Annual Plant Auction

The time has arrived for our Annual Plant Auction at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, on Monday, October 24, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

People all over South Florida look forward to our auction, and we don’t want to disappoint them.

Members are asked to participate in our annual fund-raiser. Your donations may be of any plant of your choosing. Whether it is a fern, bromeliad, heliconia, aroid, flowering tree, orchid, or any plant that you feel would be a nice addition to our line-up of special plants. Please have plants at the garden no later than 6:30 p.m. so that they may be arranged.

If you are not able to donate a plant to the auction, we still hope you will come out and support us with your presence. To make things easier for purchase, checks and cash, will of course be welcomed. We will need volunteers to help serve as arrangers, runners, and people to help man the holding area.

Another way you may donate is to assist our hospitality committee. In the past, many people have been very generous in providing wonderful treats for our refreshment table.

If you would like to bring something for the refreshment table, please contact Emalyl Israel (305) 235-0886 or Martha Bogaards (305) 661-2305.

Please bring a friend along and of course an appetite, and don’t forget your checkbook!
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2011

President
Mike Twyford    (305) 444-6332
Vice President
Marie Nock     (305) 232-2257
Secretary
Craig Morell    (305) 667-1173
Treasurer
Tom Moore     (305) 666-0219
Hospitality
Martha Bogaards    (305) 661-2305
Emalyl Israel    (305) 235-0886
Special Sales
Marie Nock     (305) 232-2257
Librarian
Juan Espinosa-Almodovar   (305) 444-3103
Raffle Table
Skye Palmer   (305) 595-9291
Webmaster
Bob Benaim    (305) 793-9755

Board of Directors will consist of the above officers and chairs; and the following individuals.

Steve Forman (305) 662-2368
Debbie Lamb (305) 251-8675
Reggie Whitehead (305) 613-5944

REE GARDENS PLANT SALE
7860 SW 124 ST.
MIAMI, FL
305 232-2257  snock1@earthlink.net  9:00 – 5:00
Oct. 22-23 & 29-30

A great selection of rare and unusual plants including: Bromeliads; Medinillas; collector Alocasias, Anthuriums and Philodendrons; Osmyxylons; Crotons; Tabernaeomantanas; Coccoloba pubescens and rugosum; Saracas; understory Palms; Breadfruit trees; Hoffmanias; Taca Integrifolia; Gingers; Heliconias; Calatheas; Hoyas; Ficus dammaropsis; Thai Aglaonemas; Angiopteris and many other interesting species.

Trinity Churchside Garden
Landscape Design, Consulting; Medicinal, Weird, and Native Plants
DAVID MCLEAN
14 S.W. 11 Street  Open Sat and Sun and by appointment  (954) 768-0423
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315  Just west of South Andrews Avenue
The first Saturday of each month is a special day!

SHERRIN A. SMITH (Miami Native)
PLANT, PET, AND HOUSE SITTING; Personal Assistance
305 448-2598 Phone  305 668-4622 Fax
E-mail: sas56chevy@aol.com

(Review continued from page 1)
such as Aloe. Bruce showed a beautiful new Aloe he acquired from the International Succulent Institute based at the Huntington Bot. Garden in California.

Bruce prefers a simple 2-part potting mix equal parts of perlite and potting soil, making the point that he uses bagged potting soil, not topsoil. For large, heavy or very tall plants, he’ll mix an extra portion of pea rock into the mix to add ballast to the pot. Bruce made the distinction to use pea rock and not the more alkaline limestone rock. In local parlance, we’d call the two materials “Chattahoochee rock” and “limestone gravel”, respectively.

Bruce displayed a wide array of succulents and cacti, including several plants of the same species which looked markedly different just by way of different growing conditions. He showed some very simple propagation techniques, including using 6-12 tip cuttings and branch cuttings of Rhipsalis and Epiphyllum in a hanging basket to make a fuller, denser basket rather than a single cutting in a pot. One of the most interesting points mentioned in the program was that most succulents grow in the Spring and Fall, not during the Summer. For this reason, fertilizing at these times of the year will bring on bigger plants than Summer fertilizing will.

Bruce summarized the salient growing points of:

--very bright light, but not all-day sunlight
--excellent soil drainage and allowing plants to go dry between waterings
--light doses of controlled-release fertilizer such as Osmocote or Dynamite
--growing plants in hanging baskets for pendant species.

Bruce ended his program by raffling numerous cuttings of Rhipsalis and Epiphyl-

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, C.P.A.
Certified Plant Addict
Raffle Tables for 2011 — 2012

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 Iloo and David McLean
May 28 .................................................................................................. Tim Anderson and Craig Reid

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

___ Individual Member $15. ___ Household Membership $17.

___ Life Membership $125. ___ Life Household Membership $150.

Member’s Name: _______________________________________________________
Name of additional member: _____________________________________________
Street Address: _______________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip + 4: _________ + ______
E-mail: ______________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________ Amount enclosed: $_____________

Welcome New Members
Small, Bernadette and Lawrence
10904 S. W. 72nd Street #51
Miami, FL 33173-2708
(305) 271-1290
Smallstart@aol.com

Strickland, Nancy
6220 N. W. 40 Street
Virginia Gardens, FL 33166
(813) 361-6692

Ramble 2011

The Ramble at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will be held on November 11, 12 and 13 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). Any member who would like to be a vendor, is cordially invited participate in our sales booth. If you are interested in selling plants please contact Marie Nock at (305) 232-2257 or at msnock@gmail.com. Members may sell plants from any plant group (with the exception of carnivorous plants). It’s Ramble-time!

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Sleeping Beauty
by John Banta

As in most tales, timing was a critical factor. If the warm tropical rains had not occurred early that year I would have missed her flowers. The plant reminded me of the temperate *Convallaria majalis*; Lilly of the valley. The white flowers even had the crepuscular fragrance almost like *Convallaria*. But this was a tropical plant that went dormant due to drought rather than cold. I was told that this wonderful sleeping beauty was *Peliosanthes javanica*. I accepted that name as *Peliosanthes* is in the Lily family of plants and I did collect it in Java. How wrong could I be?

Plenty! Michael Ferrero put me on the right track. Not in the Lily family but rather a family new to me the family, *Tecophilaeaceae*. The genus was an old friend of mine, *Cyanastrum* (blue star) I first met in Andromeda Gardens in Barbados. The ever generous Iris Banochie insisted I should grow *Cyanastrum cordifolium*. This plant has the most unusual tuber. It looks like a vertical stack of flattened biscuits and it was this shared characteristic that allowed Michael to convince me that my “Sleeping Beauty” was actually *Cyanastrum hostiifolia*. My dreams of crossing the blue flowered "cordifolium with “hostiifolium” were encouraged when Michael gave me *Kabuye*a (*Cyanastrum johnsonii*) also from Africa that may allow the dream hybrid to grace our gardens. These “Sleeping Beauties” are the answer to Florida gardeners who complain about the lack of Spring bulbs. These beauties deserve to awaken in our gardens.

**Next Meeting, Annual Plant Auction, Oct. 24, Preview begins at 7 p.m; Auction 7:30 p.m.**