**May in Review**

**Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.**

**Newsletter**

Volume 13, Issue 6

Editor: Reggie Whitehead

June 2011

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**May in Review**

**Topic:** The Art and Techniques of Bonsai

Treasurer’s report balance—$11,510.48

President Mike Twyford called meeting to order at—7:40

Hospitality—Martha Bogaard, Emalyl Israel

Raffle provided by—The Tannenbaums of Oasis Nursery, and John Lucas

Meeting ended at—10:00 p.m.

Marie Nock welcomed visitors, and reiterated that the Show & Sale would be June 4 and 5.

Marie introduced the speaker, Glen Hilton from Miami Tropical Bonsai who started the program by stating that bonsai was slow work, and takes patience. The art of Bonsai (pronounced bone-sigh) started in China, but was brought to the world publicity foreground by the Japanese. The word is an elision of Bon (pot or tray) and sai (tree). The art is ancient and several styles are recognized by different terms. In the vernacular, there are several modern styles: clip and grow, taper pruning, and wiring. The 3 techniques can be combined, and often are.

One of the most important tenets of bonsai is triangular geometry, in almost every angle from top to bottom and side to side. The triangles seen within the finished shape should all be unequal shapes and sizes. Glen worked on a *Ficus microcarpa* and showed the painstaking practice of hand-pinching the leaves off to expose the framework of the tree so that pruning and wiring could be planned accurately.

Glen uses a prepared soil mix from Atlas Peat and Soil in Boynton Beach, FL, composed of composted pine bark, coconut fiber (aka coir fiber) well sand, Canadian peat moss, and perlite. Plantacote 19-5-10 fertilizer is used in moderation. Glen covered the various grades of anodized aluminum wire used to train bonsai trees, and showed some of the techniques for training a tree’s branches to look as if it were an aged tree in the wild.

Glen stated that a great many trees and shrubs can be used effectively, although fruit trees can be a challenge since the fruit will always... (Review continued on page 5)

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**Next Meeting Monday, June 27**

At our next meeting, the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents Dr. Chad Hushy who will speak on Growing and Propagating Lycopods, Horsetails and Psilotum.

Learn how to propagate lycopods and keep them from rotting, and how to grow a primeval forest of giant horsetails. We will also explore the mysterious and beautiful world of Japanese Psilotum cultivars.

This month’s Raffle Table will be supplied by Larry and Glenda Weed. Meeting begins around 7:30, see you there.

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**2011 Show and Sale**

Our show and sale was held on June 4 and 5 at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

On Thursday, June 2, our master carpenter Bob Benaim organized the building of our plant structure, and with the help of an able team which included Gerry Valent, Tom Moore, and David Foster, they were able to put our plant structure together in record time.

Then the plants came in, many beautiful plants, and thus our show and sale slowly began to take shape.

On Friday adding to the majesty of this year’s show were our wonderful judges, Martha Kent, Dr. Lester Kallus, and Dr. Bruce McAlpin, aided by Mike Twyford and Reggie Whitehead.

Prior to our judging on Friday, Emalyl Israel and Martha Bogaards, organized one of the most fantastic Appreciation Luncheons by far. Emalyl and Martha along with Sally Jude, Marnie Valent, Philip Ilo, Jackie Gaudio served a delicious meal, along with mouthwatering desserts.

After our wonderful lunch, it was our judge’s turn to view our exhibit. First time exhibitors, Marnie and Gerry Valent, brought in four plants, and won four blue ribbons. One of their special ferns was a perfect specimen on Pyrosia lingua. Another interesting plant nicely grown by Tom Moore, was Impatiens mirabilis, the giant Impatiens (it features a caudiciform base). Larry and Glenda Weed brought in several beautiful species of... (Show and Sale continued on page 2)
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
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Craig Morell  (305) 667-1173
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Juan Espinosa-Almodovar  (305) 444-3103
Raffle Table
Skye Palmer  (305) 595-9291
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Board of Directors will consist of the above officers and chairs; and the following individuals.

Steve Forman  (305) 662-2368
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maidenhair ferns, including the rarely seen Adiantum polyphyllum.

Our judges had a tough job awarding Blue, Red, and White ribbons to the many plants in our display. After the initial judging, the judges had to decide which plants would be awarded special ribbons. This aspect of the judging proved to be very difficult because of the excellent specimens in the exhibit.

