



## BromeliAdvisory

April 2025

<http://www.bssf-miami.org>

### Directors:

Alex Bello, President  
Tina Severson, Immediate Past President  
Barbara Partagas, Vice President  
Patty Gonzalez, Director  
Samantha Jones, Treasurer  
Maria Almodovar, Secretary  
Sandy Roth, Director  
Maureen Adelman, Director  
Lynn Gordon, Director

### Committees:

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Advertising: TBD  
Webmaster: Bob Benaim  
Door Prize: Alan Herndon  
Hospitality: Denise Karman  
Membership, Patty Gonzalez & Melody Ray  
Mem. Plant Sales: Alex Bello  
Special Events/ Refreshments: Sandy Roth  
Silent Auction: Rene Izquierdo  
Field Trip: Tina Severson  
FCBS Reps: Maureen & Richard Adelman

The Bromeliad Society Meeting will be held in Corbin A. Join us for a fun-filled **Bromeliad Bingo Night** on April 15th, hosted by Sandy Roth! It's always a fantastic time, and if you have extra bromeliads to share, feel free to bring them along, everyone loves a chance to win a prize!

The evening kicks off at 7:15 PM, giving you time to explore the beautiful plants, with Bingo starting promptly at 7:30 PM. The club will provide one free Bingo card, and additional cards will be available for just \$5 each. We can't wait to see you there!



Last month's festive photos are in! Don't forget—bring food to receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a Bromeliad! We encourage healthy choices and kindly ask that you avoid bringing desserts due to dietary restrictions. See you soon!"



## President's Message

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with our upcoming Annual Bromeliad Show & Sale this weekend!

Let's come together and make this event a huge success. We truly appreciate your contributions, and we're excited to make this year's show the best one yet!

Afterward, we look forward to some fun at Bromeliad Bingo! It's a great way to unwind and enjoy each other's company.

We can't wait to see you at both events!

*- Alex Bello*



## **Reminder: Our Big Event – Bromeliad Show & Sale is This Weekend!**

If you volunteered to help, please don't forget—we need you! Let us come together as a team to make this event a success. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated as we work to showcase our beautiful bromeliads and make this year's show a standout!

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you there!



**APRIL 12-13, 2025**

**BROMELIAD  
SHOW & SALE**

**10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens**

10901 Old Cutler Rd, Coral Gables, FL

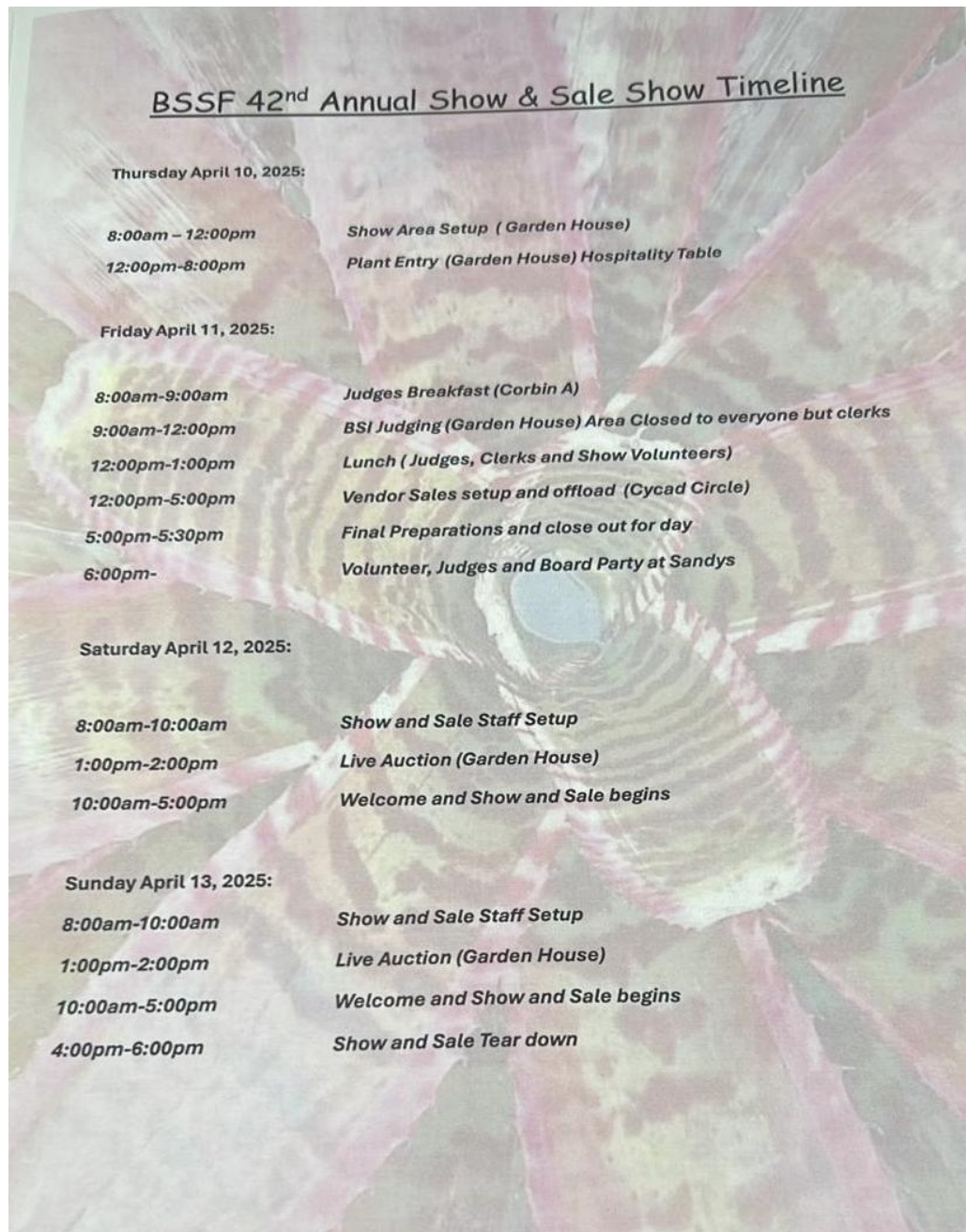
- 1,000s of unique species for sale
- Rare Plants
- Over 8 vendors from around the United States

