

TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY, INC. NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 32

February 2018

MEETING REMINDER •

Monday, February 26, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Garden House

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Corbin A

Guest Speaker: Craig Morrell

We are pleased to welcome Craig Morrell as our speaker at the February meeting. The subject of his program, Hurricane Restoration, is near and dear to our hearts in the South Florida plant community. Craig began his career in horticulture in 1974 and earned a degree in Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Florida. He worked as a nursery inspector for the Fla. State Dept. of Agriculture before managing an orchid grower company and spending a decade as a resort horticulturist. Prior to joining the National Tropical Botanic Garden as the Director of the Kampong, Craig was the horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens. He is a font of information and having experienced many hurricanes in South Florida will surely be able to impart some of his knowledge of plant recovery following a natural disaster of this type.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the February Meeting.

Regards,

Marnie Valent, Co-President

Raffle Table Providers

- **February 26, 2018** Jose Lopez & Tom Moore
- **March 26, 2018** Stephanie LaRusso & Wicked Mike
- **April 23, 2018** Ree Gardens & Rory Antolak
- **May 28, 2018** Ralph Hernandez & Bob Benaim



**The regularly scheduled meeting of the
Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society was held on
January 22, 2018.**

The society is still searching for a replacement for our club secretary; please contact Marie Nock or Marnie Valent if you are interested in serving for a year in this position. The major requirement is to take minutes during the meetings and forward these to Janet Reed so that she can get our newsletter out in a timely manner. It's not a difficult job and I do hope that some of you will consider it. I have been filling in but have other responsibilities as Co-President.

The meeting was called to order by Marie Nock, Co-President, at 7:30 p.m. Marie acknowledged the beautiful and plentiful hospitality table prepared by hospitality chair Emalyl Israel and contributed to by numerous members. Contributions are always welcomed.

Marie asked for a treasurer's report and Bob Benaim reported that the club has \$14,163.75. She also asked for a show of new members and they were introduced and welcomed to the society.

The Raffle table was provided by Fantastic Ferns and by Linda Bell. Frank Tassenger and Linda Bell each gave a brief description of the plants that they provided. It was a full and beautiful table and produced a great many ticket sales and brought in \$115.00 for the society. There were a lot of people hoping for that chance to win a special plant.

Vivian Waddell addressed the society requesting assistance for Emalyl Israel in providing the monthly hospitality tables. She was able to get a couple of volunteers, but as you can see, we are still in need of a couple more. Please let Vivian or Emalyl know if you can assist for one of the upcoming meetings.

Hospitality Table Volunteers

- **February 26, 2018: Lenny Goldstein**
- **March 26, 2018: Elaine McKelvey**
- **April 23, 2018: OPEN**
- **March 26, 2018: OPEN**

Marie introduced our speaker for the evening even though he required little introduction. Our own Dr. Chad Husby drew an impressive crowd of 54 people to hear his presentation of his exploration of the plants of Thailand.

Society member, Bob Pope, took the following minutes of the presentation. Many thanks go out to Bob for this very concise and detailed report.

Following Chad's program our raffle was held and the meeting was adjourned.

Notes from the January 2018 speaker:

Exploring for Plants in Thailand

Dr. Chad Husby and his colleagues spent one month in Thailand during December 2017. December was chosen because of the RAMA X Flower Festival held from December 1 – 10 in Bangkok in honor of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Storing the plants that were purchased and preparing them for shipment back to FTBG was facilitated by Sappasiri Chaovanich. His own nursery is very impressive; among the pictures Chad showed was a very beautiful Selaginella from the Philippines.

There were around 100 vendors at the RAMA X festival. There was an amazing variety of plants including very red Aglaonemas, a wide variety of striking Caladiums, and examples of bonsai, braided and curved Adenium. Chad said the Thais do things with plants that most other growers might say couldn't be done (and do them well.) Growers in Thailand are also currently into Cacti and we saw pictures of their nicer ones. Among the plants showed us was a creeping Casurina.

