



Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

President: Greg Kolojeski
 Vice Pres.: Tim Dreggors
 Treasurer: (Open)
 Secretary: Barbara Whittier
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The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.

President: Greg Kolojeski
 VP-Programs: Tim Dreggors
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 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
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January 2026 Newsletter

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

Our January meeting features **Kenneth Stokes**
 with his presentation

Approaches to Being a Tropical Plant Collector

Collecting is more than the gathering of a bunch of things that are available into one group or display. To be successful, it requires that you understand the category and have some knowledge of it. Expertise will come on the category as you research, study and experiment with the growing of plants in a plant family or specific genera.

As people join plant societies or have access to new varieties of plants, they often begin by buying what is pretty, attractive, available and inexpensive. This is not collecting, but rather accumulating. Regrets come later when you find out the plant cannot live outside a greenhouse, it is invasive, a rampant grower, is seasonally dormant, will cover the ground with rotting fruit, emits a foul smell when it blooms or will rot every summer or freeze in winter.

Kenneth will share suggestions on how to evaluate your current plant accumulation, goals in landscaping, symbiotic relationships of plants, collection categories, buying rare plants and what makes them rare. He will also present some experiences of some plant disasters coming from not understanding the true nature of the plant.

Kenneth will bring rare plants for display as teaching examples and for sale. Sale plants can be purchased before the presentation, then picked up afterwards. They will include Bromeliads, Euphorbias, Aroids, Ferns, Sansevieria and other unusual plants.



Kenneth Stokes bio

Kenneth is a life-long Floridian. He was born in Melbourne, moved to Miami as young man and was then transferred to Tampa by his employer to open a new business. He eventually started his own furniture manufacturing business, selling to the national interior design trade and continues in the same field today.

Following in the footsteps of his grandmother and mother, he has always been interested in plants. He began collecting wild plants as a child to put in their large rural garden. He now has an extensive collection of tropical plants in his Tampa garden.

Kenneth has been involved in many plant societies and joined the [Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay](#) in 1995. He has also been a member of the [Sarasota Bromeliad Society](#) and has served in a number of positions in both. He has been doing public speaking for most of his life in business, religious and social organizations and is the author of four literary novels. He uses the skills he developed over the years to pull together fresh presentations, utilizing real examples to illustrate what is being said.

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 D through G are asked to bring side dishes.

Current Member Count: 141

President's Message

December Holiday Party

We had over 50 attendees at our Holiday Party. The holiday gifts included many very nice plants and we had a great food lineup with many tasty dishes brought in by the members.

Members have been submitting a number of attractive pictures in recent weeks with lots of Billbergias in bloom being especially popular. Keep those wonderful pictures coming!

--Greg Kolojeski

Gifts at 2025 Holiday Party



SBTPS Membership Renewal

2026 Membership Dues are \$15 for an individual or \$20 for an annual membership. You may renew your membership online at <https://sbtps.square.site/> which is the recommended way of making your renewal. If you joined in October 2025 or later, your 2026 membership is already included. Email reminders will be sent out soon.

April Plant Sale

The **Annual Spring Plant Sale** will be here before you know it. It will be held on **April 18-19, 2026**. Our April and August plant sales are believed to be the biggest Bromeliad plant sales by any bromeliad society in Florida.

100th Anniversary of the Sanford Garden Club

2026 is the 100th anniversary of the Sanford Garden Club. We are looking for ideas from our members on how to celebrate it and how to involve the local community.

February 15th: Tour of McCrory's Bromeliads

Plant Pictures of the Day:



12/19/25: Billbergia 'Great White' (Beadle)
Picture by Sandi Wirth (top left)

12/30/25: Vriesea 'Black Pearl' (Cameron)
Picture by John Boardman (top right)



12/20/25: Billbergia 'Black Pearl' (Vinzant)
Picture by Dave Schubert (above left)

12/13/25: Billbergia 'Charles Dewey'
Picture by Mike Saunders (above right)



12/11/25: Neoregelia 'Crayola' (Skotak)
Picture by Dave Schubert