

# TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 34

April 2018

## MEETING REMINDER •

Monday, April 23, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Garden House

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden , Corbin A

Guest Speaker: **Nick Ewy**

Topic: **Gardening with epiphytes**

Ever since he was a boy growing up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Nick Ewy has had an interest in rare and tropical plants. Throughout his childhood Nick was an avid plant grower, collector and gardener. Nick started working at a rare plant nursery in High School and then went on to obtain a degree in botany and plant pathology from Michigan State University. When Nick moved to Florida he was employed at the American Orchid Society Botanic Garden in Delray Beach and worked as lead horticulturist at the international Polo Club in Wellington. In July 2013, Nick joined the Naples Botanic Garden as Associated Director of Horticulture

Our Show and Sale is rapidly approaching and will take place May 26-27.

Please think about plants you wish to enter in the show. For those who will be offering plants at the Membership Table, information follows on page 4. If you wish to bring more plants, you will need to rent a vendor space. Please contact Vivian Waddell for a Vendor Agreement.

There will be a sign-up sheet at our next meeting for volunteers; please consider helping out with either setup or, on the sale days.

Our hospitality committee would also like to ask for your help in preparing something for the Judges luncheon to be held on Friday, May 25, 2018.

■ **We need to get behind this show & sale and make it special.** ■

## Meeting Notes

### PROGRAM

The regular meeting of the TFEPS was held on March 26, 2018, and called to order by Marie Nock. Co-President, Marnie Valent was not in attendance. We are still without a secretary and are depending on our members to step up and help out. On this evening we were fortunate to have Scott Cohen record the program given by Chip Jones. I ask you, once again, to please consider taking on the secretary position for the balance of this year. Please keep in mind that as your presidents Marie Nock and I cannot continue to record meeting minutes as well as perform our regular duties.

There were 36 people in attendance and the raffle table was provided by Stephanie La Russo and Mike Heckart and were asked to come forward to give a brief description of the plants available for Raffle. Unfortunately the raffle was delayed and many people left early which meant low sales. Ralph Hernandez and Skye Palmer gave it their all, but we still only brought in \$47.00.

Treasurer, Bob Benaim reported our Treasury has \$13,139.15.

Emalyl Israel, Hospitality chair, assisted by Elaine McKelbey, put together an appetizing and delicious table which was enjoyed by all in attendance. Many thanks to our members who also brought treats to share. This gesture is always welcomed by Emalyl as well as our membership.

### **March program in review:**

#### **THE RARE CYCADS OF MEXICO**

**Chip Jones made a wonderful presentation on the cycads he has encountered on several trips to Mexico. There are three genera of cycads endemic to Mexico: Dioon, Zamia and Ceratozamia which are found primarily in Mexico and which range throughout Mexico, Central America, South America, into the islands and the southern United States.**

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*Continued from previous page, guest speaker Chip Jones*

**There is a huge amount of diversity, especially within the *Zamia* and *Ceratozamia*. Chip notes, however, that other species look almost identical even though hundreds of miles apart – *Ceratozamia Norstogii* and *Ceratozamia Zaragozae* for example.**

**In *Ceratozamia*, this along with poor documentation of collection location has led to issues with naming with some being only known from cultivated specimens and no known wild population.**

**Sadly, many populations are disappearing due to human activity. When a road is built through a region, the land on each side is immediately cleared for cultivation, destroying all native habitats. Chip says there is a saying throughout much of Central and South America that cleared land is good land. There is no incentive for the local people to save the plants because to them the plants are worthless. To hammer this point home, Chip told us about seeing one of the last populations of *Ceratozamia Euryphyllidia*, an extremely rare species, that had been decimated days before they arrived by the construction of new roads **INSIDE** a preserve.**

### **Dealing with cultivation, Chip recommends several things:**

- **Water often, but plant them in extremely well drained soil similar to what would be used with orchids**
- **Change the soil every 4 years, even if the container is not upgraded**
- **Use a good slow release fertilizer**
- **Grow seedlings in the shade and slowly acclimate to the sun.**

**Submitted by Scott Cohen**



In Leiu of a message from your president, I would like to give you some information regarding the Show & Sale which will take place on Saturday, May 26, and Sunday, May 27, 2018. Please review this and ask any questions you may have as we will only meet once more before the show. We are looking forward to another great show and look forward to your participation.

Remember, it's just around the corner so get those show plants ready to show and those sale plants ready to sell.