Besides the Festival Market, several other markets in the Bangkok area were visited including a fruit tree market at an Agricultural university. One picture showed the largest mangoes I've ever seen – one could feed a family. Another nursery visited specialized in water lilies and other aquatic plants.

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From Bangkok the FTBG group went to the far south to Hat Yai and then to Nakhon Si Thammarat to visit a nursery that specialized in ferns. Afterward, it was back across country to an area in eastern Thailand near the Cambodian border. Here they visited the *I Love Ferns* nursery which specialized in unusual *Platycterium* hybrids and another nursery operated by a grower, Poonsak, who grows Palms and many other exotics.

The trip ended with a visit to Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden in Pattaya. The 200 acres open to the general public includes gardens, elephant rides, food and cultural shows. Currently life size models of dinosaurs are being constructed and added to the exhibits. It's a real tourist attraction! Besides the area open to the public, there are about 300 acres of nursery. One planting of *Copernicia fallensis* probably had more mature individuals than in all of Miami-Dade County.

It is a very impressive nursery and was a fitting way to end Dr. Husby's lecture.

Submitted by Bob Pope

■ Important dates to remember are:

- **Monthly Meetings** – the fourth Monday of the month: January through June, September and November

TFEPS Show and Sale – May 26 – 27, 2018

TFEPS Auction – October 22, 2018



May 2016 TFEPS Show and Sale

A Broken Thermometer

By John Banta

In spite of politics the world is getting warmer.

A warmer world has effects other than higher costs for air conditioning. Impaired growth of food crops is a critical one. Many food crops depend upon vernalisation; a certain number of hours of cooler weather to ensure that the crop is ready for the market. Broccoli, lettuce and peas are just a few of them.

The John Innes Center provides breeding material to plant breeders to develop year round growth of Brassica vegetables. This could mean that these temperature sensitive crops could be grown all year long. Many of the problems of a warmer world will be answered by enlightened plant breeding only if we have enough botanists.



Dear TFEPS Members,

As you'll recall when the TFEPS election was held in January, Marnie Valent and I agreed to be Co-Presidents for a year on the condition that you would agree to get more involved on committees, as Vice Chairs or as volunteers for specific events. The officers, directors and committee chairs participated in a half-day planning meeting on January 6th and in addition to looking at ways to break down jobs/roles into smaller pieces, we agreed on some additional projects/activities as well. At the session we clarified the TFEPS mission which is *to promote tropical fern and exotic plant knowledge, experience and enthusiasm and foster the introduction and exchange of plants.*

To this end we will continue our ongoing activities as well as adding a few.

For now,

Ellis Brown will be working to plan a Garden/Nursery Tour for later in the year.

Paul Marcellini will explore the development of a Facebook Page for the Society that will enable more sharing of pictures and plants.

Chad Husby has some wonderful programs being planned with horticultural experts who are new to our group.

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June, September and November
- * TFEPS Show and Sale – May 26 – 27, 2018
- * TFEPS Auction – October 22, 2018

We want to encourage you to bring guests to our meetings, show and auction so that they can experience what we have to offer as a group. We're excited about the year ahead and hope that you are too.

Sincerely,

Marie Nock

TFEPS Co-President

2018 Raffle Table

January 22, 2018

Fantastic Ferns

Linda Bell

February 26, 2018

Jose Lopez

Tom Moore

March 26, 2018

C an't Grow Squash

Wicked Mike's

April 22, 2018

Ree Gardens

Rory Antolak

May 26 & 27, 2018

Annual Show & Sale

May 28, 2018

Ralph Hernandez

Bob Benaim



MOUNTING PLAQUES

Made of 1" x 3" Pressure Treated Lumber

12' x 12" - \$ 7.00 15' x 15" - \$10.00

18' x 18" - \$13.00 24" x 24" - \$20.00

Contact—Bob Benaim 305-793-9755 or,

bobbenaim@gmail.com



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