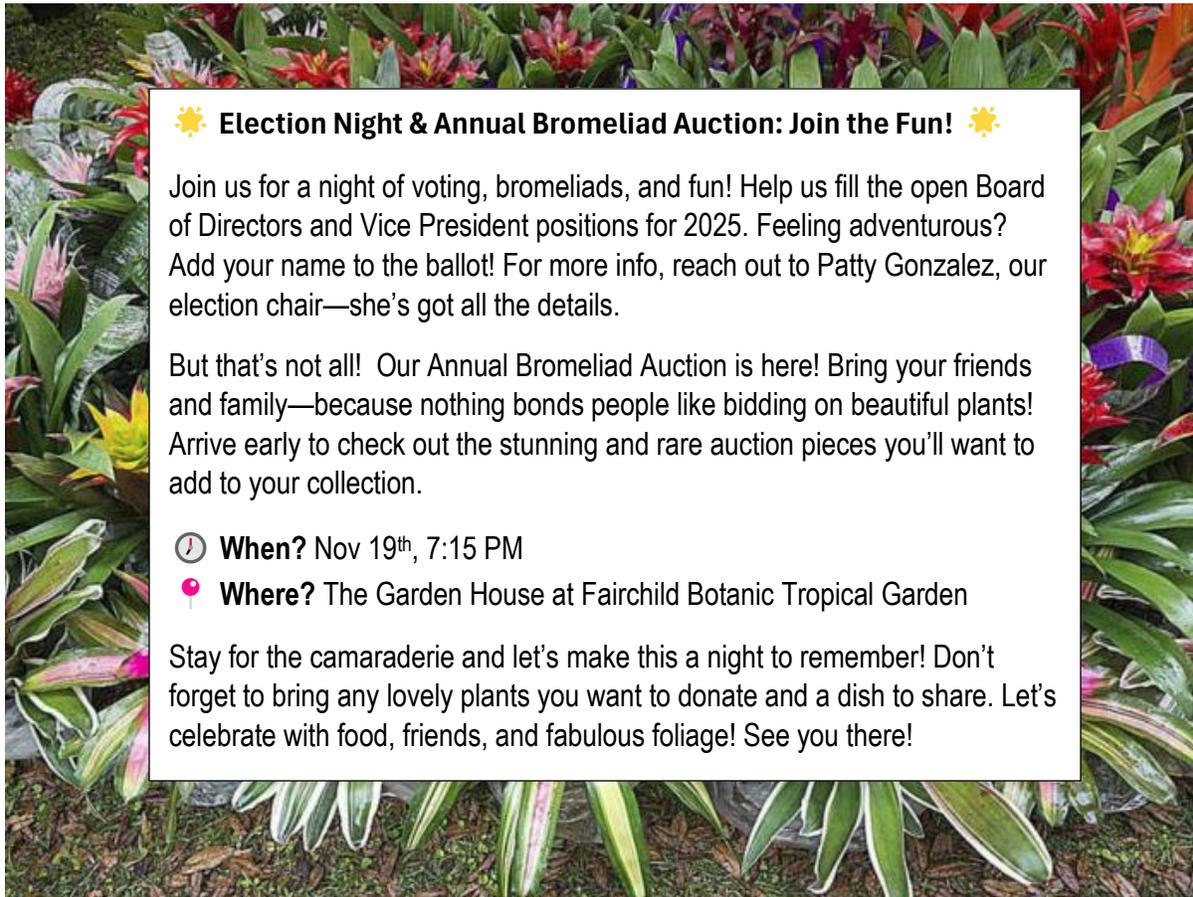
<http://www.bssf-miami.org>

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Alex Bello, President
Tina Severson, Immediate Past President
Patty Gonzalez, Vice President
Samantha Jones, Treasurer
Maria Almodovar, Secretary
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Advertising: Tina Severson
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



☀ Election Night & Annual Bromeliad Auction: Join the Fun! ☀

Join us for a night of voting, bromeliads, and fun! Help us fill the open Board of Directors and Vice President positions for 2025. Feeling adventurous? Add your name to the ballot! For more info, reach out to Patty Gonzalez, our election chair—she's got all the details.

