PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Our annual Auction is right around the corner, on Monday, October 23rd. The preview will be at 7:00 p.m. and the auction will begin at 7:30 p.m.

We need plant contributions, so please bring any plants you are willing to donate before the auction.

In addition, we will need volunteers to help with activities like plant holding, spotting, running and recording. This is our only major fundraising event of the year, so please come and invite your friends and plant enthusiasts that you know.

If you are willing to help, please give me a call at 321-474-2753 or email chad.husby@gmail.com

Speakers for TFEPS, 2017

October: Auction
November: Debra DeMarco will speak about new garden trends emerging from designers in the Northeast and their use of tropical plants
December: Holiday Party
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society

Presents

The Rare Plant Auction

DATE:  Monday, October 23, 2017

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

PLACE:  The Garden House of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Join us for a fun-filled evening as Auctioneer Jeff Searle presents an exciting array of rare & unusual plants to add to your collection.

Plants are grown by our members or donated by local nurseries and gardens.

It’s a one of a kind auction that you don’t want to miss!

Refreshments will be served
OCTOBER 23RD AUCTION FUNDRAISER

If each member could donate a couple items that would be great. If you have a nursery you frequent, maybe you can ask them to donate a few items as well. The more items we get, the better the fundraiser.

Also, Emalyl sends her request for food and volunteer help. If you can provide some refreshments and your physical help please call her at 305-235-0886.

If you can please make copies of the auction flyer on page 2 and hand out to friends, neighbors or hang the flyer up at work or your favorite shop. Remember we need to have as many people attend as we possibly can.

THANK YOU!

Last Friday the board was notified by Chad and Georgia that they will not continue holding their TFEPS officer positions as President and Vice-President, respectively.

If you would like to run for one of these positions please contact Marnie Valent at 305-233-5929.
I am sorry to have to let you know that we lost Larry Schokman Tuesday, October 17, 2017. He had a massive heart attack and never recovered. Although he did not show any signs of being in pain, he was just barely there and he then died at 10:59 p.m. I know you all shared the love and respect that I did for him and he will be sorely missed by us and this community.

I will keep you informed of an anticipated Celebration of Life when it is scheduled. There will be no public funeral or any religious ceremony.

Condolences can be mailed to:

Colleen Schokman
4030 South Douglas Road
Coconut Grove, Florida 33133

Very truly yours,
Steve Pearson
The meeting started with an announcement that our annual TFEPS raffle will be held next month, and donations, food service and help of all kinds will be needed.

Hurricane Irma struck the area hard two weeks ago and everyone is still picking up their lives and nurseries.

The program was based on a Power Point presentation expertly crafted at IFAS, and a style we know as being professional, thorough and well photographed. Dr. Cerquiera presented the topic of the wide diversity of tropical plants, with a focus on those grown in Florida. Of the nurseries which grow ornamental plants, about 35% grow foliage plants, 25% grow flowering plants, and the remainder are landscape and bedding plant nurseries, as part of the mix. More than 500 species are grown ornamentally. Florida produces 57% of the national value of tropical plants.

Growing tropical plants for sale started more than a century ago, with our venerable Nephrolepis exaltata Boston Fern starting the trend in 1912, in Apopka. Philodendron cordatum followed the trend in 1928, and Aglaonemas and Ficus elastica as commercial crops in the 1930s.
Up until the early years in Florida, tropical plants in European collections came from the Middle East and Asia. Then, some of the European cultivars came to the US through the northeast.

Dr. David Fairchild brought in thousands of collections of plants both edible and ornamental in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Dr. Fairchild brought in myriad varieties of mango, pistachio, soybean and avocado, introducing them to widespread agriculture soon after. The first record of avocado as a food plant dates back to 10,000 B.C. in Puebla, Mexico. It was domesticated in Mesoamerica, where some of the original varieties are still known to modern man: Hass, Fuerte, Bacon, Rincon, Zutano, Criollo and Raza. The first introduction of Avocado into Florida was 1833.

One of the key points in the program dealt with the underutilization of native plants; the supply of native plants and the small number of nurseries which grow them are leading factors. Additional program topics included Edible Flowers, Vegetables to Plant Now, and Basic Gardening Rules.

The program was comprehensive and contained details for all levels of skill.

Given that Fairchild Garden was open for public (and our) use just 2 weeks after Hurricane Irma, the staff and volunteers at FTBG should be commended for their efforts in getting the garden open for business.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, C.P.A.
Certified Plant Addict
New Species
By John Banta

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 (Microsorium whiteheadii) Mary Sizemore has several plants named for her (Xanthosoma sizemorii and Begonia sizemorii) 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.
2017 OFFICERS:

President: Chad Husby
Vice President: Georgia Tasker (305) 661-1039
Secretary: Craig Morell (305) 667-1173
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]
Linda Bell (305) 484-7997 [2016-2017]

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Marnie Valent

2017 DIRECTORS:

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

2017 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
Show & Sales:

Vivian Waddell (305) 665-5168

Webmaster:

Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755
Membership Application - 2017

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
Yearly dues are for calendar year - January - December
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