



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: Ginny Fortenese
 Newsletter, Websites: Greg Kolojeski
 Holiday Party: Paula White

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

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March 2019 Newsletter

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

Our March meeting features Alan Bennett with his presentation: **Preparing Plants for Show and Sale.**



Alan at the 2018 Annual Spring Plant Sale

Alan will be speaking about potting soil components, mixing your own potting soil, nutrients and fertilizers, types of pots and potting methods (with “tricks of the trade”), preparing plants and pots for a show or sale, and plant ID tags and methods. Be prepared to take notes!

Please bring your plants to donate to the Door Prize Drawing and Plant Raffle for the benefit of the Society.
We will also have a Members Plant Sale in March.

Refreshments for the meeting will be furnished by Dave and Cathy Schubert.

Current Member Count:
SBTPS: 65; SGC: 70

Alan Bennett's bio

Alan moved to Florida in 1986 and became interested in tropical landscaping. He bought his first Bromeliad, a *Billbergia nutans* (Queen's Tears) at a local nursery in the early 1990's. Alan attended his first Seminole Bromeliad Society (which became the Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society) show and sale in 1993, became hooked, and joined the society.

Alan was inspired by early Bromeliad pioneers such as Carol Johnson, Art Hyland, Ed Hall, and Bud Martin. He served as SBTPS treasurer for eight years and vice president for one year.

Alan went into partnership with Bud Martin in 2003 to revitalize **Blossom World Bromeliads** and started making and distributing blooming dish gardens to flower shops. At the peak, they were distributing from Vero Beach to southern Georgia, across Central Florida, and from Tampa to Venice. In 2015, Bud and Alan decided to close the business and retire. Alan remains active in both the **SBTPS** (where he has been the Plant Sales Chairman for many years) and the **Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society** in Port Orange.

Picture from the March 5th Landscape Work Party:



Barbara, Greg, Bonnie, Marion, Dianne & Mike

President's Message

February Meeting

We had 48 attendees at our February meeting. Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker's car broke down on the way to see us and he was unable to make it. We spent the speaker time discussing a Sanford Garden Club fund-raising event for October. A vote was taken and the event was approved by the membership with approximately 30 Yes votes and 4 No votes.

After seeing the need to have a program ready to go on the spur of the moment, we will look at several options. One would be to acquire a media program from the Bromeliad Society International so that we will always have one ready-to-go.

--Greg Kolojeski

March 5th Landscape Committee "Work Party"

Six members of the Landscape Committee braved cold and rainy weather to work outside at the Sanford Garden Club. Two cycads (*Encephalartos ferox* and *Dioon angustifolium*) and a large *Alcantarea imperialis* were planted and mulched, and Bromeliads and Heliconias were thinned out. The cycads were acquired on February 8th with the purchases (\$225 and \$150) approved by the SBTPS Board in 3-0 votes. The *Alcantarea imperialis* was donated by Greg and was sun-acclimated by Barbara.

Spectacular! Garden Tables

At the February meeting, a **Garden Tables Event Committee** was established with Lani Berry, Tony Figueiredo, Butch Force, Greg Kolojeski (chair), and Paula White as members.

2019 Annual Spring Plant Sale

Our **Annual Spring Plant Sale** will be a week earlier than usual (April 13th and 14th) in order to avoid a conflict with Easter. Members will soon be receiving emails with more details. We will need volunteers for the many roles including cashiers, tag takers, customer helpers (to help buyers take plants to their cars), and tropical plant experts to answer customer questions. Every member qualifies as a *tropical plant expert* to some degree and plant buyers will greatly value your advice (and other members will be there to answer the few questions where you may not have the answers).

2019 Bromeliad Extravaganza in Orlando

Be sure to put September 20-22, 2019 on your calendar for the **Bromeliad Extravaganza**. Hotel rooms may be reserved now for only \$85 per night. The registration fee will be \$100. Additional information has recently been posted at BromeliadX.com.

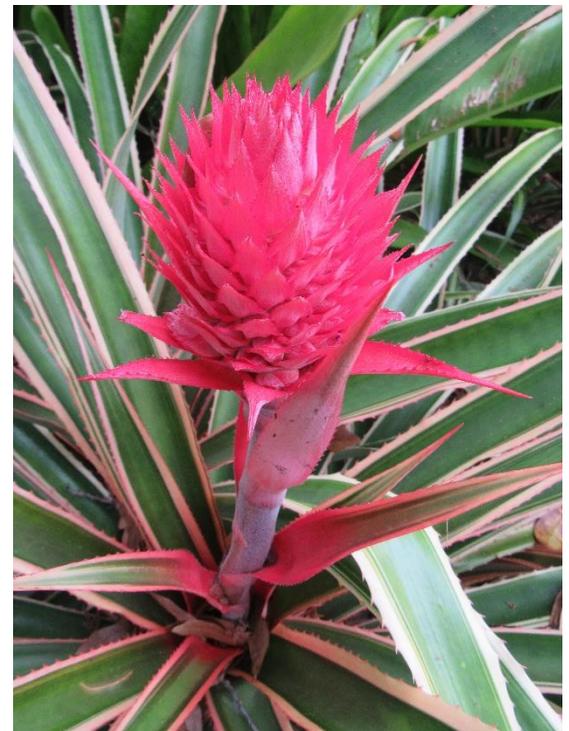
April 13th and 14th:
Annual Spring Plant Sale



2/27/19 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Aechmea 'Red Ribbon'



3/4/19 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Purple Firespike (*Odontonema callistachyum*)



3/1/19 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Ananas bracteatus variegated