But that's not all! Our Annual Bromeliad Auction is here! Bring your friends and family—because nothing bonds people like bidding on beautiful plants! Arrive early to check out the stunning and rare auction pieces you'll want to add to your collection.

🕒 When? Nov 19th, 7:15 PM

📍 Where? The Garden House at Fairchild Botanic Tropical Garden

Stay for the camaraderie and let's make this a night to remember! Don't forget to bring any lovely plants you want to donate and a dish to share. Let's celebrate with food, friends, and fabulous foliage! See you there!

BSSF, Inc. Annual Auction

The Wait is Over! Join us on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024, at 7:15 PM for a fun-filled evening featuring unbeatable prices on rare and collectible bromeliads. Don't miss your chance to expand your collection!

*Bromeliad Society
of South Florida
Annual Auction*

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens

**Nov. 19, 2024
7:15 PM**
Garden House

Join us for an evening of rare and collector bromeliads at fantastic prices! Don't miss these great deals!

Dr. Karl Green
Steve Correale
Bello Tropicals Nursery
Tradewind Tropicals
Mikes Bromeliads

Grab your chance to snag collector bromeliads at amazing prices!!!

It's That Time of Year Again! Your Membership Counts!

Yes, folks, it's membership renewal season! We appreciate every one of our members, we need your membership fees to keep the show on the road (or should we say, keep the bromeliads blooming)! Our BSSF, Inc. is committed to bringing you exciting meetings and valuable learning experiences, so now's the time to renew.

Good news: your membership fees will stay the same until December 31, 2024! It's just \$25 for one person or \$35 for two at the same address. But wait—if you procrastinate and renew in January, it'll cost you an extra \$5! That's \$30 for one and \$40 for two. Don't let that happen!

To make it easy, you can click the links below to pay with a credit card. If you prefer the old-school method and need to pay by check, make sure to track down Patty Gonzalez. She's got your back! Let's keep this bromeliad party going!

Single Membership:

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

Double Membership

<https://checkout.square.site/buy/T7SSVJJC5HMU7HJNYYZBNN6R>

🎃 **A Spooktacular Thanks!** 👻

Huge thanks to everyone who brought food and plants to make our October meeting a haunting success! We loved seeing your creative costumes and the Halloween decorations that made our gathering so festive! You all really raised the “boo”-tential for fun! Check out the photos—who knew bromeliads could look so good alongside ghosts and goblins? 🕷️ ✨



Welcome to the Bromeliad Family!

Elaine Gonzalez and Charbel Abud joined us a few months ago, and they're already diving into the festivities like pros—eyeing those beautiful bromeliads like they're the hottest treasures!

We love your happy faces and can't wait for you to become true bromeliad aficionados.



Welcome aboard—let the plant-tastic adventures begin!



Cheers to Our Charter Members!

Let's hear it for Elaine Mills and her daughter Meredith Mills! Elaine has been our inspiration and the queen of hospitality for years and the reason I joined the Bromeliad Society. She still gets more excited about winning bromeliads than a kid in a candy store! Just look at her—she scored not one, not two, but three fabulous bromeliads from our raffle table! Way to go, Elaine and Meredith! If anyone knows how to pick 'em, it's definitely you two!

Welcome Back, Richard Brandon!

Some of us were all smiles when they discovered he's back in the area! Here's to great times ahead—may your love for bromeliads bring you back to us, along with all the old and new friends you have here!



Richard Brandon, Sandy Roth, Patty Gonzalez & Gloria

**Welcome Back, Olivia –
Keeping Her in Our Thoughts
and Prayers**

We were thrilled to have Olivia back with us recently! As a former treasurer and board member, her contributions to our society have been invaluable, and we will always remember the dedication and hard work she put in during her time on the board. Olivia, we love and appreciate you!

Unfortunately, since her last visit, Olivia has faced a difficult challenge. She recently suffered



Tina Severson & Olivia Martinez

a fall and fractured her femur. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from this injury. We know her strength and resilience will carry her through, and we look forward to seeing her back on her feet soon.

