



## Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

President: Greg Kolojeski  
Vice Pres.: Sudi Hipsley  
Treasurer: Sudi Hipsley  
Secretary: Barbara Whittier  
FCBS Reps: Sudi Hipsley & Greg Kolojeski

## The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.

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

### Committee Chairpersons:

Plant Sales: Alan Bennett  
Publicity, Plant Sales Accounting: Marty Folk  
Librarian: George Hoover  
Newsletter, Websites: Greg Kolojeski

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

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## May 2021 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:  
Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM  
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our May meeting features Dennis Cathcart  
with his presentation:

**Collecting the World's Largest Tillandsia.**



Dennis' presentation will cover a visit to Colombia with a quick tour of Franz Gruber's nursery and a look at the flora of the Departamento de Cundinamarca. Then he will tell us about collecting *Tillandsia longifolia*. Dennis always brings lots of great Bromeliads for sale including a very nice selection of Tillandsias.

*Please bring your plants to donate to the Door Prize Drawing and Plant Raffle for the benefit of the Society.*

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

At this meeting, we will practice social distancing and require the use of face masks by all attendees who have not been vaccinated.

### Dennis Cathcart bio

For many years herpetology was my avocation, and in pursuit of this interest I spent many happy days on field trips to the Caribbean and Latin America. I became acquainted with exotic plants, sparking a new interest that has spanned over 40 years both as a collector and grower.

Linda and I own and operate [Tropiflora](#), established in 1976, which has become one of the largest collector-oriented exotic plant nurseries in the U.S. Tillandsias and other bromeliads are a specialty as well as a wide assortment of rare succulents, myrmecophytes, aroids, orchids and more. We published the 'Cargo Report' catalog/newsletter for 19 years until we retired it in favor of a web-based business plan in 2010. We still stay in touch with our customers throughout the world and try to bring them into the world we know, a fascinating one of adventure and beauty.

Our work with exotic plants, collecting, studying, photographing, writing and speaking about them has taken us to many countries. Exploring for new plant varieties is still one of our favorite activities, and we have made over 100 collecting trips to more than 27 countries from the Caribbean and Latin American to South East Asia, Africa and Madagascar. Linda often is a part of these travels roughing it along side of me. Our explorations have resulted in the introduction of a number of new species of bromeliads. Three species of bromeliads, an *Aechmea*, a *Neoregelia* and a *Vriesea*, carry the epithet *cathcartii*.

We were an exhibitor at the first Singapore Garden Festival for which we won a silver medal for our bromeliad exhibit. We have traveled widely throughout the U.S. as well as Australia, New Zealand, Venezuela, Brazil, Bahamas, Philippines, Java, Singapore and Thailand for speaking engagements. Dennis was keynote speaker at the 'Broms on the Arafura', Australia's Bromeliad Conference in April of 2011, and spoke at the 'Cool Broms' conference March 2013 in New Zealand and was the keynote speaker at the Australasian Bromeliad Conference in Sydney, Australia in April 2015.

Dennis delivered the keynote address for the 2018 World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego. He is also the Speaker Chair for the [2022 World Bromeliad Conference](#) in Sarasota.

## President's Message

### April Plant Sale

Our **2021 Annual Spring Plant Sale** set a number of records. It resulted in our highest sales ever with sales up over 8% from April of 2019 which was the previous record setter. Besides highest sales ever, we achieved best one day sales (Saturday), highest credit card collections, and highest percentage of sales with credit cards (73.2%).

In addition, we had less slippage (missing plants) than in the past and found only one tag on the floor (we usually find many more). We had no complaints about plants on the holding table being claimed by others and no complaints of any kind, for that matter. We had many volunteers and everyone did a terrific job. Even the cleanup at the end was remarkably efficient. The only issue I see is to wonder how we can do this so well again!

--Greg Kolojeski

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### Sanford Garden Club News

Rentals have started to pick up to normal levels over the past two months in spite of the continuing roadway blockage just outside our front door. We are hoping to see the road work completed very soon.

Special thanks go out to Jill Green whose contributions of plants for the April sale resulted in \$136.64 contributed to the **Sanford Garden Club**.

### Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society News

The April Plant Sale resulted in \$3,449.57 being raised for the benefit of the SBTPS. This is the highest amount we have ever raised for the SBTPS from a plant sale.

We have had a number of requests for new t-shirts with the SBTPS logo. We have many new members who haven't had an opportunity to acquire them since we haven't had them in stock for some time. If you know of any local providers that we should consider to produce them, please let us know.

### Rotary Club of Sanford Presentation

On Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Greg Kolojeski gave a 30-minute presentation about the **Sanford Garden Club** and the **Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society** at a meeting of the **Rotary Club of Sanford**. Rotary Club members had a number of questions and it was a very enjoyable experience.

<p><b>Current Member Count:</b> <b>SBTPS: 97; SGC: 100</b></p>
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4/17/21 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)  
**Aechmea cylindrata**



4/25/21 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)  
**Neoregelia 'Red Zeppelin' (Skotak)**  
Picture taken by Cathy Schubert



4/30/21 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)  
**xVriecantarea 'Volcano' (Bullis)**