

# THE FLORIDA EAST COAST BROMELIAD SOCIETY

**January 2026 Newsletter**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Location: Colony in the Wood, 4000 S. Clyde Morris Blvd.  
Port Orange, FL**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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## **January 11th**

This month's meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11 at Colony in the Wood at 1:30 p.m. Bill Hazard has invited a wonderful speaker this month, Alex Bello (bio below).

I would like to thank Myrna Moore for hosting the Holiday party at her home. Everyone had a great time.

Our new year will continue with a wonderful diversity of raffle bromeliads, door prizes, show and tell, and refreshments.

If you have not renewed your membership, please see Eve at the meeting.

---Pam

## **January Speaker**

This month's speaker is Alex Bello, 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 precipitated an out-of-control hobby that he truly loves. Alex is the owner of Bello Topicals in Miami.

Alex has held high level positions in the plant industry ranging from Southern Regions Director for the Bromeliad Society International, President & Show and Sale Chairmen of the Bromeliad Society of South Florida, Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies and former President of the International Aroid Society.

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.

## **Pam Reisen, Our New President**

We thank Pam Reisen for volunteering to preside over our club this year. Pam and her husband were snowbirds living in Port Orange 10 years ago when Pam noticed the meeting announcement

in the newspaper and joined the club. Since then, they have moved to DeLand. She is also a member of the Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society. Welcome Pam!

### **Special thank you to Jack Dunlop**

Jack Dunlop has served as President of the club for seven years, and all the members thank him for his service. He has diligently led the club with Vice President Bill Hazard and has provided great speakers, donated door prizes, raffle plants, and much more. Members say this is a fun club to join as business meetings are short and the sharing of bromeliad knowledge is exceptional. And we should not forget to thank his wife, Kathy, who brings delicious BBQ and other food to the meetings. Now you can both sit back and enjoy the meetings!

### **World Bromeliad Conference**



The World Bromeliad Conference will be held on April 15-18, 2026, at the Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa, CA. If you register (\$395) by January 14, you will be enrolled in a lottery to win one free refunded registration! After January 14<sup>th</sup> the registration rate increases to \$425. Conference room rates at the Hilton are \$192 + taxes.

Two optional tours will take you to two exceptional nurseries and a creatively displayed residential garden.

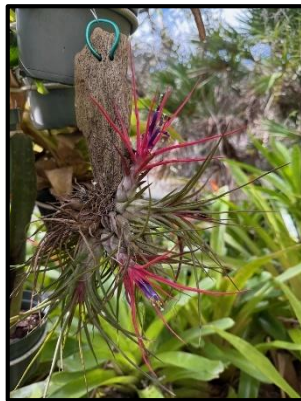
Tour 1: Bird Rock Tropicals - \$50 (lunch included). Tour 2: Rainforest Flora & Residential Garden - \$50 (lunch included).

To register for the conference go to the International Bromeliad Society website and click on register [bromeliadconference.com](http://bromeliadconference.com).

### **We love to see pictures of bromeliads in our members' gardens**



*Aechmea* 'Goldtone'  
(Calandra Thurrott)



*Tillandsia* 'Luke'  
(Calandra Thurrott)



*Billbergia amonea*  
(Jane Villa-Lobos)

Send in your photos and articles about bromeliad events, blooms in your garden, or newspaper and magazine articles that may be of interest to our members. Email Jane at [saravillalobos387@gmail.com](mailto:saravillalobos387@gmail.com).



Greetings to these members: Dawn Asher, Monique Marella, and Cricket Petrovich.

### **Future Events**

#### **February 7-8**

##### **Garden Fest**

Riverside Park  
3260 Riverside Park Drive  
Vero Beach  
Sat.: 9-5, Sun.: 9-4

#### **February 21**

##### **Seminole County Garden Expo & Plant Sale**

250 W. County Home Rd.  
Sanford  
9-3

*President – Pam Reisen 937- 426-4556*  
*Vice President - Bill Hazard 386-882-3850*  
*Secretary - Ruth Gessner 386-767-3499*  
*Treasurer - Eve Krauth 386-871-1041*  
*Newsletter Editor - Jane Villa-Lobos 386-446-0341*  
*Hospitality - TBA*  
*Beverages - Terri Malia 386-307-4331*  
*Sunshine - Judith Davies 386-864-7360*

