

TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 2018,
Volume 17, Issue 35

MEETING REMINDER •

Monday, June 25, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Garden House

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Corbin A

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sally Chambers

Topic: Epiphytic Fern Diversity in Belize, Cuba, and Peru

"Dr. Sally Chambers will be sharing tales of her recent field trips to Belize, Cuba, and Peru to study and document epiphytic fern diversity. She will also provide a brief overview of some of the other research she has been conducting during her first year at Selby Gardens."

"Dr. Chambers has been a botanist at Marie Selby Botanic Garden since May 2017. Before that she held the position of postdoctoral researcher at the University of Florida. She holds a Ph.D. in plant ecology and evolutionary biology from Purdue University and completed her undergraduate work in natural resource and conservation management at the University of Kentucky. Chambers' botanical garden experience includes an internship in the horticulture department at the Missouri Botanical Garden."

<https://selby.org/press-releases/selby-gardens-welcomes-new-research-botanist/>

<https://www.sarasotamagazine.com/articles/2017/5/9/fern-researcher-joins-selby-gardens>

■ REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED ■

June 2018 Co-President's Message

Marie Nock

Congratulations to everyone involved with the TFEPS Show and Sale on May 26 – 27! What a Show! Under the able leadership of Show Chair, Marnie Valent and Show Vice-Chair, Vivian Waddell, the chairs brought together volunteers to set-up, monitor and take-down the show, outstanding “show plants,” judges, vendors, member sellers and volunteers to facilitate all aspects of the show. Hospitality Chairperson, Emaly Israel, whose mantra must be “the Society functions well on a full stomach” provided for the Judge’s Luncheon and lunches and treats for Society volunteers and vendors throughout the weekend. The only thing not controlled was the weather but despite a rainy Sunday morning, people came out as soon as the rain abated. A huge “THANK YOU” to everyone involved.

Another huge “THANK YOU” to members Valerie Holt and Sally and Frank Tasting, who filled in at the very last minute at the May meeting for our scheduled speaker who became ill and was unable to attend. Valerie, Sally and Frank presented a very informative and humorous session on How to Plaque Platyceriums.

Remember that our meeting on June 25th will be the last one of the summer so please try to attend. The next meeting will be on September 24th.

Have a pleasant summer!

Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society

MEETING NOTES

Date: Monday, May 28, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m., speakers finished presentation at 9:00 p.m.

39 people attended

Treasurer's Report: \$12,169.65

Note: This does not include the show and sale

Raffle Table provided by the Weed's

Speakers: Sally and Frank Tasting, and Valerie Holt

Topic: How to divide and plaque *Platycerium* (Staghorn Ferns)

Suggestion from Sally: Next year there should be a demonstration or meeting about how to groom plants for entry into the TFEPS show and sale



Platyceriums consist of the sterile, flat shield fronds from which the longer, fertile fronds emerge

What you'll need:

serrated knife

hammer and nails or a staple gun

u-hook (for hanging the plaque)

monofilament and scissors

good quality sphagnum moss + a bucket to soak it in

+ fungicide (optional)

mask and gloves

fertilizer (more on this later)

pencil (to label your plant)

wooden plaque*

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Step 1: Purchase, cut or assemble your wooden plaque. *The wood can be cedar or simply 1x3 pressure treated lumber

Step 2: Choose a healthy plant to divide. A good time to divide is when new growth is starting

Step 3: Attach the u-hook to the top of the plaque

Step 4: Divide the Platycerium. Be careful not to damage the eye/center. Remove old growth/root mass behind the shield frond back to 5 layers or so; this is done so that the fern will lay flat.

Step 5 (Valerie's method): Nail two nails per side to the sides of the plaque. This is what you'll attach the monofilament to and cross over the shield frond to secure it. If you are using a stapler (Frank's method) to secure the monofilament, then skip this step.

Step 6: Add sphagnum to the plaque, making sure to pile it up so that it will be flush with the backside of the fern and be behind the area the fern will grow over. The sphagnum should be thoroughly soaked ahead of time—consider adding fungicide to the water

Step 7: Place the Platycerium on the mound of moss and press down firmly. Make sure that the fern is right side up. Tie the monofilament to a nail and begin crossing over and under the shield frond, careful not to go through the bud. You are essentially making a net that secures the sphagnum and the shape of the shield fronds. If you are using Frank's method, simply staple the monofilament from end to end.

Use a balanced time-release fertilizer or Milorganite to fertilize your staghorn fern.

Additional comments: Air circulation is important. If your fern is hanging on a chain on a tree and is becoming too waterlogged, poke holes in the bottom with a pencil to allow drainage.



Above: Speakers members Frank Taster and Valerie Holt -May 28, 2018 meeting - Mounting Platycerium

Below: Frank with staple method of mounting





Above: Speaker: member Valerie Holt May 28, 2018 meeting

Below: mounted platycerium



May 26 & 27, 2018

T.F.E.P.S. Show & Sale Recap

Marnie Valent, Chairman

Our members really pulled together and made it happen in spite of the obstacles thrown our way. We had to deal with losing our set-up day as well as rotten weather throughout the weekend, but it was a beautiful show and was fairly well attended by our loyal plant addicts. I would like to thank our judges, Lester Kallus, Chip Jones, and Bruce McAlpin for doing a great job of judging the many beautiful plants provided by our membership with the expert help of clerks, Martha Kent and Reggie Whitehead.

The judges awarded Blue, Red, and White ribbons for many plants as well as the following specialty Ribbons:

Best Croton: Jose Lopez

Best Native: Regina & Duane Tannenbaum, Oasis Nursery

Best Fern: Reggie Whitehead

Best Flowering Plant: Chip Jones

Best in Show: Reggie Whitehead

Most Unusual: Chip Jones

Sweepstakes: Reggie Whitehead

Vivian Waddell not only sent out all of the vendor applications, but spent all day Thursday with Paula McNicholas distributing tags and lists.

Paula also made the very nice name badges worn by all volunteer and vendor members. Volunteers staffed many positions including, Cashier, Display monitor, Plant Holding, Membership, and the Member Sales Area.

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The judge's luncheon, planned by incredible Hospitality chair, Emaly Israel, was spectacular with delicious vegetable and meat lasagnas, Caesar salad, and garlic rolls from The Butcher Shop. Emaly also provided sandwiches and salads for everyone working throughout the weekend. Members generously contributed drinks, deserts, and other snack foods.

It was definitely a team effort and I take my hat off to you who did everything from delivering and setting up the trellis in the beginning to breaking it down and cleaning the room in the end. It was a pleasure working with all of you, and if I have forgotten a name or two here I beg your forgiveness. Please know that you are appreciated.

Fondly, Marnie

NEW MEMBERS

NEW LIFE MEMBER: Lester Kallus

NEW 2018 MEMBERS:

Brigid Bardsley & Taylor Mendoza

Marlene & David Rairden

Michael & Kimberly Baker

Craig Wheeling

Margaret Marshall

Arielle Simon

Pansy Hallowell



TFEPS 2018 Show and Sale





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2018 OFFICERS:

Co-Presidents: **Marie Nock (305) 232-2257** Vice President: **Chad Husby (321) 474-2753**
Marni Valent (305) 233-5929
Secretary: **Arielle Simon (305) 588-5026** 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] **Paul Marcellini (305) 299-0690**

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Chad Husby (321) 474-2753

2018 DIRECTORS:

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

2018 COMMITTEES:

Hospitality:

Emalyl Israel (305) 235-0886

Newsletter Editor:

Janet Reed (305) 235-9337

Membership:

Sherrin Smith (305) 213-2598

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 - 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