For more information contact:  
Alex Bello, Show & Sale Chairman  
BelloTropicals@yahoo.com

**Bromeliad Society  
of South Florida**



Afternoon Judges Clerks please be at Fairchild by 1:00 PM at the latest.



<u>BSSF 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show &amp; Sale Show Timeline</u>	
<b>Thursday April 10, 2025:</b>	
8:00am – 12:00pm	Show Area Setup ( Garden House)
12:00pm-8:00pm	Plant Entry (Garden House) Hospitality Table
<b>Friday April 11, 2025:</b>	
8:00am-9:00am	Judges Breakfast (Corbin A)
9:00am-12:00pm	BSI Judging (Garden House) Area Closed to everyone but clerks
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch ( Judges, Clerks and Show Volunteers)
12:00pm-5:00pm	Vendor Sales setup and offload (Cycad Circle)
5:00pm-5:30pm	Final Preparations and close out for day
6:00pm-	Volunteer, Judges and Board Party at Sandys
<b>Saturday April 12, 2025:</b>	
8:00am-10:00am	Show and Sale Staff Setup
1:00pm-2:00pm	Live Auction (Garden House)
10:00am-5:00pm	Welcome and Show and Sale begins
<b>Sunday April 13, 2025:</b>	
8:00am-10:00am	Show and Sale Staff Setup
1:00pm-2:00pm	Live Auction (Garden House)
10:00am-5:00pm	Welcome and Show and Sale begins
4:00pm-6:00pm	Show and Sale Tear down

**Reminder: Show and Sale Bromeliad Entry Forms-** If you're planning to participate in our upcoming Show and Sale, please remember to complete and submit your entry forms to Alex Bello at [bellotropicals@yahoo.com](mailto:bellotropicals@yahoo.com).

For a smoother experience, we recommend submitting your forms ahead of time, especially if your plants are ready. This will help avoid delays when you arrive on Thursday with your plants.

Please find the entry form attached. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Request for Crystal Donations

Dear Members,

As the show approaches, it is time to ask for donations to cover the cost of our crystal prizes. Our prizes are unique to our society. No one else gives such gorgeous prizes and we are proud to give them every year.

In past years, we solicited our members by phone for donations. As no one has time for that task this year we are soliciting by email.

We are happy to accept anything you can afford to give, be it \$5, \$20 or \$100 or anything in between. You can send a check to:

Maureen Adelman, 9421 SW 134 St., Miami, FL 33176

Or you can drop off your donation to my home. My number is 305 255 3895.

Your donation helps to offset the cost of the show. Last year we did not ask for donations and the show lost money. We do not want to see that happen again.