Show and Tell Success!

Our Show and Tell was a fantastic hit, and we'll be back in January 2025! The next couple of months will be bustling with our Auction and Holiday party, so get ready! A huge thank you to everyone who brought in their amazing specimens, especially our South Florida superstar, Mike Michalski, whose *Billbergia* hybrids are simply unbeatable.

Mike shared his secrets for hybridizing: choose two healthy plants, wait for them to bloom, and play plant matchmaker with some pollen transfer. Just don't forget to label your crosses—your future self will thank you! He also reminded us to look for that “pregnant” appearance in the flower stalk after a month or two, then snip it off for your seeds. Need help? Just ask him!

And we can't overlook Maureen Adelman, our Master Grower, who dazzled us with her beautiful *Billbergias*. We're crossing our fingers that both she and Mike will contribute some gorgeous plants to next month's auction. If you snag one, consider yourself lucky!

Check out all the photos below, and we can't wait to see more of your incredible plants in the new year



Alex holding one of Maureen Adelman's *Billbergia*'s

Rene Izquierdo and His Plant Parade!



Silent Auction Table

Rene always brings the beauties! As the Chairman of the Silent Auction, he makes sure we're stocked with pristine, bug-free specimens that will have you bidding with gusto! Just look at him strutting in with his fabulous plants, flanked by his beautiful sister Neyda and friend Sandy!

A quick reminder: if you have something to enter in the silent auction, you keep 80% and the Bromeliad Society takes just 20%. Now that's a sweet deal! And if you feel inspired to donate a little extra to the club, we won't stop you, it's a win-win! Let's share those extra plants and spread the bromeliad love!



"Alex Bello demonstrates the art of hanging Billbergias on driftwood, which was also up for auction. Congratulations to Tina Severson, the lucky winner of this stunning piece!"

President's Message:

We're getting ready for a fun and lively evening this Tuesday—let's just hope the weather is on our side and the tropical disturbances keep their distance! We're crossing our fingers for clear skies, cool air, and no surprise rain showers. After all, we have an Auction to enjoy!

The club will provide some food, but if you bring a side dish, you'll earn a raffle ticket to win a bromeliad. And, if you happen to have any rare bromeliads lying around that are looking for a new home, we'd love to have them for the auction. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, after all—let's make it memorable! Arrive early to help set up and get a sneak peek at the incredible plants we have lined up. We'll also be holding elections for two Director positions and VP, so bring your voting spirit (or your campaign speech, if you're running). It's not too late to toss your name in the ring if you're feeling adventurous.

See you there for a fun-filled evening—weather permitting, of course! If we're under a Tropical Storm Warning, we'll send out an update, so keep an eye on your inbox!

- Alex Bello



See Alex Bello if you are interested in doing the raffle table!

**Mark Your Calendars for our January 25th Garage Sale!
More Info to Come!**



Time to clear out those closets and save your treasures for our fabulous Garage Sale at Maureen Adelman's house! This event is always a blockbuster for our Bromeliad Society. Join us for some fun, meet new friends, and invite them to check out our club!

Got plants, junk, or clothes? Bring it all! Remember, one person's "junk" is another's botanical treasure—or at least a quirky conversation starter! Let's make it a memorable event!

In Case You Missed It-*Tina Severson*

Our Bromeliad Society President, Alex Bello, delivered an impressive slide presentation on Billbergias! He shared some valuable tips: avoid fertilizing these bromeliads, as too much nourishment can make them leggy. In their natural habitat, you'll often find them growing in clumps high up in trees.

Alex prefers to pot them in his nursery for commercial sales, but for landscaping, he suggests placing them in baskets or directly on trees. Just a heads-up: they can tip over, so securing them with a cable at the top is a smart move. While Billbergias don't usually have long blooms, they are truly spectacular when they do—some even resemble vibrant firecrackers!