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## **The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society's**

### **Annual Show and Sale**

**May 26 & 27, 2018**

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**

**9:30 am to 4:30 pm**

**If** you are a member wishing to sell plants at the Show and Sale and do not want to have a vendor space, here is your option - you may sell in the Member's Sales Area with the following rules:

#### **Member's Sales Area Rules**

There are a few stipulations:

- 1- You will be expected to help at the area for a minimum of two (2) hours. Remember you need to help sell your plants as well as the other seller's plants. You know your plant better than anyone else so you can answer questions from potential new buyers.
- 2- A maximum of 30 plants per day are allowed. Items must be double tagged with plant name, price and your initials. One tag will stay with the plant at sales time and the other will be used to pay you for the item sold. Those tags will be returned to you along with your payment.
- 3- You will be required to supply 3 plants to a future raffle table at our general meeting.
- 4- We hope you will take part in the show and display plants in the exhibit. (Not required but would be nice)
- 5- Must be a member in good standings; dues must be current.

Monies collected through the Member's sales area will be turned over to Treasurer, Bob Benaim after the sale on Sunday, May 27. After all funds are deposited, checks will be issued to participants for their sales less a fee of 20%.

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The success of the show depends on the generosity of our members and you are all encouraged to participate.

Our display is always second to none in the variety of Tropical plants and the beauty of design. We hope to see your special plants there to add to our display.

Remember that our panel of judges will award 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place ribbons as well as larger rosettes for Best Croton, Best Native, Best Fern, Best Flowering Plant, Best in Show, most unusual, and Sweepstakes. Judging is done on a fair scale affording both the novice and the seasoned grower a chance to win awards. You only need to bring your display plants in on Thursday, May 24th and come back to collect your ribbons and plants on Sunday, May 27. We will handle it from there.

Remember, we will begin accepting display plants at 10:00am on Thursday and you may bring them throughout the day until 7:00 pm that evening. It's never too late to groom your plants and make sure they are looking their best for judging.

We will finish the display set-up on Friday morning and will host an appreciation luncheon for our judges and working volunteers from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm.

**Judging will take place from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm and  
THE GARDEN HOUSE WILL BE LOCKED DURING THIS TIME.**

Vendors may bring plants for their vendor space before or after the judging, until 8:00 pm. on Friday, May 25th.

Our Show & Sale has become extremely important to us and is the only plant show in South Florida that brings so many varieties of tropical plants together in one giant display. Our sale last year brought many new species of plants that were not in cultivation so it proves to be the perfect venue for getting new plant material. We will still have your old favorites but always find a few new things to delight your senses. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors for an enjoyable show and to take home a new treasure for your own garden.

I will have a sign up sheet available at the April meeting for volunteer opportunities at the show.

Please step up and help your society to make this a successful event.  
See you at the April meeting. Marnie

*Guest Speaker Chip Jones*



**NEW MEMBERS:** Scott Brown   ▪   Cathy Hassine   ▪   Kurt Hyde

Joshua Smith           ▪   Michelle Tyrlik

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS:**

Elizabeth Chehayl       ▪   Brian Gallagan



TFEPS at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 2018 Spring Garden Festival

- Skye Palmer showing Marnie Valent her prize won from "Instagram"





## The invisible chemical Ballet

By John Banta

The complex chemical communications that occur all around us are quite astounding. Most life forms depend upon chemical signals to guide their actions. Actually, we only know of the world via chemicals as all our senses are converted by the nervous system into chemicals. When insects reproduce the males often chemically mark the female to render her less attractive to any other males. A small parasitic wasp takes advantage of this chemical marker to remain close to the gravid butterfly and when she lays her eggs on a plant the wasp inserts her eggs into the butterfly's eggs. Biological control is like a choreographed minuet controlled by chemicals that we are unaware of.

What a wonderful complex world we live in.

## **2018 OFFICERS:**

Co-Presidents: **Marie Nock (305) 232-2257**    Vice President: **Chad Husby (321) 474-2753**

**Marni Valent (305) 233-5929**

Secretary:

Treasurer:    **Bob Benaim    (305) 793-9755**

## **DIRECTORS at LARGE:**

**Vivian Waddell    (305) 665-5168 [2017-2019]**

**Leonard Goldstein    (305) 667-4609 [2017-2019]**

**Ellis Brown    (305) 484-7997 [2016-2017]**

**Paul Marcellini    (305) 299-0690**

## **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:**

**Chad Husby    (321) 474-2753**

## **2018 DIRECTORS:**

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

## **2018 COMMITTEES:**

### **Hospitality:**

**Emalyl Israel    (305) 235-0886**

### **Newsletter Editor:**

**Janet Reed    (305) 235-9337**

### **Membership:**

**Sherrin Smith    (305) 213-2598**

### **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**



## Membership Application - 2018

YEARLY DUES ARE FOR CALENDAR YEAR JANUARY—DECEMBER

We offer 4 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

This is for a New Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ or for Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H or C: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H or C: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**H = Home Phone C = Cell Phone**

Enclose check payable to: TFEPS

Please mail to: TFEPS – Membership

P.O. Box 902094

Homestead, Florida 33090-2094