



Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

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Vice Pres.: Liesl Haas/Tim Dreggors
Treasurer: (Open)
Secretary: Barbara Whittier
FCBS Reps: Greg Kolojeski & Miguel Nicolas

The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.

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VP-Programs: Liesl & Tim
VP-Property Mgmt.: (Open)
Treasurer: (Open)
Secretary: Barbara Whittier

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Plant Sales Accounting: Cathy Schubert
Librarian: Sandra Smith Fullerton

Finance, Membership: Sudi Hipsley
Landscape: Barbara Whittier

Newsletter, Publicity, Rentals, Websites: Greg Kolojeski

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March 2025 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, March 16th at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our March meeting features Alex Bello
with his presentation:

Billbergia's Tubular Beauties



Alex had a great turnout for his last presentation for the SBTPS a year ago and we are pleased to have him back again. He will 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 H through N are requested to bring side dishes.

**Annual Spring Plant Sale
April 12-13, 2025**

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 24-year veteran of the Miami-Dade County public schools as a high school administrative assistant over school operations, budget, and personnel.

Alex Bello at the January 2024 SBTPS Meeting



President's Message

February Meeting

We had 58 attendees at our February meeting which featured David Sand of Michael's Bromeliads. He fielded a large number of questions about hybridizing and also brought a great selection of plants leaving with very few. One reason we continue to get such excellent speakers is our society's reputation for being enthusiastic buyers of the plants they bring. Our speakers often remark how they sell more plants at our meetings than at any other society.

--Greg Kolojeski

April Plant Sale

The **Annual Spring Plant Sale** is only a month away. It will be held on **April 12-13, 2025**. We are not planning to have an online auction/presale this time around due to time pressures caused by other promotional efforts and garden club rental activities. Detailed information about this year's sale will be sent soon to all members.

Sanford Garden Club Work Party

A work party (Tony Figueiredo, Bonnie Friedrich, Greg Kolojeski, Dan Sawyer, and Barbara Whittier) on Feb. 17th thinned out the Heliconias near the right corner in front and removed many branches from a leaning Cherry Laurel tree on the right side of the building.

Sanford Garden Club Repairs

A new main electrical line was installed March 6th to replace an old one that failed. It brings back the operation of the stove and oven. A new estimate resulted in reducing the cost by over \$500.

Event Rentals at the Sanford Garden Club

Most Saturday and Sunday dates through the end of June have been booked. The SGC Board unanimously voted to reduce the cost of Friday rentals with Friday bookings starting to pick up as a result.

2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

The SBTPS will host the **2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza** on September 26-27, 2025 at the Ramada Gateway hotel in Kissimmee. The hotel rate is only \$85.80 plus tax with free parking. *It is recommended that you book the hotel as soon as possible.* The registration fee of \$125 includes two dinners, early admission to the biggest Bromeliad sale of the year in Florida and admission to three seminars.

Detailed information about the Extravaganza is available at BromeliadX.com. One of three seminar speakers has been announced: **Leonardo M. Versieux** from Brazil.

SBTPS Membership Renewal

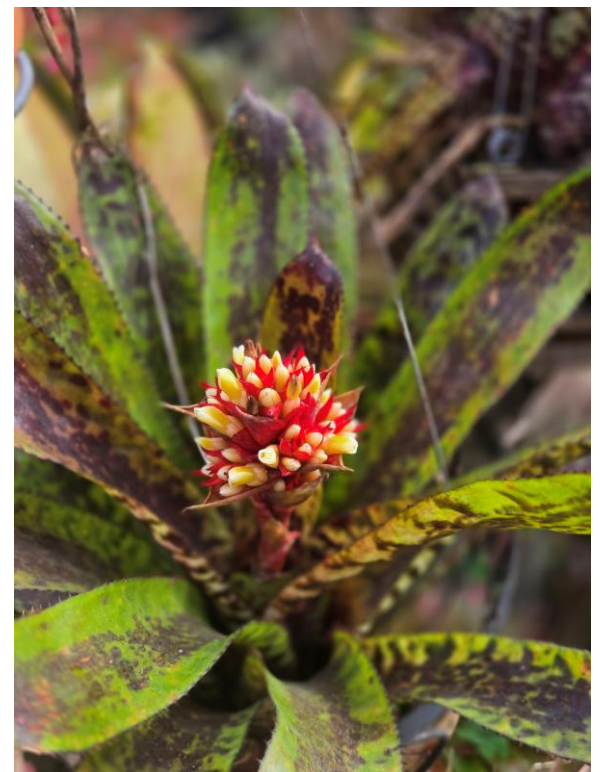
2025 Membership Dues are \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a dual membership. **You may renew your membership online at <https://sbtps.square.site/>.** An email notice was sent out on March 5th to those who have not yet renewed.



2/22/25 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Neoregelia 'Donna' (Grant Groves)



2/21/25 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Neoregelia 'Emerald City'



2/25/25 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Aechmea orlandiana 'Medio-Picta'
by Mike Saunders