



Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society
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The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.
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 Secretary: Barbara Whittier

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 Plant Sales Accounting: Cathy Schubert
 Librarian: Sandra Smith Fullerton
 Newsletter, Publicity, Rentals, Websites: Greg Kolojeski

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 Landscape: Barbara Whittier

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February 2025 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:
 Sunday, February 16th at 2 PM
 200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our February meeting features David Sand with his presentation:

Bromeliad Hybridizing



David’s presentation will tell us why hybridizing can be fun and challenging at the same time. He will explain the basics of hybridizing and getting the seed to grow. He will go over the easier groups to hybridize and germinate with pictures to show how to go about the process. David will also bring lots of great Bromeliads for sale.

Please bring your plants to donate to the Door Prize Drawing and Plant Raffle for the benefit of the Society. We will also feature 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 D through G are requested to bring side dishes.

David Sand bio

David is a born and raised Floridian. He started working with Bromeliads when he was 16 years old at Michael’s Bromeliads. He had little interest in the plants at first until he started asking questions. Thankfully, he had one of the best teachers around, Michael Kiehl. Michael took him under his wing and taught him everything he could ever want to know. David soaked up every bit of it learning to love and appreciate how amazing these plants really are. Now, with 18 years of experience and Michael’s retirement a year ago, David is continuing [Michael’s Bromeliads](#) in hopes of delivering the same impeccable quality and standards.

Michael’s Bromeliads



SBTPS Membership Renewal

2025 Membership Dues are \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a dual membership. **You may renew your membership now online at <https://sbtps.square.site/> which is the recommended way of making your renewal.** Email reminders will be sent out in the next few days to those who have not yet renewed.

If you joined last year in October or later, your 2025 membership is already included.

Current Member Count: 139

**March 16th Meeting: Alex Bello
 Billbergia’s Tubular Beauties**

President's Message

January Meeting

We had a great time at our January meeting with over 40 attendees. A weather prediction of extensive rains kept the attendance down. We actually had very little rain at the garden club although we did have reports from one member with sleet on the coast and another with 2.5 inches of rain in just over an hour in Kissimmee. Our speaker, Jonathan Lallier, brought lots of great plants at surprisingly low prices and took very few home.

We are still in shock from the news of the sudden passing of our long-time friend and member, Lani Berry. There will be a Celebration of Life for her at the Sanford Garden Club on March 8th. See the email accompanying this newsletter for more information.

--Greg Kolojeski

April Plant Sale

The **Annual Spring Plant Sale** will be here before you know it. It will be held on **April 12-13, 2025**. Our April and August plant sales are believed to be the biggest Bromeliad plant sales by any bromeliad society in Florida.

Sanford Garden Club Repairs

There will be a new main electrical line installed in mid-February to replace an old one that failed. It will bring back the operation of the stove and oven. This is turning out to be quite a costly repair.

The push button lock on the kitchen door by the parking lot has been replaced. It is now much easier to operate.

Event Rentals at the Sanford Garden Club

Greg Kolojeski is currently handling rentals at the garden club. The last few weeks have been a time of many bookings. Weekends are now heavily booked from late February through the end of June. A new Rental Agreement PDF is now available on the [Rentals page](#) at the [Sanford Garden Club website](#). Most payments are now being handled by sending out Square Invoices to renters' email addresses.

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

The SBTPS will host the **2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza** on September 26-27, 2025 at the Ramada Gateway hotel in Kissimmee. The hotel rate is only \$85.80 plus tax with free parking. *It is recommended that you book the hotel as soon as possible.* The registration fee of \$125 includes two dinners, early admission to the biggest Bromeliad sale of the year in Florida and admission to three seminars.

Detailed information about the Extravaganza is available at BromeliadX.com. One of three seminar speakers has been announced: **Leonardo M. Versieux** from Brazil. He is the editor of the recently published book, **Alcantarea Giant Bromeliads from Brazil**.



1/16/25 Plant Picture of the Day:
Vriesea ospinae var. gruberi
white selection (Skotak)



1/23/25 Plant Picture of the Day:
Neoregelia 'Martin' (Skotak)



1/21/25 Plant Picture of the Day:
Devil's Backbone (pedilanthus tithymaloides)