

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society

Presents

The Rare Plant Auction

Featuring an exciting array of rare & unusual plants to add to your collection. Join us for a fun-filled evening and get that special plant you've wanted for your garden.

Plants are grown by our members or donated by local nurseries and gardens. A one of a kind auction.



Refreshments will be served.

*Fairchild Tropical Botanic
Garden*

*10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL
Garden House*

Monday October 22, 2018

7:00 p.m. Preview 7:30 p.m. Auction

TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 37

October 2018

The month of October in Miami brings us closer to the end of hurricane season, to the start of stone crab season, slightly cooler temperatures, and the **TFEPS annual auction**.

The auction will be held on Monday, October 22nd in the Garden House at Fairchild.

Please come early to bring plants and food. **The preview is at 7:00 pm followed by the beginning of the auction at 7:30 pm.**

I would like to see every member support our club by donating plants. This is our major money making event for the year and we all need to be involved in order to turn a good profit. Not only are we making money for the society, but we are helping to distribute great plants to other plant lovers in the community.

Many of you are home growers like myself and can bring your own well rooted cuttings, seedlings or airlayers or you can call on friends who are growers or nursery owners. Please ask these people to donate—reminding them that they can put their business information with the plants for some good advertising. Don't forget to tag your plants with the name.

I hope that you will also be generous with your culinary talents in helping to fill our hospitality tables. There is always a need for appetizers and a variety of salads so show us your specialty. We will serve soft beverages as well as beer & wine. **Please call Emalyl Israel (305-235-0886) and let her know what you will be bringing.**

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TFEPS 2018 SHOW & PLANT SALE

First Place

Cuyleuma

Royal Scepter

The following members have volunteered to assist with various jobs to enable the auction to run smoothly. Please remember to say thanks when you see them and think about making that call to volunteer yourself for our next event. Get involved in your society.

Auctioneer: **Jeff Searle**
Assistants: **Travis Searle, Craig Morrell**
Runners: **Ralph Hernandez, Lenny Goldstein**
Check-In: **Sherrin Smith**
Cashier: **Bob Benaim**
Recorder: **Arielle Simon**
Holding: **Nick Marchand, Skye Palmer**
Hospitality: **Emalyl Israel, Vivian Waddell**
Bartender: **Martha Kent**

I look forward to seeing all of you on the 22nd. Lets have some fun and win some treasured plants to add to our gardens.

Marnie Valent
Auction Chair

MEETING REMINDER

Monday, November 26, 2018 at 7:30 pm

In the Garden Room of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Topic: **Ferns from Folklore to Natural History**

Speaker: **Steven J. Royer**, Associate Professor of Biology

Palm Beach State College

Steven has been involved with the fern and plant worlds for many years. He studied fern biology with the legendary Warren H. Wagner at the University of Michigan and continued his involvement with ferns in the botanical garden world and as a hobby since then.

Steven has worked as Program Manager at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve in Michigan, as Special Projects Coordinator at American Public Gardens Association and as Director of Program Development at American Orchid Society and as Director of Development at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach before beginning his current position as a biology professor. He attained his B.S. degree from the University of Michigan and M.S. in Biology from Andrews University.

He also does consulting work on horticultural and botanical projects, including developing the concept of Micro-Botanical Gardens.



September meeting raffle table

October 2018 Co-President's Letter

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the hardest working members of the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, our Committee Chairs. We all depend on their good work but they are rarely in the spotlight.

Emalyl Israel chairs the Hospitality Committee. She assures that snacks and beverages of all types are available at the regular monthly meetings. At the TFEPS Auction and the Holiday Party, she coordinates fabulous menus and during the Show and Sale she coordinates the Judge's Luncheon and lunch and snacks for the volunteers working the Show. Of course she's dependent on the culinary contributions of members but the buck stops with Emalyl and those who help her for shopping, preparation, set-up and break-down.

Thank you, Emalyl from the bottoms of our stomachs.

Janet Reed is the Newsletter Editor. She is responsible for coordinating the many pieces of information she receives from the officers and directors, and integrating those with pictures she takes at TFEPS events into our informative monthly newsletter.