Many of these beauties thrive in oak trees, especially the hardy Billbergia 'Hallelujah.' While some varieties were priced around \$100 when they first came out, we were lucky to snag them for just \$10 each at this meeting, thanks to Alex! I raced to grab the first picks and was thrilled to score a stunning driftwood-mounted creation during the auction!

Be sure to check out the photos below for a glimpse of Alex's fantastic presentation and the gorgeous Billbergias we had the chance to take home.



Alex Bello showing one of Mike Michalski's Hybrid Billbergia Roaring Tiger!



What are Billbergias.....

- The bromeliad genus *Billbergia* was named for Swedish botanist Gustaf Johan Billberg by fellow Swedish botanist Carl Peter Thunberg. Billberg was the son of a botanist and merely a hobbyist who traveled to Central America on a plant collecting expedition in 1826. He arrived in Panama collecting in both Panama and Columbia where he discovered this beautiful species of bromeliad and brought it back to Thunberg's Swedish *Plantarum brasiliensium* where Thunberg then attributed the genus to Billberg. *Billbergia* can be found from Mexico to Argentina and is mainly grown outdoors in a moderate climate. They typically grow in trees in the wild, however if they fall from their host they will nest in the ground. *Billbergia* can handle larger temperature swings including a morning frost, although like most bromeliads, not for long.





Billbergia 'Domingos Martins'



(left) Billbergia 'Dippin Dots' (Right) Billbergia Smokestack

Billbergia 'Dark Prince'



(left) Mr. Bojangle (right) Wild Thing



(Left photo) Alex explained that these Billbergias aren't named yet and they only have numbers on them.



In Memory of Don Beadle



Don's presentations at World Conferences became must-see events, captivating audiences with his stunning slides and insightful commentary. His photographs set the standard for both scientific excellence and artistry, leaving a lasting influence on how we appreciate bromeliads.

In 1998, Don compiled the last published Bromeliad Cultivar Registry for the BSI—a monumental work that served as the bromeliad bible of nomenclature and cultivars. Understanding the limitations of his time, he foresaw the need for accessible, digital information. While his initial idea for a compact disk was ahead of its time, he ultimately collaborated with Michael Andreas to bring the Cultivar Registry online, ensuring that his legacy of knowledge and passion for bromeliads continues to thrive.



Michael Kiehl & Don Beadle



Hurricane Recovery Bash!

We're so thankful we filled the room after all the recent hurricanes! It was a fantastic night to relax, eat, and dive into the world of bromeliads. And for some lucky folks, the raffle tickets were like winning the plant lottery!

This is the perfect time of year to come out and enjoy our Society nights. We even learned a thing or two about Billbergias—thanks, Alex Bello! Talk about a great pivot; we went from stormy weather to a blooming good time! Here's to more nights of fun and knowledge!





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

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!

Upcoming Community Events



Dan & Margie Orchids, The Orchid Den,
Sierra Madre Orchids & Bromeliads, Orchid_365,
Vicky's Orchids, Judelis Orchids,
Camila's Garden, J & J Plant Corp.
Natures Tapestry, Bello's Tropicals,
Martin Nursery, Sara's Gloxinias,
Florida Orchid House, PNAMSEF
Community Outreach Program

OFE
sale fair

Nov. 16 & 17, Sat. 9 to 5, Sunday 10 to 3
17899 SW 280th St. Homestead 33031

Join Us for the OFE Sale Fair This Weekend!

We're excited to welcome 14 guest vendors, including Henry from Florida Orchid House, for this weekend's **OFE Sale Fair**. With a variety of amazing plants, supplies, and more, it's the perfect opportunity to stock up on your gardening essentials!

Important Details:

- **Date & Time:**
 - Saturday, 11/16: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 - Sunday, 11/17: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Note: Some of our guest vendors will be packing up Saturday evening, so plan your visit accordingly!
- **Location:**

17899 SW 280th Street, Homestead, FL 33031
Free entrance and parking!



FAIRCHILD

TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN



FAIRCHILD'S NIGHT AT THE GARDEN

November 15 - January 12

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Dates Vary



A VERY MERRY GARDEN

Coming, 12/2/2024 - 1/5/2025

Daily, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

General admission included

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