Message from the President

First of all, thanks and congratulations to all of you who helped to make our show and sale so successful. A special thank you to Reggie Whitehead, both for his beautiful show design and for the many spectacular plants he brought to the show. More thanks are due to our three judges: Craig Morell, Jason Lopez and Georgia Tasker; to Vivian Waddell, our vendor liaison and, especially, to Emalyl Israel for keeping us in delicious food for both the judges’ luncheon and throughout the show and sale. Thanks to everyone who brought food and plants for the show and who volunteered for all the many jobs that a successful show and sale demands.

The TFEPS Board has decided the following in relation to the annual show and sale: plants brought in for the show may not have any sign on them and must be placed according to the show designer’s design. However, any member may rent ($100) an 8 foot table (similar to those used by vendors) and arrange their own display. A sign no greater than 12” by 18” would be permitted on this table. Members choosing to make their own display should also arrange for the display to be monitored as TFEPS cannot be responsible for the security of the displayed plants.

Finally, for those of you who weren’t at last month’s meeting, it is with a certain sadness that I must announce that this month will be my last as your president. Steve and I have bought a house in Hilo, Hawaii and will be moving at the end of the month. Come and see us if you get to the Big Island! It has been a very interesting two years and I thank you all for that. If any of you would like to be TFEPS President, please talk to any board member – you will not be bored!
Steve and Marie Nock, owners of Ree Gardens, have been growing Aroids, including anthuriums and philodendrons, for about 50 years. During that time they have made many mistakes, have made observations and have grown over 200 varieties of philodendron and anthurium including many of Steve’s hybrids. In their presentation they will share their processes, techniques and practices for growing these plants from setting seed and seed germination to propagating and growing plants.

Horticulture has been a lifelong hobby for Steve and Marie. Steve holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the Univ. of Miami and has a background in retail sales. Marie has a Bachelor’s Degree in Liberal Arts from the Univ. of Miami and a Master’s Degree in Education from Florida Atlantic Univ. Her background is in individual and organizational effectiveness.
Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society  
meeting notes -

Date: May 25, 2016  
Speaker: Craig Morell, Curator at The Kampong  
Topic: Plant Propagation; Tips, Tricks and Curious Methods  
Treasurer’s Report: Balance - $12,361.19  
Hospitality: Emalyl and Company, LLC  
Meeting Ended at 9:00 pm

President Lise Dowd called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm, announced there were a few changes in the Society, primarily that she and her husband are leaving Miami and taking up residence in Hilo, Hawaii! Therefore, she will be stepping down as our beloved President, and she will leave a major dent in the Society’s Feng Shui.

The TFEPS Board met just before the meeting to discuss several points regarding signage, vendors who wish to advertise at their sales table, and space allotments for those who wish to have their own separate display at the next annual TFEPS show and sale. Details will be announced at the next meeting.

Craig is a long time resident of Miami, and the Society has known him for a long time. A student (B.S. Horticulture from UF of Gainesville) and employee of horticulture for 40+ years, he interned at Fairchild Garden in 1985, worked at several nurseries, was a nursery inspector for the State, has worked at the Boca Raton Resort, and recently finished an eleven year run at Pinecrest Gardens.
Now resident at The Kampong in Coconut Grove, he has picked up some interesting tips on plants along the path to currency.

The program focused on some lesser-known options for propagating plants, including some fairly uncommon propagating/rooting materials such as Profile calcined clay instead of organic media; a mix of perlite and vermiculite for seed starting and rooting cuttings; the basics of air-layering (although Craig needed a sturdier plant subject to use for demo—the plant broke under stress); the old-school tactic of using a heated growth chamber for sprouting seeds and spores; and some of the differences in sphagnum moss. The growth chamber was a large fishbowl in which several inches of water is contained, with a small submersible aquarium heater to keep the water warm, and an inverted pot to keep the cuttings or seeds out of the water. When covered, the bowl/aquarium will maintain an ideal and completely constant temperature, rather than the diurnal variation we see outside.

The program closed after a small swirl of questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, C.P.A.
Certified Plant Addict
We often think of the great plant collectors like Joseph Banks, Hooker, Fortune, Wallace, Bates, and so many others as having lived in a golden age of plant discovery. For those of us too old to do field work anymore there is a great deal of pleasure derived from reading of their adventures. A good place to start is with Tyler Whittle’s book, “The Plant Hunters” It would seem that the golden years of plant hunting are long over. The reality is that over 2000 new species are described every year, according to Kew’s Director, Stephen Hopper. It isn’t uncommon to know someone who has a plant named in their honor because they found the first plant recognized as new to science. For example, Reggie Whitehead has a fern that he collected in Sumatra named for him (Microsorum whiteheadii) Mary Sizemore has several plants named for her (Xanthosoma sizemore and Begonia sizemoreae) Another interesting book for plant enthusiasts to read is Joseph Kastner’s “A Species of Eternity” Our contribution to these adventures is to appreciate and grow their discoveries in our collections and enjoy the friendship of other plant collectors.
GMO'S Versus GEO'S
By John Banta

It used to be that “food science” was a topic in a class of home economics for 10th grade girls. Our world is more complex today. As scientists have learned to read the genetic code for all manner of organisms, new solutions to old problems have been embraced. The ability to move desirable genes from one organism to another (transgenetic modification) has resulted in novel foods such as tomato's red pigment into pineapples for a healthier fruit. This is a genetically modified organism (a GMO).

Now there is a new class of foods; genetically enhanced organisms (GEO'S). What is the difference? Actually, a lot. For example, when potatoes are harvested only a small portion of the harvest can be marketed, the remainder must be put into cold storage until the market can utilize them. Unfortunately, potatoes often respond to cold storage by producing a bitter tasting compound that reduces their value. Scientists have identified the gene responsible for the production of this bitter compound and with genetic enhancement have removed this gene from potatoes. Only added benefits, no added genes.

Food science is no longer a tenth grade subject.

Available for sale: various types of wood scraps (Walnut, Mahogany, Teak, for example) in random small sizes. Make a planter, a display platform for a collection ...

For more information contact Stephanie La Russo at: info@cantgrowsquash.com

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
2016 OFFICERS:
President: Lise Dowd (305) 662-2368  Vice President: Georgia Tasker (305) 661-1039
Secretary: Craig Morell (305) 667-1173  Treasurer: Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

DIRECTORS at LARGE:
Ellis Brown (305) 484-7997 [2016-2017]  Linda Bell (305) 484-7997 [2016-2017]

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:
Marnie Valent: (305) 233-5929

2016 DIRECTORS:
The board consists of TFEPS officers, the immediate past president, and elected directors at large.

2016 COMMITTEES:
Hospitality:
Emalyl 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  Vivian Waddell (305) 665-5168
Webmaster:
Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

WELCOME!
to the following new members:
Ann Schmidt  Babette Logg  Tim O’Donnel
Andrew Rosenberg & Cossine Luria
We offer four 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: ____________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________________________________

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Phone: H or C: ____________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________________________________

Street Address: ____________________________________________________

City, State _______________________________________________________

Zip Code + 4: ___________________ + ___________

H – Home Phone    C – Cell Phone

Enclose check payable to: TFEPS

Please mail to: TFEPS – Membership
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