MEETING REMINDER!

Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables
Corbin A classroom

SPEAKER: Georgia Tasker

TOPIC: Botanical Gardens visited in her travels from Iceland to Myanmar

Raffle Table: Oasis Nursery [Rebecca & Duanne Tannenbaum] and Rory Antolak

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky. Georgia Tasker graduated with a B.A. cum laude in English from Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana. She worked for the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News before moving to Florida in 1969, when she began to work for The Miami Herald. In 1979, she became the Garden Writer for the paper. In the early 1980s, she began and completed the FIU certificate program in commercial tropical botany.

By 1986, her interest in the tropics took her to Costa Rica to research deforestation. That series of articles on tropical deforestation made her a Pulitzer Prize finalist. In 1987, she won a Knight Fellowship to Stanford University, during which time she received a Global Media Award from the Population Institute that was presented in Manaus, Brazil. She is a recipient of the Barbour Medal, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden’s highest environmental award, and has a lifetime achievement award from Tropical Audubon Society.

She left The Miami Herald in 2009 and joined the staff of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, as a writer and photographer for the award-winning quarterly magazine, The Tropical Garden, retiring in 2018. She was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science by Florida International University in 2018.

DATE: Monday, January 26, 2020
GENERAL MEETING ATTENDANCE: 48
TREASURY REPORT: $18,540.71
HOSPITALITY TABLE: Emalyl Isreal
RAFFLE TABLE PRESENTED BY: Bob Benaim and Fantastic Ferns [Sally & Frank Tastinger]
PROGRAM SPEAKERS: Kristiana St. Claire and Dallas Hanson
TOPIC: “Aroids, Begonias, and Other Shade-Loving Plants”

The title of this program is misleading. It should really have been “How We Grew Aroids, Begonias, and Other Shade-Loving Plants in a Two-Bedroom, 600 Square-Foot Apartment in a Cool, Rainy Oregon City with an Eight-Month Winter and Then Moved Them About 3,300 Miles and Then Had to Wait Two Extra Months to Give a Program About Them to the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society.” (You can take a deep breath here.)

About that two-month wait: Kristiana and Dallas were originally scheduled to present their program in November, but the Corbin Building’s video screens were in a diva’s snit and refused to perform. However, by late January order had been restored, and Kristiana and Dallas were kind enough to return.

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Just a few years ago, Kristiana and Dallas were enjoying life in Portland, Oregon as rockhounds, mycololgists, and fans of conifers and other plants native to the southern Oregon jungle when they decided to see if they could acclimate tropical plants to their temperate climate. If that were not challenging enough, they increased the degree of difficulty by doing their growing in a small two bedroom apartment. Their residence was warmed by a forced-heat system, so that necessitated the addition of humidifiers. In order to accommodate grow shelves, Kristiana and Dallas sold some of their furniture. Their goal was to adapt each of their plants to its particular needs. In their apartment/greenhouse they maintained a temperature between 75 and 80 degrees. That consistent level of warmth permitted them to propagate throughout the winter. They pushed fertilization, and even burned some plants initially. Eventually they were growing over 1,000 plants, without duplications! Then came the huge decision to relocate to Miami, where Kristiana and Dallas could see how their plants would perform when grown outdoors year-round. The move entailed wrapping cuttings of their plants in sphagnum moss and stuffing them into boxes for shipment. The migrants then undertook a grand farewell tour along the West Coast. First some exploring along the Klamath River, which runs through Oregon and northern California.
ABOVE  Dallas Hanson and Kristiana St. Clair  BELOW  Portland, Oregon apartment/greenhouse
Next stop was south to Huntington Gardens in San Marino, California, where they discovered a small, but jam-packed conservatory on the grounds. They consider the Huntington to be the only facility on the West Coast that rivals Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. They then drove further south to San Diego, where they found hints of Florida – minus the hurricanes.

Another stop on the cross-country journey was the Mojave Desert, the driest desert in North America. It provided stark contrast to the earlier – and later – parts of the trip. There Kristiana and Dallas were able to see fossil plants from the area’s tropical past.
But, of course, the exposure to live tropical plants in the ground had to wait until they reached the Land of the Hanging Chads. Upon their arrival, they were impressed greatly by Bauhinias. Reunited with their plants, they were pleased that massive losses had been avoided. Once Kristiana and Dallas were settled into a home in southern Florida, they built a 13’ X 26’ shade house and began utilizing filtered water to irrigate their plants. But they soon found that growing tropical species outdoors and in the ground exposed the plants to influences that had been controllable in their Portland apartment. For instance, a nearby tree has a scale infestation that affects the plants. And they cannot control lighting outside during the winter.

Ironically, they have discovered that, without the tight controls enabled by indoor cultivation, the leaves of some plants aren’t emerging as large as they had been in the Pacific Northwest! But a couple accustomed to challenges will surely find a way to overcome that surprise.
SAVE THE DATE

TFEPS ANNUAL SHOW and SALE SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 28, 2020  show set up
Friday, May 29, 2020  morning final show set up
                     Judge’s luncheon
                     Judging
Saturday/Sunday May 30-31, 2020  show and sale

TFEPS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Monday, December 14

If you haven’t already done so, please pay your annual dues
Neoregelia carcharodan
TFEPS 2019 Show and Sale
2019 First Place

Asplenium australasicum
TFEPS 2019 Show and Sale
2019 Best Fern □ 2019 First Place

Plant Show and Sale photos by Janet Reed

MOUNTING PLAQUES
Made of 1” x 3” Pressure Treated Lumber
12” x 12” - $10.00  15” x 15” - $13.00
18” x 18” - $17.00  24” x 24” - $25.00
Contact—Bob Benaim 305-793-9755 or,
bobbenaim@gmail.com
Events Calendar:

✍️ Artist Charles Ellis exhibit “Beautiful Chaos”
   January 28—March 8, 2020 at
   Miami Beach Botanic Garden, 2000 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach

✍️ 30th Annual Asian Culture Festival
   March 7–March 8, 2020 at
   Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187 Avenue, Homestead, Florida

✍️ 18th Annual Orchid Garden - March 13-15, 2020 at
   Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables

✍️ 17th Annual Fine Arts Festival - January 25-26, 2020 at
   Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 Red Road, Pinecrest
2020 OFFICERS:

President: Arielle Simon (305) 588-5026  Vice President: Ellis Brown (305) 484-7997

Secretary: Leonard Goldstein (305) 873-4105  Treasurer: Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

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Chad Husby (321) 474-2753  Martha Kent (305) 667-3197

2018-2019 DIRECTORS at LARGE:

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Marni Valent (305) 233-5929

2020 DIRECTORS:

The 2020 TFEPS Board of Directors consists of TFEPS officers, the Immediate Past President, and the Directors at Large.

2020 COMMITTEES:

Hospitality:  Newsletter Editor:

Emalyl Israel (305) 235-0886  Janet Reed (305) 510-3891

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Ralph Hernandez (786) 261-4856

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Marie Nock (305) 232-2257  Vivian Waddell (305) 665-5168

Webmaster:

Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755
Membership Application - 2020

We offer 4 different memberships options:

Yearly dues are
for calendar year – January - December

_____ $ 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 Renewals

Please Print

Name: ________________________________

Phone: H or C: ________________________________

E-mail: ________________________________

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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
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