



Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

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

Committee Chairpersons:

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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May 2026 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, May 17th at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our May meeting features **Stephanie LaRusso** on **The Many Forms of Bromeliaceae**



Join Stephanie on a journey exploring the many forms, colors and stories found within the amazing Bromeliaceae family. For the last 9 years she has been photographing bromeliads from a few private South Florida plant collections. She has captured hundreds of images of unusual genera, of rare mutations, of crazy blooms and of unique horticultural moments.

Taking those beautiful photographs made her fall even more in love with this plant family and she wants to share that passion with you! Best of all, since all her photographs are from local South Florida collections, all these amazing plants can be grown in your own gardens. Come join us and let her show you all the plants you never knew you loved!

Stephanie LaRusso bio

Stephanie LaRusso is a South Florida local who has spent the last 14+ years working with tropical plants. She is the owner of [Can't Grow Squash Inc.](#), which is a small garden/nursery consultant and plant grower/reseller. For the past decade she worked with Tradewinds Tropicals, at their wholesale bromeliad nursery in Homestead, Florida where she fell in love with Bromeliads. Now a Fort Lauderdale local, she enjoys working for private clients, helping them to care for their plant collections and giving lectures to the public on bromeliads and gardening.

A love of plants led Stephanie to botanical watercolor painting and she now teaches beginner watercolor classes at local Fort Lauderdale coffee shops.

Stephanie's passion is getting people to love and grow plants. Her hope is that if she ignites this passion in others, through her art or lectures, that they will begin to value the natural world around them and start to protect the wild spaces within their communities and across the world. Any place can be a botanical sanctuary. All that is needed is a gardener, a collection of plants and the willingness of both to grow together.



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

President's Message

April Plant Sale

Our **2026 Annual Spring Plant Sale** was one for the record books. We had the best (highest) single day/Saturday sales results ever! It was our best overall sales results since 2022 and we also had the second highest Sunday sales results since 2022. It went so well that we even sold our Show & Tell table after someone made an offer we couldn't refuse!

Most of our customers use credit cards to make their purchases. For the first time, we received no checks. It was an incredibly smooth sale with no issues of note. Sandi Wirth and her crew did a stellar job. Thanks go out to the many members that made this sale such a great success!

--Greg Kolojeski

Current Member Count: 114

Refreshments at the May Meeting

The main course for our May 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.** As usual, we will have homemade sourdough bread, but it will have a greater "sour" taste than in the past.

Sanford Garden Club Insurance Costs

Our insurance costs (property and liability) have exploded in recent years. We finally caught a break this year with new quotes coming in 20% lower than last year. Our policy renewals occur every May.

Sanford Garden Club Rentals

Rental business at the garden club continues to go well. Our peak rental period runs from April through August. May and June are the busiest rental months. The first quarter is the slowest period and the Fall is usually quite good. The addition of a [Rental Calendar](#) to the website has been quite popular. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday rental dates are popular for graduation parties, birthday parties, baby showers, weddings, and other family events. During the week, we have various meetings by HOAs, clubs, and music groups. We have more flexibility than some other rental locations since we do not require the use of certain caterers or decorators and we allow later event times than some.

**June 21st Meeting: Alex Bello
Vrieseas: Show Beauties**



**4/18/26 & 5/1/26 Plant Picture of the Day:
Neoregelia 'Big Bopper' (Coleman) and
Neoregelia 'Bad Boy Brian' (Coleman)
by John Boardman**



**4/26/26 Plant Picture of the Day:
Neoregelia 'Flameout' (Skotak) by Greg K.**



**4/30/26 & 4/20/26 Plant Picture of the Day:
xSincoregelia 'Dragon Fire' (Mellica) by Greg K.
Neo. 'Heart Stopper' (Skotak) by John Boardman**



**4/17/26 Plant Picture of the Day:
Neoregelia 'Intimidator' (Skotak) by Greg K.**