



Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society

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Treasurer: Sudi Hipsley
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Librarian: Ginny Fortenese
Newsletter, Websites: Greg Kolojeski
Holiday Party: Paula White

The Garden Club of Sanford, Inc.

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VP-Programs: Sudi Hipsley
VP-Property Mgmt.: Lani Berry
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Secretary: Barbara Whittier

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

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May 2018 Newsletter

**Meeting Announcement:
Sunday, May 20th at 2 PM
200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford**

Our May meeting features Kenneth Stokes with his presentation: **Exploring the Bromeliad Underground.**



Kenneth was a speaker at the 2017 Bromeliad Extravaganza in Tampa this past August. Sudi finally convinced him to drive over from Florida's west coast to the Sanford Garden Club for a presentation.

Kenneth will have another take on Bromeliads. The roots, rhizomes and underground stolons are probably the least attractive parts of a plant. However, understanding them is important to the plant's ability to stay upright enabling it to collect water and sunlight, to gather moisture and nutrients and allow it to survive and reproduce. This is the first program by Kenneth in the series of studies of Bromeliads by their parts. Ken will bring plants for sale.

There will no member sale at the May meeting other than our new Members Silent Auction.

Please bring your plants to donate to the Door Prize Drawing and Plant Raffle for the benefit of the Society.

Refreshments for the May meeting will be provided by Christel McKenna and Paula Sampson.

Kenneth Stokes bio

Kenneth is a life-long Floridian. He was born in Melbourne, moved to Miami as young man and was then transferred to Tampa by his employer to open a new business. He eventually started his own furniture manufacturing business, selling to the national interior design trade. He continues in the same field today doing antique restoration and operating a gallery of art, architectural and interior furnishings.

Following in the footsteps of his grandmother and mother, he has always been interested in plants. He began collecting wild plants as a child to put in their large rural garden. He now has an extensive collection of tropical plants in his south Tampa garden.

He has been involved in many plant societies and joined the [Bromeliad Guild of Tampa Bay](#) in 1995. He has also been a member of the [Sarasota Bromeliad Society](#) and has served in a number of positions in both. He has been doing public speaking for most of his life in business, religious and social organizations. He is also the author of four literary novels. He uses the skills he developed over the years to pull together fresh presentations, utilizing real examples to illustrate what is being said.



So Many Great Plants at the 2018 Spring Plant Sale!

President's Message

April Plant Sale

The **2018 Annual Spring Plant Sale** was a huge success. It set many records including our best Saturday sales ever, our best Sunday sales ever (up over 40% from the two Sundays last year), our best plant sales results ever, and our highest credit card sales ever. Our plant sales chairman, Alan Bennett, spent a lot of time repositioning plant tags higher up on the plants and, as a result, we had just a minimal number of plant tags found on the floor.

Thanks go out to all the members who did such a great job at the plant sale. Virtually all of our feedback from buyers mentioned how helpful our members were! We are considering adding a *Cash-Only Checkout for Six or Less Plants* at the next plant sale.

Plant Picture of the Day

Don't forget to check out our **Plant Picture of the Day** posted daily at <https://www.facebook.com/SeminoleBromeliadSociety/>. Recent photos included contributions from Butch, Debbie, and Sudi.

Certainly, you too must have a great plant picture worth submitting?
--Greg Kolojeski

Sanford Garden Club News

A much-needed porch resurfacing by the front door of the Sanford Garden Club has been scheduled for June 25th through June 29th.

Seminole Bromeliad & Tropical Plant Society News

We had a Work Party at the garden club on May 1st. Special thanks go out to all seven members who worked so hard: Alan Bennett, April Lehman, Barbara Whittier, Carolyn Chain, Fran Riggins (who just joined and hasn't even had a chance to attend a meeting yet!), Greg Kolojeski, and Tony Figueiredo. We spent a full three hours working on the landscape and accomplished a lot. Check out the pictures in the right column for scenes from the "Work Party".

Doesn't everyone just look like they are having so much fun? There will be another work party on June 5th (8:30-10:30) for more fun!

May 20th will be the first meeting with a new feature we plan to have at all future meetings: a **Members Silent Auction**. Each member will be invited to bring one plant (and one plant only) to sell in a Blind Silent Auction (bids will be placed in an envelope). All the proceeds will go to the member who brings the plant. This is an opportunity to sell one special plant which may be something that has just come into bloom (not all plants bloom at the time of our April and August plant sales) or something that just looks good. Members have already been sent an email with the details.

Wildflower Circle News

The Wildflower Circle will be having a luncheon out for their final meeting of the season in May. They will resume their regular meeting schedule in September. The Circle's April meeting was attended by five of the six members.

June 17th Meeting: Speaker to be Announced

