



Volume 1, Issue 10

February 2020

## 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.

Tasker is the author of *Wild Things, The Return of Native Plants,* *Enchanted Ground, Gardening with Nature in the Subtropics,* co-author of *Florida Gardening Guide* and *Florida, Getting Started Garden Guide.* She is a contributor to *Florida Bay Forever, A Story of Water from the Everglades to the Keys.* She has completed four in a series of handbooks, *Gardening with Fairchild,* including *Growing Orchids in South Florida.*

## MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** Monday, January 26, 2020

**GENERAL MEETING ATTENDANCE:** 48

**TREASURY REPORT:** \$18,540.71

**HOSPITALITY TABLE:** Emaly 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.

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.

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*Florida shade house plant*



## 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



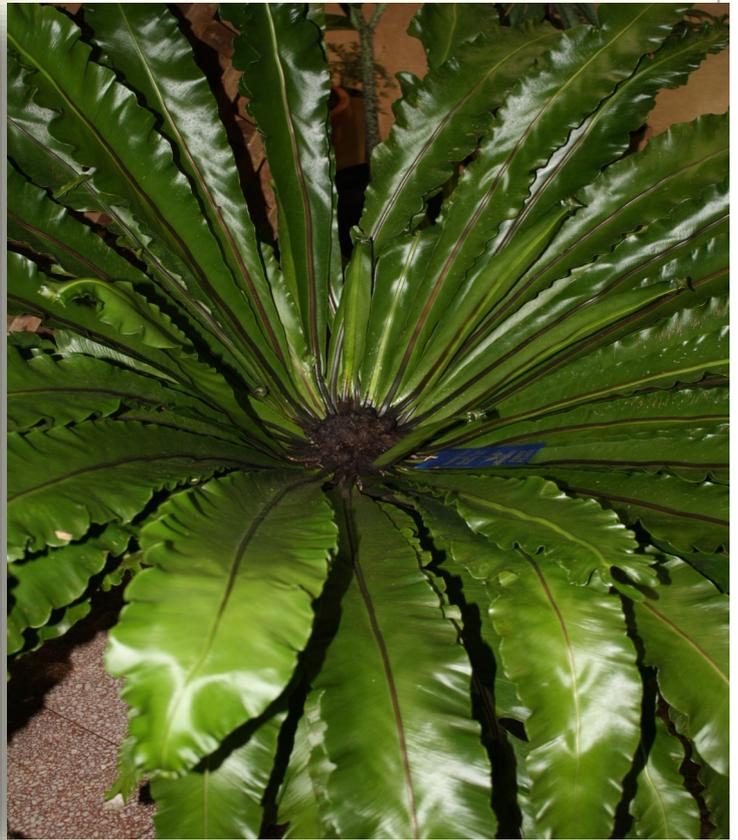


JANUARY RAFFLE TABLE





**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](mailto:bobbenaim@gmail.com)**



**Anthurium hybrid**



**Alocasia Watsoniana**

**TFEPS 2019 Show and Sale**

**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**

## **2019-2020 DIRECTORS at LARGE:**

**Chad Husby (321) 474-2753**

**Martha Kent (305) 667-3197**

## **2018-2019 DIRECTORS at LARGE:**

**Ellis Brown (305) 484-7997**

**Paul Marcellini (305) 299-0690**

## **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:**

**Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886**

### **Newsletter Editor:**

**Janet Reed (305) 510-3891**

### **Membership:**

**Kristin Cadavieco (305) 934-5990**

### **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 - 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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