

TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY, INC. NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 14

June 2015

Message from the President

Welcome to the last meeting before our summer break. This month's program with Mike Twyfor promises to give those of us who, like me, love begonias but sometimes struggle with keeping them healthy.

The raffle table this month will be plants donated by our members (if you contacted Ralph about this, please don't forget to bring your plants). I look forward to seeing all of you.

The Opossum's gift

By John Banta

Plant collectors often venture into areas that are considered somewhat dangerous by normal people. One factor of concern is poisonous snakes. Considering that over 125,000 people per year die from poisonous snake bites - it is not an unreasonable concern. So the recent news that a new and highly effective antidote to poisonous snake bites has been developed is wonderful news.

It has long been observed that the Opossum and Mongoose appear to have an effective defense against poisonous snake bites. By examining the serum from Opossums, a component was identified and named, *Lethal Toxin Neutralizing Factor* ("LTNF"). Upon further examination it was found that two peptides (short chains of amino acids) account for its remarkable actions. These peptides can be easily synthesized and promise to become a global therapy against poisoning caused by animal, plant and bacterial toxins.

Better living through chemistry!

Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society Press Release

Meeting: Monday, June 22, 2015

Topic: Growing Begonias in South Florida

The **Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society** presents **Mike Twyford** who will speak on **Growing Begonias in South Florida** on Monday, June 22nd at 7:30 pm. The meeting will take place at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables, FL in the Corbin Building.

Mike's program will focus on tips and tricks for successfully growing begonias in South Florida. He will also share how to best use them in the landscape.

Mike is a past president of TFEPS and has also served as Show Chair. He works with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture at Chapman Field. Mike has grown begonias for about twenty years and has learned much in that time.

Palm Hammock will bring begonias that will be used in the talk and will be available for sale after the presentation.

There is no admission fee and the public is invited to attend this presentation. There will be plants for Raffle donated by many TFEPS members. Refreshments will be served.

For more information please visit www.tfeps.org or call 305 232-2257.



MOUNTING PLAQUES

Made of 1" x 3" Pressure Treated Lumber

12' x 12" - \$ 7.00 15' x 15" - \$10.00

18' x 18" - \$13.00 24" x 24" - \$20.00

Contact—Bob Benaim 305-793-9755 or,

bobbenaim@gmail.com

In Memoriam
Edna Button
03/23/1925 — 06/03/2015



It is with a very sad and heavy heart that we report that one of our dear Founders, Charter Member, and Lifetime Member, Edna Button, passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home in Homestead, Florida on Wednesday, June 3. Edna was predeceased by her loving husband, Peter, in 2014.

Edna and Peter were in on the ground floor when the foundation of the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society was being laid. Both Edna and Peter contributed much to our club, with Edna serving as our first Hospitality Hostess, starting our long tradition of making our members and guests feel comfortable when they arrived at our monthly meetings, annual shows and sales, our tropical plant auctions and our holiday parties.

The Buttons had a long history in orchids, ferns, pomelos, and recently lychees and longans, which Edna oversaw until her final days.

The Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society extends it's heartfelt and sincere condolences to the entire Button family. And at this time, we gratefully thank Edna and Peter for their many years of hard work and dedication to the society.

May Edna be joined with her loving husband Peter in eternity.

2015 OFFICERS:

President: **Lise Dowd (305) 662-2368** Vice President: **Marie Nock (305) 232-2257**
Secretary: **Craig Morell (305) 667-1173** Treasurer: **Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755**

2015 DIRECTORS at LARGE:

Steve Forman (305) 662-2368 **Vivian Waddell (305) 665-5168**
Leonard Goldstein **Ellis Brown (305) 253-5669**

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Marnie Valent: (305) 233-5929

2015 DIRECTORS:

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

2015 COMMITTEES:

Hospitality:

Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886 **Martha Bogaard (305) 661-2305**

Membership:

Sherrin Smith (305) 213-2598

Raffle Table:

Ralph Hernandez (305) 633-9099 **Skye Palmer (305) 595-9291**

Special Events:

Marie Nock (305) 232-2257

Webmaster:

Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

TROPICAL FERN
&
EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY

Membership Application - 2015

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: _____

E-mail: _____

Name: _____

Phone: H or C: _____

E-mail: _____

Street Address: _____

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