

TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY, INC.

NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 27

February 2017

2017 looks to be an exciting year for TFEPS. We have a great lineup of speakers and look forward to the show and sale this spring. Please start thinking about plants you may want to groom for display in the show. Also, the February meeting raffle plants will be provided by the membership since the scheduled vendor is unable to do it. If you have any plants to contribute to the February raffle, we would be most grateful.

Chad Husby

President TFEPS

MEETING REMINDER •

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017 AT 7:15 PM
IN THE GARDEN HOUSE AT
FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

OUR SPEAKER WILL BE REGGIE WHITEHEAD AND HE WILL BE SPEAKING ON "FERNS OF THE WORLD."

SEE YOU THERE!

Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society

Meeting Notes-

Date:	January 30, 2017
Speaker:	Dr. Bruce McAlpin
Topic:	Sansevierias to Know and Grow
Meeting Called to Order at:	7:35 p.m.
Treasurer's Report:	Balance—\$13,398.00
Hospitality:	Emalyl, Sandy, Marnie, amongst others
Raffle Table:	by the Tastingers
Meeting Ended at:	9:20 p.m.

Dr. McAlpin is a perennial favorite-speaker at TFEPS. He speaks with wonderful enthusiasm about his subjects, brings plants for sale, and goes home with far less than he brings. Bruce lives in a quiet hamlet near La Belle, Florida called Musel....3 hours west and north of us, and a world apart from the hustle of Miami.

His background is wonderfully diverse, spanning the range from New York Botanical Garden to Wilson Botanical Garden in Costa Rica, to teacher at Miami Dade Community College. Now retired, his plant growing skills are always in demand, as are his plants.

Tonight's lecture was on the oft-maligned genus *Sansevieria*, frequently scorned because of a few weedy species that have naturalized. His favored species are far less invasive (some of them are polar opposites of weeds) and some are marvelous dwarf species. Bruce went through a range of species from the dwarfish species that looks like a jester's hat, to 6 foot tall 'spears' that are stick-straight cylindriform types.

Meeting Notes, continued from previous page

Some types are user friendly, some have wicked needles on the leaf tips. Some are groundcovers, and some are architectural giants. Propagation tactics, culture basics and the advantages of growing low-demand plants were all covered well.

The propagated plants he brought for sale sold in about 90 seconds, proof of the renewed interest in the genus, and his sales skills as well. Several species, such as *S.hallii*, *S.fawcettii*, and *S.pfisteri* were all shown to great effect, grown in pots of plain gravel or in soil-gravel mixes.

We always have a great crowd at Bruce's lectures, look forward to his unusual plants, and go home educated from his teachings, no matter how long we've been growing plants. The program was illuminating for those interested in this plant group.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, C.P.A.

Certified Plant Addict

Speakers for TFEPS, 2017

January: Bruce McAlpin, Sansevierias worth growing

February: Reggie Whitehead, Ferns of the World

March: Barbara McAdam, South Florida's imperiled butterflies

April: Paul Wetter, Setting up a small reverse osmosis system

May: Chad Husby, Tropical Conifers

June: Jeff Wasielewski, Hurricane-worthy tropical fruit trees

September: Debra DeMarco, Designing a Garden

October: auction

November: Jason Lopez, Fairchild's conservation work in the Caribbean

December: Holiday Party

Plant Steroids

By John Banta

Steroids differ from hormones in that they affect systems rather than specific actions as hormones do. The recent popularity of Brassinosteroids is based upon their results, and those results are impressive. They include improved plant tolerance to both heat and cold stress but their greatest asset is the boost in plant vigor when applied to seedlings. Sprayed on seedlings with at least two true leaves the root system growth is amazing. The effects of the application of the steroid at such a low concentration (6 parts per billion) are astounding. Its mode of action is rather involved but it enhances the production of transcription factors that are controlled by RNA.

The more massive root system on the seedlings gave them a head start that provided bigger and more massive cabbages than untreated ones; treated tomato plants also greatly benefited by Brassinosteroids.

Next time, the story of how these wonderful steroids came to horticulture.

REMINDER: If you have plants to contribute to the February Meeting Raffle table, we would be most grateful. And, get your favorite plants ready for display at the upcoming spring sale!



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

2017 OFFICERS:

President: **Chad Husby**

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 [2017-2019]

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

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

Linda Bell (305) 484-7997 [2016-2017]

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Marnie Valent

2017 DIRECTORS:

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

2017 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



Membership Application - 2017

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

Yearly dues are for calendar year - January - December

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

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