Ralph Hernandez and Skye Palmer handle the Raffle Table. The Raffle Table provides the society with ongoing fund raising that helps allay some of the meeting costs. Always lively, Ralph and Skye provide a great way for us to add plants to our collections.

Sherrin Smith coordinates some aspects of Membership. She is responsible for staffing the Membership Table at the Show and Sale, at meetings, at the Spring Sale and at the Ramble. She sends the invitations to the Holiday Party and is responsible for nametags for the membership.

Thanks to you all and to the good work of your committees!

Our major fundraiser is coming up, the TFEPS Auction. I always look forward to it and have acquired many wonderful plants from the Auction over the years.

Don't miss it or you'll miss out! See you there on October 22nd.

Submitted by Marie Nock



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society

Minutes: Monday, September 24, 2018

Treasurer's Report: \$13,918.62

Meeting Attendance: 34 people

Speaker: Dr. Chad Husby

Position: Botanical Horticulturist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Presentation Title: Botanical Adventures in Colombia: IPS 2018 Biennial and Beyond

*According to the International Palm Society website:

ABOUT THE BIENNIAL

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“This eight-day journey will take us through Colombia’s Quindío Region with stops in Armenia, Tochecito and the Cocora Valley. We then drop to the port of Buenaventura and the palm-rich archipelago of Bahia Malaga, ending in the cosmopolitan city of Cali. This is a unique opportunity to see an array of palm species such as *Ceroxylon quindiuense*, Colombia’s national tree and the world’s tallest palm.”

**This presentation, like most, revolved nearly entirely around photographs. So the following is a transcript, though not quite verbatim (I took some creative license as well), of what Chad had to say but does not do justice to the presentation.



Colombia is rich in great ferns. We’re just on the edge of the Tropics here (in south Florida) but through horticulture we get to explore the vast different types of flora. There’s a tremendous diversity of plants and animals and all types of tropical ecosystems.

I took a pre-tour along the Caribbean coast.

Location: Santa Marta

I experienced cacao and coffee made where they’re grown.

There were epiphytes like *Monstera*, beautiful coppery maiden hair fern, and epiphytic lycopods. Cyclants, which look similar to juvenile palms, are an extremely diverse group only found in the New World tropics yet related to Old World Pandanus. Looking around we saw flushes of purple and red new leaves.

Photos included: *Aristolochia maxima*! And *Narantea* (incorrect, but sounded like...), a rubbery, vining plant; *Brassavola* orchid growing on the rocks; *Clusia* sp. Growing in a crack in the rocks; Cyclants growing on a waterfall.

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I saw *Attalea* palms growing along the Caribbean coast. There were many more palms, including a climbing palm with a spiny rachis and hooks that latch on and allow it to climb. I saw wild Plumerias and *Pereskia*, a true cactus that, unusually for cacti, has leaves. They are more ancient than most of the cacti. There were great, twisting tree trunks and monkey ladder vines of the genus *Bauhinia*.

We had the opportunity to visit a traditional village. The native people have been able to reclaim their lands since the drug war has receded. They don't like to be photographed, but didn't mind photos of the structures. I also visited the house where Simón Bolívar died.

There was cool fauna like two different species of Toucan birds, skinks, and a giant millipede (video included of millipede moving along the forest floor and curling up into a ball when touched). And of course there were many delicious tropical fruits.



The palm talk took place in Cali. I also visited Quindío Botanical Garden. They're trying to get every palm in Colombia into cultivation, around 250 species.

The country was rich in birds and butterflies. I could've spent forever just watching the hummingbirds.

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We took a field trip to see magnificent wax palms, *Ceroxylon quindiuense* growing into the clouds. They're the tallest palms in the world. (*Answer to a question from Lenny: There wasn't much regeneration of the palms in the area because the surrounding land is a cattle pasture, but they are looking to set aside a chunk of the area as a reserve). The waxy covering on the palms makes gorgeous patterns on the trunks. It also prevents many epiphytes from growing along the trunk until they are matured and cracks have formed in the wax.