Our annual Show and Sale is our biggest community service project. We share our love of these beautiful plants with the public by exhibiting winning plants of the highest quality and by offering plants for sale along with advice for growing them. The sight in the Garden House is something to behold, with breathtaking plants and shimmering crystal beside them.

Please help us to keep this tradition alive by sending in your donation now.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Maureen Adelman, Board Member, Show Committee Member and Past President



Door Prizes just for showing up! Happy faces all around! Shoutout to Maria Almodovar for the stunning photos!





Bromeliads bringing joy to Elaine Mills and daughter Meredith Mills!





## **Silent Auction Welcome!**

Have extra  
plants you  
would love to  
share? Bring  
your



beautiful, clean, and bug-free  
specimens to our Silent Auction!  
You'll keep 80% of the winning bid,  
and the club will receive 20%. Want to  
donate even more? Feel free, it's a  
win-win for everyone! Be sure to  
connect with Rene Izquierdo, our  
Silent Auction Chairman, for more  
details.





## In Case You Missed It:

*-By Tina Severson, with special contributions from Maureen Adelman, Barbara Partagas, and Maria Almodovar. It truly takes a village!*

David Sands gave an insightful and hands-on demonstration on hybridizing bromeliads during our last Bromeliad Society meeting. He expertly showcased a variety of stunning specimens, and attendees had the exciting opportunity to purchase rare varieties to enhance their own collections.

Sands walked us through the intricate process of hybridization, emphasizing the importance of precision tools, such as sharp scissors and tweezers. He explained the roles of the male (stamen) and female (pistil) parts of the plant. To begin, he demonstrated how to carefully remove the bracts and peel away the petals while leaving the female portion of the flower intact. He emphasized that removing the male parts ensures the plant does not self-pollinate. This work should be done early in the morning for the best results.

Once the male parts are removed, Sands explained the process of dabbling pollen onto a tag and placing it gently on the female pistil. It doesn't take much pollen to achieve pollination. Afterward, it's crucial to label the cross and note the date of pollination. Sands also mentioned that it can take 2-3 months for the seeds to ripen, which will be evident when they appear swollen. Once ripe, the seeds can be squeezed out, cleaned off, and rinsed with water before being placed on a coffee filter to dry.

Sands also highlighted that certain types of bromeliads, like *Dyckia* and *Tillandsia*, take longer to grow, and that bromeliads in general can be difficult to work with when extracting pollen. When it comes to growing the seedlings, he recommended picking the largest ones first and isolating those with desirable characteristics, such as unique coloring. Seedlings may take 2-3 years to mature into full plants, but regular attention and selective growing will yield the best results.

Fertilization plays a role, but Sands advised caution, noting that fertilizing too soon could mask some of the natural coloring of the plants. Once the characteristics of the seedlings are clear, fertilization can be adjusted as needed. He also recommended using moisture-holding soil for

seedlings, and for best results, placing them in a plastic bag with soil to create a mini greenhouse environment.

Importantly, Sands cautioned against using albomarginated plants for hybridizing, as they tend to produce albino plants that won't survive. He also noted that most bigeneric hybrids do not germinate. Overall, the session was filled with valuable advice and practical techniques that attendees can apply to their own bromeliad hybridization efforts.

We look forward to seeing the future results of this exciting session as our members experiment with hybridization techniques and continue to grow their collections.







**See Alex Bello  
if you're  
interested in  
doing the  
Raffle Table!**







These Group photos submitted by *-Denise Karman*





## Discover More About Cryptanthus: Visit Their Newly Renovated Website

For those interested in learning more about *Cryptanthus*, we're excited to announce the launch of their newly renovated website, now live and fully operational after a long hiatus. Check it out using the link below and explore all the fascinating information about this unique genus. Let's show them our support!

[www.cryptanthussociety.net](http://www.cryptanthussociety.net)

In case you're wondering, *Cryptanthus* is a genus of flowering plants in the *Bromeliaceae* family, specifically within the *Bromelioideae* subfamily. The name *Cryptanthus* comes from the Greek words "kryptos," meaning "hidden," and "anthos," meaning "flower," reflecting the plant's distinctive, often concealed blossoms. Don't miss out on exploring the world of *Cryptanthus*—visit their site today!

## Calling All Charter Members: Share Your Early Photos of the Club!

We'd love to invite our Charter Members to share any early photos of our club that you may have! If you have photos, especially those taken before 2010, please consider bringing them in for us to scan. Alternatively, you can scan and email them to Alex Bello. Our goal is to create a comprehensive photo archive documenting the club's history, and your contributions would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing these priceless memories!

