



**November 2007  
BSSF OFFICERS 2007**

**President Sandy Roth**  
**VP Sharon Biddix-Maessen**  
**Sec. Peggy Fisher**  
**Treas. Robert Meyer**

**DIRECTORS**

**Lori Weyrick '07**  
**Peter Kouchalacos '07-'08**  
**John Lazarus '07-'08**  
**Alan Herndon '06-'07**  
**VACANCY**

**Editors**

**Moyna Prince**  
**Robert C Meyer**  
**Lynne Fieber**

**Door Prize: Alan Herndon**  
**Education: Nat DeLeon**  
**Hospitality: Elaine Mills**  
**Library: Lynne Fieber**  
**Membership: Moyna Prince**  
**Member Plant Sales: Anthony Arbelaez**  
**Raffle: Peter & Clara Kouchalacos**  
**Refreshments: Patty Gonzalez**

What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

**NOVEMBER 6, 2007 MEETING 7:00 PM**

**SPEAKER: Tom Wolfe**  
 This is a world series speaker addressing us while the Bosox battle the Rockies. One of his winners is below.  
**RAFFLE: YEP**  
**WHEN: 7:30PM**  
**WHERE: Back to old room**  
**WHEN: November 6, 2007**

**SPECIAL THANKS:** A special thanks to **Karl Green, Peter Kouchalacos** and **Jon Lazarus** for the voices to the auction. And, the true thanks goes to those who reached deep into their pockets in delivering a great amount of money to this organization.



*Aechmea correia-araujoi* - Best of Division VI, John Anderson Best Aechmea  
 16th World Bromeliad Conference, Chicago, Illinois, August 11 -15, 2004  
 Shown by Tom Wolfe

**ALL I HAVE TO SAY IS GOBBLE,  
GOBBLE !**

President's Message

Can you believe the holidays are rapidly approaching !! And you know what that means....so get those recipes out for our holiday dinner ! We need plenty to eat ....so we can have plenty of fun....oh did I mention I will be bringing plenty of wine ! So start planning for next month.

I also want to remind you that the Ramble is this month... it is a very nice event at Fairchild...so try not to miss it ! Volunteers are welcomed to help man our Members Tables  
...I know I will be working it....after all....I could use one more bromeliad

Peace and Love  
**Sandy Roth**

[Editor's Note: Ramble is November 17-18, 2007, Hours interestingly not readily available on FTBG web page.]

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**EXTRAVAGANZA 2007**  
**by Moyna Prince**

If you missed this year's Extravaganza, you missed the most successful Extravaganza ever. **Jose Donayre** and his team deserve everyone's thanks for a superb job. From their selection of a first rate hotel to banquet fare that was actually pretty good, they shone.

Greeting you in the lobby was a breath taking display installed by the Bullis nursery. Really spectacular *Alcantareas*, *Neoregelias* and *Aechmeas* left attendees and the public gaping – some just drooling. At the crack of dawn on Saturday, the plant sale was held. Buyers were ready to beat down the doors at the 9:00 AM opening. Literally. The crowds choked the otherwise roomy venue.

Simultaneously, seminars by four top-notch speakers were held. I was able to catch two of them: **MICHAEL YOUNG** on "The Artistic Bromeliad" and **HARRY LUTHER** on "Bromeliads at Their Home and Yours."

Michael Young is well-known to world conference attendees for his prize-winning artistic arrangements, and he demonstrated how he always wins top prizes. In 45 minutes, he pulled together four artistic

arrangements using simple containers and props. He made it look so easy – perhaps I'll try one at our next show.

Harry Luther is a speaker not to be missed. The director of the Bromeliad Identification Center, Harry showed slides of bromeliads in habitat and explained why they will – or will not – flourish in south Florida gardens. There were some tantalizing shots of high altitude beauties that unfortunately are out of our range.

**CHESTER SKOTAK** came from Costa Rica to give the keynote speech at the banquet, entitled "Chester on Chester," which pretty well sums it up. With the help of Eloise Beach's photographic journal, Chester showed us his beautiful home nestled in the woods of Palmares and some of the gorgeous bromeliads – species and hybrids – growing in his nurseries. Chester has been a renowned hybridizer for years, and we were privileged to be able to grow so many of his creations in our own collections.

At least 30 BSSF members attended the Extravaganza – great support from this part of the state. A total of 240 attended the banquet, when reservations were closed. The rare plant auction, to benefit the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, raised \$6,400.

Bromeliads were well appreciated that fine weekend in Broward.

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**AUCTION WAS A SUCCESS**

We said before October 2 – bring plants and money. And you did in bountiful fashion.

This auction is a major fund raiser for our Society. Our continued success depends on a great event. And was it good.

