



## Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

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Membership: Sudi Hipsley  
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## February 2021 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:  
Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 PM  
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our February meeting features Prem Subrahmanyam with his presentation:

**Florida's Wild Orchids.**



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Prem's presentation will include stunning photography, detailed information and anecdotal stories. He will bring a number of high-quality matted photographic prints for sale. Be sure to check out his [Florida's Native and Naturalized Orchids website](#).

*Please bring your plants to donate to the Door Prize Drawing and Plant Raffle for the benefit of the Society. **There will also be a Member Plant Sale.***

Refreshments for the February meeting will be provided by the SBTPS.

At this meeting, we will practice social distancing and will require the use of face masks by all attendees.

## Prem Subrahmanyam bio

I have been studying Florida's native orchids for approximately 30 years. I have, over the past few years, been giving presentations on my experience with native orchids at native plant and orchid societies all across the state of Florida.

A true Florida native, I was born and raised in the Tallahassee, Florida area, where I have lived most of my adult life. I have since become a resident of the Orlando area, moving here in 2005. When I'm not at home spending time with my family, out photographing native orchids, growing my own collection of (legally purchased) orchids, developing my orchid-related websites, collecting fossils or geocaching, I make my living as a software engineer, primarily in the field of 3d simulation and video game development. I am also a graphic designer and 3-d computer animator. Perhaps my most widely seen animations are in the series "Florida, the Outdoor Adventure" and "Florida Takes to the Trails", both of which have aired on PBS nationally. I have also worked on or contributed to TV effects shots for many broadcast and film productions.

I became interested in orchids in a rather atypical way. While I always thought their flowers are pretty, there didn't seem to be anything more special about them than, say, a lily or a rose. It wasn't until as a young teen when I read an article in National Geographic on orchids that my eyes became opened to the uniqueness of this family of plants. I was intrigued by all the clever ways these flowers attract and often trick their pollinators into servicing their needs. I read about orchids that nearly drown their would-be pollinator in a bucket of sticky fluid before allowing them to escape right beneath the pollen. I read about the bee orchids that mimic females of a species well enough that male bees will often show a preference for the flower! On it went, parading a number of wild and wonderful shapes before my eyes. When I was done, I had completely fallen in love with this group of flowers.

## President's Message

### January Meeting

We had 36 attendees at our January meeting which featured a fascinating presentation by Tom Wolfe who also brought a number of special plants (with very few not finding new homes).

It was nice to see some members we had not seen in a while. With vaccines becoming more generally available, we hope to see many more of you at future meetings.

We welcome member submittals of plant pictures for inclusion on our Facebook page as [Plant Picture of the Day](#). The ones shown on this page were some of the more popular ones over the last several weeks.  
--Greg Kolojeski

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### SBTPS Membership Renewal

**2021 Membership Dues** are \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a dual membership. You may renew your membership at a meeting or mail your check to Sudi Hipsley, SBTPS Treasurer, 6616 Tusawilla Dr, Leesburg, FL 34748-9190. If you joined last year in October or later, your 2021 membership is already included. When you are a member of the SBTPS, you also become a member of the Sanford Garden Club. *If you do not renew your membership by the end of February, your membership will lapse.*

### March Bromeliad Garden Visits

Next month, we will feature garden tours of four properties on the same street in Oviedo. This event will start at 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. You won't want to miss it, so put it on your calendar now! We will have a lot more information in the March newsletter and the email which accompanies it.

### April Plant Sale

It is time for members to start preparing plants to sell in April. Interest in quality plants continues to be high and we expect to sell a lot of plants.

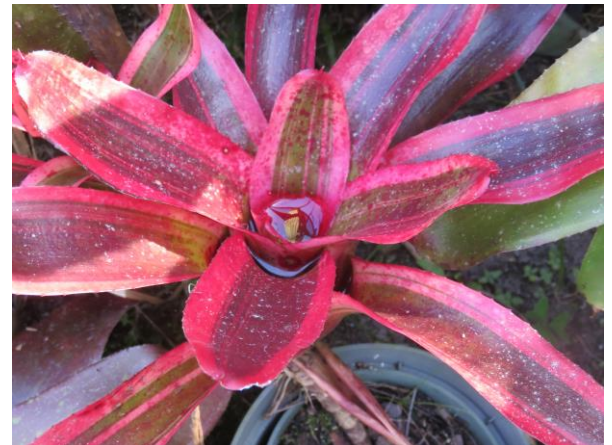
The **Annual Spring Plant Sale** will be on April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. We will need volunteers for the many roles including cashiers, tag takers, customer helpers (to help buyers take plants to their cars), and tropical plant experts to answer customer questions. More information about the plant sale will be sent out by email to all members next month.

Every member qualifies as a *tropical plant expert* to some degree and plant buyers will greatly value your advice. One of the most frequent comments we receive from plant buyers is how they love the information they get from our members at the plant sales.

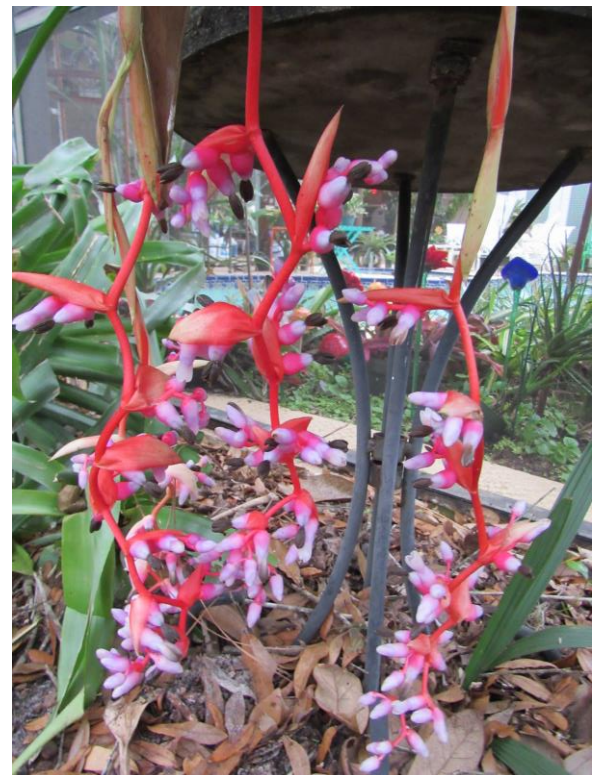
<p><b>Current Member Count:</b> SBTPS: 112; SGC: 115</p>
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1/25/21 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)  
**xAndrolaechmea 'O'Rourke'**



1/19/21 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)  
**Neoregelia 'Heat Wave'**



1/13/21 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)  
**Aechmea weilbachii forma pendula**