

TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY, INC. NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 20
April 2016

Message from the President

Welcome to spring in Florida (if it hasn't already melted into summer!)

At this month's meeting we will be listening to Jim Kushlan and Kirsten Hines on what plants we should have in our gardens to help birds in the spring migration.

We will also be signing up for roles in our upcoming show and sale. Don't forget to groom those plants you plan to enter in the show!

MEETING: Monday, April 25, 2016

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

**PLACE: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Corbin "A"
10901 Old Cutler Road. Coral Gables, FL**

Dr. James Kushlan and Kirsten Hines will present a program on gardening for birds, especially during migration, which is wrapping up now as birds head back north.

Dr. James Kushlan is the author of "*Birds of Fairchild*," and Kirsten Hines is the photographer. Dr. Kushlan has established the bird conservation program at Fairchild, which includes benches memorializing famous Florida ornithologists. Additionally, he established the Kushlan Tropical Science Institute for cooperation among the institutes across the region. He has a doctorate from the University of Miami and has chaired the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. He currently is a board member of the American Ornithologists' Union, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas, Fairchild, Zoological Society of Florida, History Miami and the Everglades Foundation.

Ms. Hines is a photographer and environmental educator. She is co-author of "*Natives for Your Neighborhood*" found at the website of the Institute for Regional Conservation. She has a master's in biology, has membership in the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group and has served on the board of Tropical Audubon Society. She is a coauthor with Dr. Kushlan of "*Attracting Birds to South Florida Gardens*."

Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society meeting notes:

Date: March 28, 2016

Speaker: Peter Kouchalakos of PCK Orchids

Topic: Pests and New Bromeliad Hybrids

Treasurer's Report: Balance - \$12,157.14

President called the meeting to order at: 7:35 p.m.

Hospitality: Emalyl and Company, LLC

Raffle provided by: The Tannenbaums

Featuring superior Aglaonemas and Sansevierias

Meeting ended at: 9:00 p.m.

Peter is a long time grower of orchids and bromeliads, often seen at plant sales, heard lecturing at numerous orchid and bromeliad functions and always appreciated as “Auctioneer Supreme” at the annual Bromeliad Society sales. At the night’s meeting he spoke on the evils of certain pests, some of which require little care from you to eradicate (flyspeck scale or soft scales,) whereas snails need some judicious care and persistence to control. Most scale insects can be removed with a spray of rubbing alcohol or the lowest toxicity pesticides needed to effect controls. Malathion and Safer’s Soap are good, but should still be used carefully. In the case of the hot and rainy months of summer, Deadline mini-pellets should be used only when other methods have failed; the product is toxic to dogs and other animals, but only a few pellets are needed per plant to be effective. Placing the pellets in small mounds under a plastic pot is also an effective way to control snails without spreading out toxic bait products.

Peter touched on the subject of mosquitos breeding in bromeliad plants, pointing out that the mosquitoes which do indeed live in bromeliads are not the usual suspects of people-biters. A common material used in aerial spray programs for controlling mosquitos—*Bacillus thuringiensis*—is both environmentally safe and effective in controlling the little bloodsuckers.

Peter brought some extraordinary *Tillandsia* hybrids from Steve Correale, a long time BSSF member. Among the new hybrids shown were a variegated “Miss June”, “Dr. Dean”, and a robust new hybrid called “Steve”, using *T. chiapensis* and *T. fasciculata* as parents. Some of these plants are over 15 years old, and are flowering for the first time, so the idea of breeding *Tillandsias* is not a game for the impatient.

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Peter finished by sharing the introduction of an organic pesticide he's found quite effective, called PLP Insecticide, sprayed every few weeks to control many insects, including mosquitos. The program was very well received; Peter has a theatrical voice, and kept the audience engaged with his trademark ebullience.

Respectfully submitted,

*Craig Morell, C.P.A.
Certified Plant Addict*



Peter Kouchalakos

various Bromeliads and Tillandsia brought to the meeting by Peter Kouchalakos



Peter Kouchalakos discussing Tillandsia hybrids



A Passing Fancy

By John Banta

Anybody who has maintained a plant collection for years has doubtlessly noticed that some of the plants in the collection seem to suddenly grow with great vigor and abundance and then fade into obscurity. Fred Fuchs introduced a beautiful *Ruellia amoena* from Bolivia. This attractive plant with bright red bell-shaped flowers always flowered at Christmas time. It was an easy grower and volunteered in pathways and under benches. Then it was gone. The same thing happens with many other plants: the gold fern, *Pityrogramma* pops up all over the place and suddenly is gone. Not so with the silver fern, a real pest!

Another beautiful plant, *Pseudoeranthemum alatum*, “Chocolate Plant” pops up in paths and under benches for years and then disappears. Apparently, once the population has reached some critical point pathogens or other pests seize the opportunity to utilize a new host. Likewise, introduced pest plants seem to overwhelm an environment and then suddenly crash.

Nature seems to have a balance point that keeps populations in order. Can we learn from this lesson?

Save-the-Date!

Don't forget to calendar the Exotic Plant Show and Sale scheduled for

Saturday, May 21, 2016 through Sunday, May 22, 2016,

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

There will be further information at a later date.



Mounting Plaques

Made of 1" x 3" Pressure Treated Lumber

12" x 12" - \$ 8.00

15" x 15" - \$ 11.00

18" x 18" - \$ 15.00

24" x 24" - \$ 20.00

Contact – Bob Benaim

305-793-9755 or

bobbenaim@gmail.com

2016 OFFICERS:

President: **Lise Dowd** (305) 662-2368 Vice President: **Georgia Tasker** (305) 661-1039
Secretary: **Craig Morell** (305) 667-1173 Treasurer: **Bob Benaim** (305) 793-9755

DIRECTORS at LARGE:

Vivian Waddell (305) 665-5168 [2015-2016] **Leonard Goldstein** (305) 667-4609 [2015-2016]
Ellis Brown (305) 484-7997 [2016-2017] **Linda Bell** (305) 484-7997 [2016-2017]

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Marnie Valent: (305) 233-5929

2016 DIRECTORS:

The board consists of TFEPS officers, the immediate past president, and elected directors at large.

2016 COMMITTEES:

Hospitality:

Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886 **Martha Bogaard** (305) 661-2305

Membership:

Sherrin Smith (305) 213-2598 **Sheila & Michael O'Dea** (305) 253-4907

Raffle Table:

Ralph Hernandez (786) 261-4856

Special Sales:

Marie Nock (305) 232-2257

Show & Sales:

Vivian Waddell (305) 665-5168

Webmaster:

Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

WELCOME!

to the following new members signed up at the April 9—10
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Spring Garden Festival:

Jorge Gonzalez

Louise & Don Binns

Josie Costa

Aldo Garcia

Grace & Randolph Knight

Membership Application - 2016



We offer four different memberships options:

Yearly: _____ \$ 15.00 for individual _____ \$ 17.00 for two members at the same address

Lifetime: _____ \$ 125.00 for individual _____ \$ 150.00 for two members at the same address

Yearly dues are for calendar year - January - December

This is for a New Membership: _____ or, for Renewals: _____

Please Print

Name: _____

Phone: H or C: _____

Email: _____

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Street Address: _____

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H – Home Phone C – Cell Phone

Enclose check payable to: TFEPS

Please mail to: TFEPS – Membership
P.O. Box 902094
Homestead, Florida 33090-2094