Different Location: Corcora Valley, the lowlands of Colombia near Buenaventura

We went to remote locations by boat, like Bahia Malaga National Park. We boated along the coast covered in teacup mangroves, which produce giant winged bean embryos, one of the largest plant embryos in the world. Inland, where there's freshwater, I saw Adiantums, iridescent plants, climbing *Sellaginella*, and a *Psychotria* with a beautiful inflorescence. There were neat under-story plants. There were blueberry relatives, 2 kinds of which are newly planted in the Tropical Plant Conservatory. And one of my favorite plants, Cyclants, that look like palms with their entire split leaf that is ridged and ribbed in two directions making it wavy. Another favorite was the *Mauritiella* palm that grows in the swamps and has root spines. There was *Zamia oblique*, which is famously difficult to grow in cultivation.

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We stayed in the jungle for two days before heading back to Cali. I also saw *Anthurium salgarens*e, with enormous leaves and a huge inflorescence. We have one planted in the Conservatory here.



I visited the property, *El Refugio*, of Alvaro Calderón. He had a beautiful butterfly wing cyclant and *Medinilla* with orange and purple stamens, and other beautiful Melastomes. And there were more tropical blueberries of the genus *Cavendishia*.

I went to San Cipriano, a beautiful place near Cali, where there are semi-aquatic palms that grow in the river. The ferns, palms, aroids and cyclants in the area all have narrow leaves so they can withstand flooding; the narrow leaves don't pose too much resistance to the water. There were more great Selaginellas and a neat unidentified fern whose new fronds are a deep purple and curve down dramatically.

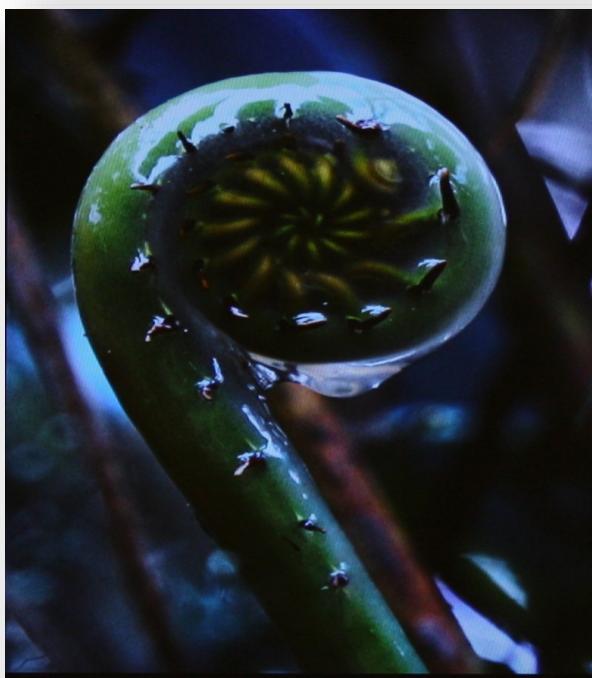
Chad then showed video of standing in the cloud forests, watching the clouds speed by.



One other neat little phenomenon are leaf cutter ants (video shown). I saw snot fern, which as it unfurls is covered in mucus. There was a me-lastome with a flat purple leaf and Cecropia with entirely silver leaves. Clusia with red veins and Clusia with red leaf undersides. There are 300-400 species of Clusia, a far more diverse genus than most people are aware of –don't judge Clusias based on one overplanted species of hedge, and the only woody plants that can switch to CAM photosynthesis. Incredibly there were crickets in just about every color scheme. Even those of the same species were all uniquely colored. Insect diversity is a hint that you're in a really intact old forest. And did I mention the hummingbirds!



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Photographs taken from Dr. Chad Husby's slide presentation



TFEPS 2018 Show & Sale





[This page and previous 2 pages] **TFEPS 2018 ANNUAL SHOW & SALE**

BEST FLOWERING PLANT

Alcantarea odorata *variety: John Stoddard*

FIRST PLACE

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:

Emaly 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