



Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

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The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.

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October 2025 Newsletter

Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, October 19th at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford

Our October meeting features Marty Baxley with his presentation, **Fact or Fiction**



Marty will pull no punches with a presentation that will include a number of stories and secrets of the Bromeliad world. A group of SBTPS members visited his nursery back in July of 2022 and found a number of greenhouses stuffed with a wonderful selection of bromeliads including many not often seen. He will bring a large selection of these Bromeliads to be offered at very reasonable prices.

Please bring your plants to donate to the Door Prize Drawing and Plant Raffle for the benefit of the Society. We will also have the Members Silent Auction.

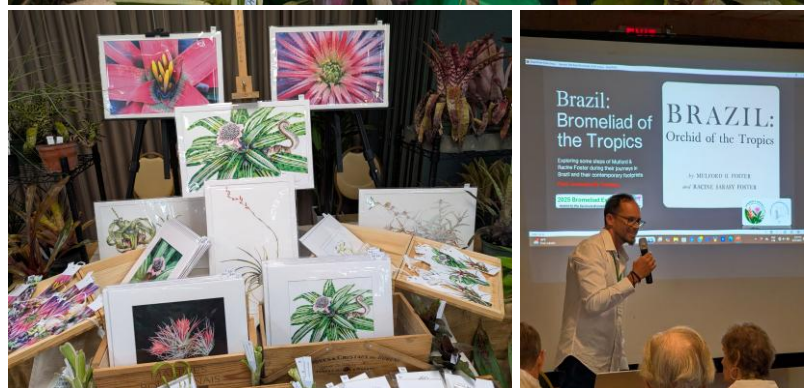
Our main course for this meeting's refreshment break will be furnished by the SBTPS. Members whose last names begin with the letters O through Z are asked to bring side dishes.

Current Member Count: 140

Marty Baxley bio

Marty started growing bromeliads in 1986 when he found some growing in the yard of the house he moved into. It was a snowball effect as he became addicted to bromeliads. He was working and retired from the post office, but built a bromeliad nursery on the side. He got heavily into making hybrids. After retirement, Marty created [Jungle Gems](#) in 2000 which has developed into a wholesale business from which he supplies many nurseries and brokers in the St. Petersburg area.

Pictures from the 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza:



President's Message

September Meeting

We had 37 attendees at our September meeting which featured Jason Mellica. He brought a number of his new hybrids which were offered for sale for the first time. His unsold plants were headed off to the Bromeliad Extravaganza the next weekend.

--Greg Kolojeski

Sanford Garden Club Improvements in October



A new LG Stainless Steel refrigerator was acquired and installed. It is Garage Ready which means it has more insulation so that it can better handle a fluctuating range of temperatures like those found in the Sanford Garden Club building.

Coming Soon: A new door to the back room.

BSCF Meeting at the Sanford Garden Club

On Wednesday October 15th, the [Bromeliad Society of Central Florida](#) will have a 7:00 PM meeting at the Sanford Garden Club. The BSCF has graciously invited all SBTPS members to attend their meeting where Chip Jones will be the featured speaker on the topic of "Bromeliad Breeders: Interviews from the World Bromeliad Conference 2024". Come early to check out a nice selection of Bromeliads, cycads, and other tropical plants that will be for sale.

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

We had a very successful Bromeliad Extravaganza in Kissimmee on Friday and Saturday, September 26th and 27th with garden tours on Sunday. We had lots of positive feedback with everyone enjoying the hotel with its convenient large rooms at great prices. The food offerings received a lot of praise and everyone loved the low prices in the restaurants.

The plant sale was a success with an incredible selection of Bromeliads and Bromeliad artwork. Spiky plants turned out to be very popular. Luckily, we had paper towels in the checkout area to wipe up water spills with double duty for bleeding arms from those beautiful spiky plants! There were 18 vendors with the highest sales generated by Eloise Beach, Michael's Bromeliads, Brilliant Bromeliads, Bryan Windham, and Tropiflora. 1388 Bromeliad plants and artwork items were sold with prices from \$1 to \$100+. Chip Jones brought a stunning large Alcantarea 'John Stoddart' (see the picture on the preceding page) which is still available for \$1,500!

There were 21 SBTPS volunteers (of whom 19 are also members of at least one of the two other Central Florida Bromeliad societies) plus 6 other volunteers from other societies in Florida. The volunteers made everything work so well!

Plant Pictures of the Day:



9/18/25: Neoregelia 'Deep Space' (Skotak) &
9/20/25: Neoregelia 'Hot Cargo' (Skotak)

Pictures by John Boardman



10/1/25: Billbergia 'Kyoto' and
10/3/25: Aechmea caudata variegated

Pictures by Greg Kolojeski



10/7/25: Neoregelia 'Titan' (Skotak)
Picture by Greg Kolojeski

November 16th Meeting: Dave Johnston
Billbergias are Awesome