



Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

President: Greg Kolojeski
Vice Pres.: Tim Dreggors
Treasurer: (Open)
Secretary: Barbara Whittier
FCBS Reps: Greg Kolojeski

The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.

President: Greg Kolojeski
VP-Programs: Tim Dreggors
VP-Property Mgmt.: Greg Kolojeski
Treasurer: (Open)
Secretary: Barbara Whittier

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Plant Sales: Sandi Wirth
Plant Sales Accounting: Cathy Schubert
Finance, Newsletter, Publicity, Rentals, Websites: Greg Kolojeski
Landscape: Barbara Whittier
Librarian: Sandra Smith Fullerton

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October 2026 Newsletter

Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, October 18th at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford

Our October meeting features Marty Baxley with his presentation, **Fact or Fiction 2.0**



Marty will pull no punches with a presentation that will include stories and secrets of the Bromeliad world. He will go deeper into what he talked about last year with more conspiracies added! Marty will bring a large selection of Bromeliads to be offered at very reasonable prices. You don't want to miss what will be Marty's last presentation for a while.

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: 121

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.

History of The Garden Club of Sanford

The Garden Club of Sanford (also known as the Sanford Garden Club) has been around for 100 years! For many years until 2012-2013, it published a biennial yearbook which showed programs and membership lists of its Circles which were groups of members with specialized interests such as Bromeliads. Those yearbooks also included a list of the presidents of the SGC dating from 1928 and indicated that the organization was organized in 1926, became a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs beginning in 1927, adopted Circles in 1928 and was incorporated in 1947.

We were recently contacted by [Lake Mary Life Magazine](#) which is interested in writing a feature article about the Sanford Garden Club to celebrate its 100th anniversary! As requested, we are working on putting together information on the club and its origins.

Our initial research efforts have already revealed some fascinating information:

[The Sanford Herald](#) had a picture on its front page in November 1964 showing the breaking of ground for our building with various dignitaries and garden club members gathered "to watch the lifting of the first golden shovelful of earth for the \$55,000 center." Present at the event was [J. Brailey Odham](#) who donated the land plus \$5,000. Brailey ran for governor of Florida in 1951 when he was only 32 years old. He hosted 24-hour radio marathons which was a unique campaign strategy. He was not successful in several tries for Governor and Senator. Brailey was also known as a home builder in Sanford and for opening one of Florida's largest and most advanced nursing homes.

President's Message

September Meeting and more

We had 37 attendees at our September meeting which featured my presentation on *Blooming Bromeliads*. We had the best Members Market that I recall seeing with a large selection of desirable plants.

I will not be at the October meeting. I would like to thank Pam Marion for volunteering to run our October meeting and to bring the refreshments. Pam will be assisted by Barbara Whittier.

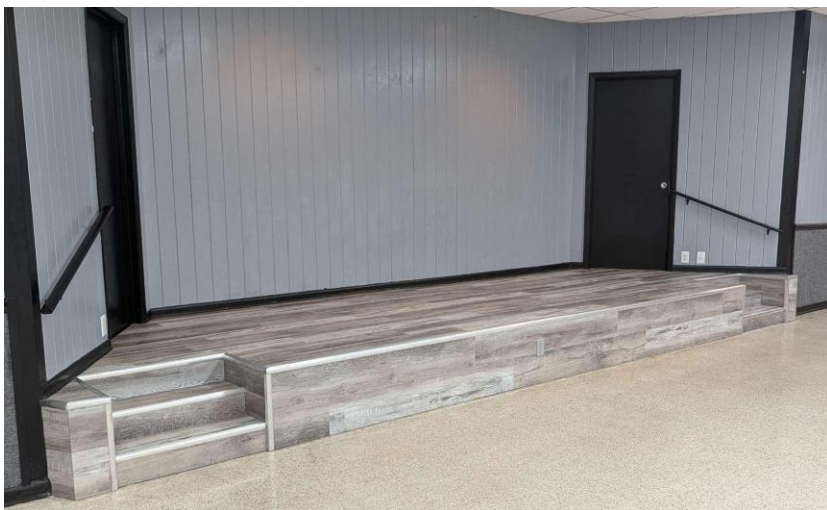
—Greg Kolojeski

2027 Bromeliad Extravaganza

Put July 16-18, 2027 on your calendar as that is when the 2027 Bromeliad Extravaganza will be held at the Miccosukee Casino & Resort at 500 SW 177th Ave. in Miami. That location is on the western outskirts of Miami near the edge of the Everglades.

Sanford Garden Club Improvements

We had the stage remodeled in September with new flooring, steps, edging and outlet covers.



November 15th Meeting: Dr. Terrie Bert
My Favorite Bromeliads that Survived the Hurricanes

Plant Pictures of the Day:



9/27/26: *Portea alatisepala* by John Boardman

9/17/26: *Deuterocohnia meziana*
by Christophe Cardot



9/26/26: *Encephalartos ferox* Cycad cones &
9/10/26: *Aechmea 'Del Cielo'* by Greg Kolojeski



10/3/26: *Catopsis berteroniana*
Pictures by Ryan Fessenden