MEETING REMINDER •

Monday, March 27, 2017 at 7:30 pm

in the Garden House at

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Barbara McAdam, with Miami-Dade County/IFAS Extension Service, will discuss the 39 imperiled butterflies of Florida, with information on planting for pollinators in your home garden on March 27, 7:30 p.m.

This will be an update on “Florida Friendly” landscapes.

See you there!

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
Opening the Door to Growth
By John Banta

It all started more than 100 years ago when a Japanese botany student was curious about the amazing growth of pollen tubes from the tiny pollen grains to the remote ovules. His questions weren’t answered for almost 100 years until some Russians extracted from over 200 pounds of pollen, collected by bees from rape seed (*Brassica oleifera*) a small amount of a substance they named “Brassinosteroide”. It was present in pollen grains at about 200 parts per billion. When scientists began to study this steroid they were mystified because it effected both ethylene production and ethylene inhibition. How could the same substance cause the opposite actions in the same plant? After a lot more research they found the answer. The phase of growth the plant was in at the time of the steroid application made all the difference.

Plant growth is a tightly regulated sequence of events controlled via RNA by means of transcription factors that promote the production of proteins that act as keys to unlock various growth actions. The inhibition of ethylene occurred because the plant was in the process of setting fruit, once the fruit was set then ethylene was needed to cause the fruit to ripen. The stage of growth the plant is in determines the affects of the steroid action. The most effective time to apply steroids is at the seedling stage when the transcription factors are accelerating vegetative growth. The results are impressive.

The limited availability of brassinosteroids until now means that nobody has used them on fern cultures.

There are wonderful adventures waiting for us all.

REMINDER:

*Get your favorite plants ready for display at the upcoming spring sale!*
TFEPS February 27, 2017 meeting

Speaker: Reggie Whitehead

Topic: Ferns of the World
TFEPS NEAREST LIFE MEMBERS

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