



## Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

President: Greg Kolojeski  
 Vice Pres.: Liesl Haas/Tim Dreggors  
 Treasurer: Sudi Hipsley  
 Secretary: Barbara Whittier  
 FCBS Reps: Sudi Hipsley & Greg Kolojeski

## The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.

President: Greg Kolojeski  
 VP-Programs: Liesl & Tim  
 VP-Property Mgmt.: Lani Berry  
 Treasurer: Sudi Hipsley  
 Secretary: Barbara Whittier

### Committee Chairpersons:

Plant Sales: Sandi Wirth  
 Publicity, Plant Sales Accounting: Marty Folk  
 Librarian: Sandra Smith Fullerton  
 Newsletter, Websites: Greg Kolojeski

Rentals: Lani Berry  
 Membership: Sudi Hipsley  
 Landscape: Barbara Whittier

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## January 2024 Newsletter

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

Our January meeting features Alex Bello with his presentation:

### South Florida Tillandsia Hybrids and More!!



Alex's presentation will include discussion of two great hybridizers with over 50 years of experience in hybrids. Alex 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 A through C are requested to bring side dishes.

**Current Member Count: 140**

## Alex Bello bio

Alex is a collector and an avid grower of tropical plants ranging from bromeliads, orchids, ferns, aroids and beyond. He has been collecting all types of tropical plants for over 25 years with his specialty being bromeliads. Alex first became addicted to bromeliads when he was gifted a variegated Neoregelia which set off an out-of-control hobby that he truly loves.

Alex has held high level positions in the plant industry including Director for the Bromeliad Society International ([BSI](#)), President of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida ([BSSF](#)), various roles for the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies ([FCBS](#)), President of the International Aroid Society ([IAS](#)), and Show and Sales Chairman for several of these organizations.

Alex is an avid outdoorsman whose love for the Everglades and Florida's ecology is truly remarkable. He also enjoys fishing, swamp walks, "any outdoor adventure in any environment", and is a 23-year veteran of the Miami-Dade County public schools as a high school administrative assistant over school operations, budget, and personnel.



Scenes from the Nehrling Gardens Plant Sale in December



Plant Presents at the 2023 Holiday Party

## President's Message

### December Holiday Meeting

We had a great time at our 2023 Holiday Party with about 60 attendees. Thanks go out to Dave and Cathy Schubert who prepared most of the main courses and directed the set up. Also, thanks go out to Juana Olazabal Vega who cooked and contributed a 30-pound turkey. And thanks to the many members who brought a fascinating selection of tasty side dishes.

There was a wide selection of plant items in the holiday presents. Included were many attractive Bromeliads as well as a number of very nice orchids.  
--Greg Kolojeski

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### SBTPS Membership Renewal

**2024 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.** We will send out email reminders very soon. If you joined last year in October or later, your 2024 membership is already included.

### Treasurer Election

Sudi Hipsley has "volunteered" to be Treasurer for the SBTPS and SGC until such time as we find another volunteer. We will have the Treasurer election at the January meeting.

### April Plant Sale

The **Annual Spring Plant Sale** will be here before you know it. It will be held on April 20-21, 2024. Our April and August plant sales are believed to be the biggest Bromeliad plant sales by any bromeliad society in Florida.

### Nehrling Gardens Plant Sale

The Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society had a booth at the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Amaryllis Festival** in December at Nehrling Gardens in Gotha. It was quite busy throughout the day and Nehrling Gardens very much would like to have us back again in 2024! Bonnie Friedrich did a great job managing this event.

### World Bromeliad Conference 2024

The BSI's **WBC 2024** will be **May 22-25, 2024** in West Palm Beach, Florida. Information on it may be found at [wbc.bsi.org](http://wbc.bsi.org). The speaker line-up has been announced: **Andrew Devonshire**, New Zealand; **Hiroyuki Takizawa**, Japan; **Peter Tristam**, Australia; **Pedro Nahoum**, Brazil; and from Florida: **Terrie Bert**, **Dennis Cathcart**, and **Herb Hill**. You need to [become a BSI member](#) in order to attend WBC 2024. To obtain the lowest registration rate, you need to **register no later than March 31, 2024**. It is likely to be a number of years before another WBC is held in Florida, so you shouldn't miss this opportunity!



12/22/23 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)  
**Aechmea gamosepala var. nivea**



1/6/24 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)  
**Neoregelia 'Grant's Serendipity'**



12/26/23 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)  
**Aechmea 'Pinot Noir'**

**February 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting:  
Tour of McCrory's Bromeliads**