## Upcoming Community Events



The [Rare Plant Festival](#) will take place April 18-20 at the Fair Expo Center. Please let us know if you would like to also volunteer as this is a great fundraiser for our BSSF club if you are chosen. The more flexible you are the more likely you are to be picked. Please let Tina Severson know as soon as possible so she can get the list over to Karina Motes.



2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza Sept 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 Kissimmee, FL (Near Disney)

<https://www.sanfordgardenclub.com/extravaganza>

Nov 4-7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Sanford Garden Club

200 Fairmont Drive, Sanford, FL 32773

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### 2025 BROMELIAD EXTRAVAGANZA

This page may be accessed directly by entering **BromeliadX.com** in any browser.

The leadoff speaker on Saturday will be **Leonardo M. Versieux** whose topic will be **Brazil: Bromeliads of the Tropics**.

#### 2025 Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 26th to 27th, 2025  
Kissimmee, Florida (near Disney)  
Conference Registration Fee: \$125  
([Online Registration](#) or [Mail-In](#))

Sponsored by the **Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies** and hosted by the **Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society**, this will be Florida's biggest Bromeliad event of the year!

The **Bromeliad Extravaganza** will include a Friday night dinner (BBQ buffet), three Saturday afternoon seminars (including **Leonardo Versieux** from Brazil), a Saturday night banquet (Italian buffet) with a rare plant auction, and last (but not least), the biggest Bromeliad sale of the year in Florida. The Bromeliad sale (an area of almost 6,000 square feet) is open to the public on Saturday from 9 to 4.

Bromeliad growers and enthusiasts from all over Florida will bring a large selection of top quality Bromeliads for your purchasing pleasure. Those who register for the Conference will get first stab at acquiring some of these fantastic plants on Friday evening.



Register online today at:  
<https://sbtps.square.site/>

[Mail-in Registration Form](#)

[Schedule of Events](#)

*Click below for hotel pictures:*



#### Hotel Reservations

The special hotel room rate for Conference registrants is only \$85.80 per night (\$67.80 plus \$18 resort fee) plus 13.5% taxes. This rate includes free parking and breakfast discounts. Deluxe tower rooms are also available for only \$105 (\$87 plus \$18 resort fee). Rooms are King or 2 Queen bed rooms.

The hotel is the **Ramada Gateway**, 7470 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy 192, Kissimmee, FL 34747. To obtain the conference rate, call the hotel (407-396-4400 or 407-997-6662 from 9am to 5pm) and ask for the special **Bromeliad Extravaganza** rates.

A deposit for one night's room rate plus taxes (\$67.80 plus \$9.16 or \$76.96 for the courtyard or poolview rooms) will be required at the time of booking (refundable up until 72 hours before the scheduled arrival date). The special rates will also be available from Sept. 23rd to 30th for those who would like to make a vacation out of their stay, but you need to book before August 26th to get this special rate. Hotel check-in time is 4pm and check out time is 11am.

You should book the hotel as soon as possible.

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> Australasian Bromeliad Conference - Aussie Broms 2025 – has been launched! The theme is 'Exploring Beauty and Diversity'.**

The Bromeliad Society of Queensland invites the global Bromeliad community to participate.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY & BEAUTY  
2025  
AUSSIE  BROMS

4<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> November 2025  
Eatons Hill Hotel, Brisbane, QLD

Plant Sales -  
New Releases!  
Taxonomy Botany  
Cultivation  
Rare plant auction  
Garden tours

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL  
EXPERT SPEAKERS DISCUSS  
ALL THINGS BROMELIADS

Full details at [www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp](http://www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp)  
Register at Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CXJKS>  
✉ [AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au](mailto:AussieBroms2025@bromsqueensland.com.au)

 THE BROMELIAD SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND 

The website can be accessed at [Aussie Broms 2025 Conference](http://www.aussiebroms2025.bromsqueensland.com.au/wp), a Facebook page will also be live soon.

## **From the Editor: Share Your Exciting Community Events!**

Do you know about an upcoming community event that our members would enjoy? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please send me the details, along with any photos or links, for inclusion in our upcoming Advisories.

While we are particularly interested in events related to botanical gardens, plants, and horticulture, we welcome submissions on any topic that might be of interest to our members. Whether it's a local workshop, garden tour, or any exciting community event, your input is always appreciated.

To ensure your event makes it into our next issue, please send the information to me at least a week before our meetings. I always strive to highlight events that I think our members will find exciting, but your contributions will make it even better!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

*Tina Severson*