



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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June 2026 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, June 21st at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our June meeting features **Alex Bello** on **Vrieseas: Show Beauties**



Alex set a record for the most plant sales by a speaker the last time he did a presentation for the SBTPS and we are pleased to have him back again. He will once again 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: 117

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's Presentation at the March 2025 SBTPS Meeting



President's Message

May Meeting

We had 53 attendees at our May meeting for Stephanie LaRusso's wonderful presentation on *The Many Forms of Bromeliaceae*. She also brought a nice selection of Bromeliads and left with only a handful of plants.

--Greg Kolojeski

Annual Fall Plant Sale

Our next plant sale is not that far off. It will be held on August 15-16, 2026. It is not too early to be preparing plants for the sale.

Future Improvements at the Sanford Garden Club

Various improvements are under consideration for the garden club. We could use a new sign out front as the current one is battered and missing some information on one side. The stage could benefit from an overhaul to the floor, steps, edging and front side on the bottom. We are also considering the addition of a mini split ductless air conditioning system which could be placed on the back wall on the east side of the main room. That side of the room is difficult to keep cool during the many months we have outside temperatures in the 90s. Another improvement that would be nice (although unlikely to happen this year) would be remodeled bathrooms.

Sanford Garden Club Rentals

Summer is the busiest rental time of the year. We have every Sunday booked from now until mid-September and only two Saturdays available from now until the end of August. June and July have only one Friday still available. Check out the online [Rental Calendar](#).

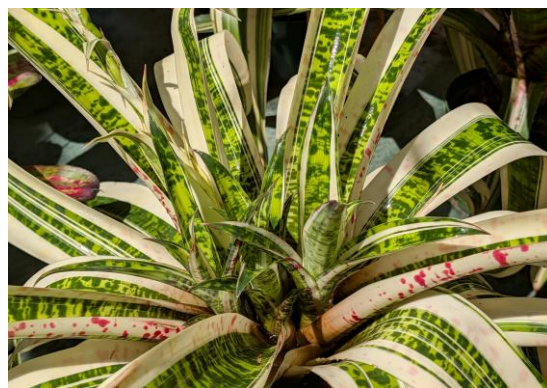
5/30/26 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Tillandsia red abdita by Sandi Wirth



July 19th Meeting: David Sand
A Bromeliad Topic
and Pineapple Day!



5/27/26 & 6/1/26 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Neoregelia 'Hot Cargo' (Skotak) and
Neoregelia 'Sunfire Pheasant' (Devonshire)
by John Boardman



6/9/26 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Goudea 'Bullis Blizzard' by Greg Kolojeski



5/3/26 & 5/18/26 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Billbergia alfonsi-johannis by Barbara Whittier
xOrthotanthus 'Blazing Bonsai' by Mike Saunders



5/20/26 [Plant Picture of the Day:](#)
Neoregelia 'Artic Monkey' (Mellica) by Greg K.