**John Lazarus** spearheaded a strong drive for satiating the most aggressive and ardent bidders – choices were vast in the virtual cornucopia of bromeliads. Use the large auditorium proved not only resourceful, but perhaps necessary as the number of plants and the belly bursting donations of food amounted to no less than 15 tables of "goods."

Auctioneering voices of Lazarus and **Peter Kouchalakos** received good welcome as the society received more than \$4600 groos from the sale.

Thanks to Lazarus, Kouchalakos, **Sandy Roth, Peggy Fisher, Antonio Arbelaez, Mike Michalski, Lori Weyrick, Judy Pagliarul (and friend Robert), Patty Gonzalez, Bob Work, Nat DeLeon, Bullis Bromeliads, Moyna Prince, Karl Green, Alan and Herndon, Bob and Elaine Mills, Clara Kouchalakos,** and many many more.

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**November 3-4 at FTBG**  
Palm Show and Sale  
Garden House and Lawn

**November 17-18 at FTBG**  
67th Annual Ramble - A Garden Festival

**November 30 - December 1 & 2, 2007**  
Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale and Show  
10th International Cryptanthus Show  
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd (SR80) Fort Myers, FL  
Contact: Steve Hoppin @  
Steveandlarry@comcast.net or 239-997-2237

**April 25-27, 2008** - Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Show – Lakeside Show (Metairie, LA)

**June 24 - 29, 2008**  
18th World Bromeliad Conference  
Cairns, Australia  
Cairns International Hotel  
More Information can be found.  
<http://www.bromeliadsonunder.com/>

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**BROMELIADTOID:** Bromeliads are the favorite food of spectacled bears – (*Tremarctos ornatus*), also known as the Andean Bear and as ukuko, jukumari or ucumari, a small species of bear native to South America



**A NEW HOLIDAY IDEA**

Pictured above is a new idea – bromeliads adorning the Christmas tree. For more ideas like this – go to <http://www.bromeliad.com/>



*Aechmea* 'Eileen'  
15th World Bromeliad Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida, May 13 - 19, 2002

Shown by  
Tom Wolfe

Tom Wolfe (Our Speaker) showed this *Aechmea* “Eileen” at 2002 15<sup>th</sup> World Bromeliad Conference held in St. Petersburg.  
Photo Courtesy of FCBS

## CALLING ALL COOKS

This year's Holiday Part – December 4, 2007 – will be headed by a two-headed monster, as **Clara Kouchalakos** had to step down this year in order to honor business commitments which made this year's duties too arduous for compliance.

The two heads are **Sandy Roth** and **Mike Michalski**. Anyone wishing to become involved should immediately contact these people. We always need to coordinate the *main* dishes – large birds, pork or maybe beef. In the past, the delivery of these items has been wonderful and we are sure it will happen again.

If you would like to bring a side dish – do not worry.

And, rumor has it that the new chiefs are thinking about creating a liquor department for the celebration. Oh, to the holiday spirits.

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## WHO IS THIS TOM WOLFE?

Thomas Wolfe is known as the man who wrote about astronauts who touched the east coast of middle Florida; our speaker Tom Wolfe is equally renowned in the tightly knit circle of Bromeliad Growers in Florida for achievements on the west coast of middle Florida.

A few fast facts: 2004 nominee for the Wally Berg Award of Excellence; the official "Go To Man" for BROMELIAD GUILD OF TAMPA BAY, 5211 LAKE LE CLAIRE ROAD LUTZ, FL 33558-4833, recipient of Bromeliad named in honor of Tom Wolfe (cultivar *Neoregelia* 'Tom Wolfe') by BSI in May 2007 – see article in *Journal of BSI* 57(2); Past President of BSI; constant show winner, and constant lecturer.



*Aechmea blanchetiana* are everywhere.  
Photo courtesy of FCBS and Frank Sherman

## Last Chance to Volunteer in 2007

By Robert Meyer

After an Extravaganza, an auction, and assorted other events, even the vitamin-induced volunteers of this and our neighboring society are beginning to show fatigue.

But, this last call to duty is our greatest annual event. The BSSF delivers you to the annual Holiday fete at the amazing cost of , and this is not a falsehood – nothing. Nothing? Yes, nothing! Just for showing, you get a free plant worth over \$10 – a large percentage of your annual dues.

And, if you bring a present plant, you receive another – free! And, the plants on the tables, if there are any (there are), yup. . . you guessed it – free.

All we ask is two things – make the satiating festivity a potluck. So bring one dish in exchange for your gorging on 20 others. All you have to do is call Mike (305)279-2416 or Sandy (305)256-2886. The other thing? Bring your appetite.