A very nice large leaf Ficus dammaropsis, by Steve and Marie Nock took honors as Best in Show. Best Fern in Show went to Philip Iloo, for his handsome basket of Davallia fejeensis. Best Flowering Plant, a blooming Alcantarea imperialis patiently grown by Ellis Brown. Philip Iloo also took honors for Best Native Plant, Microgramma heterophylla. Most Unusual Plant, Dischidia nummularioides was won by Bruce McAlpin, and Dr. Jeff Block won our Sweepstakes Ribbon for winning the most Blue Ribbons.

Our show and sale is not complete without our vendors who bring in an extraordinary amount of beautiful plant material. This year’s vendors were Larry and Glenda Weed, Philipp Iloo (Stelmar Gardens), Steve and Marie Nock (Ree Gardens), Sally and Frank Tastinger, Craig Reid (The Fern Farm), Carol Palmer (Palm Hammock Orchid Estates), Steve Correale, Richard Button and Dolores Fugina (Bloomin Good Nursery), Sid and Regina Gardino (Gardino Nursery), Ellis Brown (Redland Nursery), and Peter Kouchalakos.

We would like to thank the following members for donating their time and plants toward our show and sale for the weekend: Argeo Hernandez, Sheryl Taylor, Chad Husby, Elaine Mills, Winnie Lynch, Cathy and Ray Roberts., Sherri Macchia, Lynn Cook and Judy Cook.

Thank you all very much.
To see additional photos, go to: http://home-and-garden.webshots.com/album/580290917rNQKjq
Dr. Jeff Block, Blue Ribbon Sweepstakes Winner

Philipp Iloo, Best Native Fern, Microgramma heterophylla

Steve and Marie Nock, Best of Show, Ficus dammaropsis

Philipp Iloo, Best Fern in Show, Davallia fejeensis ‘Plumosa’

Ellis Brown, Best Flowering Plant, Alcantarea imperialis
remain its normal size, whereas the tree can be pruned to a much smaller than normal size. The program finished at 10 p.m., while Glen and his assistant fielded a flurry of questions. It was clear there was much to learn about bonsai culture, and that one could spend a lifetime and just begin to learn the techniques and subtleties of the art and craft of Bonsai culture.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, CPA
Certified Plant Addict

New Members

Martha Falgout
9098 S. W. 129th Lane
Miami, FL 33176-5831
(305) 804-8118

Jeff Hosang
14916 S.W. 142nd Street
Miami, FL 33196
(786) 376-6683
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Raffle Tables for 2011 — 2012

June 27, 2011 .......................................................... Glenda and Larry Weed
July .......................................................... No Meeting
August .......................................................... No meeting
September 26 .......................................................... Sid Gardino
October 24 .......................................................... Annual Plant Auction
November 28 .......................................................... Peter Kouchalakos and Steve Correale
December .......................................................... Annual Holiday Party
January 23 .......................................................... Frank and Sally Tastinger
February 27 .......................................................... Redland Nursery
March 26 .......................................................... Steve and Marie Nock
April 23 .......................................................... Philipp Ilo and David McLean
May 28 .......................................................... Tim Anderson and Craig Reid

Have a Great Summer

Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society
6880 S. W. 75 Terrace
South Miami, FL 33143

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Member's Name: _______________________________________________________

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One of the many rewards of hunting for interesting new plants is you get to meet remarkable people. One of the most remarkable plants men I encountered was Greg Hambali. We were in Java hunting for the elusive and rare *Amorphophallus decus-silvae*. We naturally wondered why this remarkable “King of the Forest” seemed to be so seldom seen now days.

Given enough time Greg can come up answers to most plant questions. Greg reflected upon how rare tiger encounters with humans were. The tigers had been almost eliminated because of their danger to humans and livestock. So what did this have to do with the scarcity of *Amorphophallus*?

Greg continued, “tigers are large predators feeding upon large animals and seldom consume all of their prey.” Their left-overs provided great feeding opportunities for carrion beetles, *Staphylinidae* and burying beetles, *Silphidae*. These are the same beetles that are attracted to *Amorphophallus* because of the odor of the inflorescence. These pollinators are fewer in number because of the reduction in suitable carrion. Thus, fewer tigers results in fewer pollinators that results in fewer seeds and thus the scarcity of *Amorphophallus* in their normal habitat. Nature’s web cannot be broken without consequences.

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**Next Meeting, Dr. Chad Husby, Lycopods, Horsetails, and Psilotum, June 27, 7:30 p.m.**

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*6880 S. W. 75 Terrace*  
*South Miami, FL 33143*