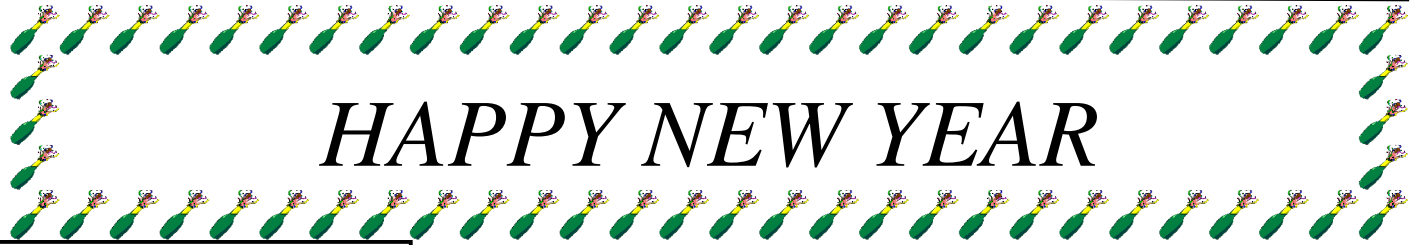




Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 1

Editor: Reggie Whitehead January 2012



HAPPY NEW YEAR

November in Review

Date—November 28, 2011

Speaker- Roger Hammer

Topic- 50 Classic Views of the Sunshine State

Treasurer's report balance- N/A at this meeting

President called meeting to order at—7:45

Hospitality— Emalyl Israel and Martha Bogaard

Raffle provided by—Peter Kouchalakos and Steve Correale

Meeting ended at—9:20

There was a call for the introduction of new guests, and a reminder that the Holiday Party is on Friday the 16th at Sallye Jude's home in Coral Gables.

Marie Nock introduced Roger Hammer who, for many locals, needs no introduction, given his extraordinary tenure as one of the preeminent naturalists and speakers of recent times. He has written several books, authored dozens of articles, and is often termed the "Father of the Everglades", as counterpart to Marjory Stoneman

Douglas' "Mother of the Everglades" status. Roger has traversed the Everglades more than most people we know, and is well versed in the ecology of the state as well. He was the naturalist at Castellow Hammock Park for 23 years, where untold hundreds of people learned volumes about butterflies, birds, and all things natural from a master teacher.

Tonight, he spoke on a topic we all

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Next Meeting, Monday, January 23

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents **Dr. Scott Zona** who will take us on A Botanical Tour of Chile. The tour will focus on wildflowers, trees, palms and parasites of the temperate regions of Chile from Santiago to Puerto Mont.

Scott Zona is Florida International University's Conservatory and Greenhouse Curator. He has explored for plants in Florida, California, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, Bermuda, the Pacific Islands, Indonesia, Malaysia and Madagascar.

The Raffle Table will be supplied by Frank and Sally Taster. **See you at 7:30 p.m.**

The Genus *Pteris*

by Don Keller

(This article was originally published in 2003 as part of Don Keller's Ferns of Florida series.)

The genus **Pteris** takes its name from the Greek word for "feather" which describes the frond shape of many species scattered across the world's tropics, but only four are found in Dade and only one of these is native.

There is a hybrid present which is a cross between the native and a very common Asian species.

Pteris bahamensis: Listed in many books as a mere variety of ***Pteris longifolia***, but finally, and correctly, in *The Flora of North America*, as a species in its own right.

This, our only native **Pteris** species, is rather common in Dade, but relatively rare elsewhere. Found mostly in rocky pinelands on exposed oolitic limestone in full sun where the fronds are yellowish and the plant has a sprawling habit. In partial shade it is more erect and darker green. Frequently growing at the edges of hammocks and on roadsides. Will grow in a pot in native sand and limestone rock.

Pteris vittata: The Asian brake fern is native to Southeast Asia but has found South Florida much to its liking and has become one of our commonest ferns in Dade County.

(Pteris Ferns continued on page 3)

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2011

President	
Mike Twyford	(305) 444-6332
Vice President	
Marie Nock	(305) 232-2257
Secretary	
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Marie Nock	(305) 232-2257
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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

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knew: Florida, and its varied history. His new book (curiously) follows the title of the program, and he showed several dozen of Florida's iconic vistas, including some which are tourist attractions, some are more venerated. From the fascinating caves and caverns in Marianna, to the famous Sun-downer's Bar in Key Largo, to the Flagler Overseas Bridge to the Suwannee River, Roger covered a wide range of topics, with good information about each one.

In lyric-named Sopchoppy, a person can "grunt" for worms, whereas smoked mullet in Carrabelle is the main local dish. Key Lime pie in the Florida Keys and canoeing through Cape Sable while being spied upon by American Crocodiles are but a few of the activities that keep the state interesting.



American crocodile in Florida waters

Roger pointed out that he can glide by a crocodile in a canoe without concern for either party, but a group of alligators will make him quite wary. He stated that crocs eat mostly small marine or aquatic crustaceans, whereas 'gators' have developed a taste for.....larger things like deer, pets, and occasionally even larger mammals.

Roger had a variety of his books and field guides for sale which sold briskly, and the program was enjoyed by all who attended.

The program ended at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

*Craig Morell, CPA
Certified Plant Addict*

(*Pteris Ferns continued from page 1*)

Growing anywhere on calcareous substrate such as exposed native limestone, sides of stone buildings, on tile roofs, in cracks in sidewalks and on canal banks. The walls of the Charles Deering mansion was once host to hundreds of them. The largest specimens are those growing in filtered sunlight, underneath brush along the banks of ditches where they may reach three feet in height.

Pteris x delchampsii: A hybrid between the above two species named for the late Gene Delchamps by Clifton Nauman. First found on a canal bank next to the traffic circle on Old Cutler Road, but now has popped up in a few other places. At least some spores on some plants must be fertile as plants are found where one of the reputed parents is absent. Similar to ***Pteris vittata*** in habit but the pinnules are half as wide and more widely spaced on the rachis.

Pteris tripartita: The giant Asian brake fern is rather ephemeral here — it comes and goes. Once common in Castellow Hammock, but now rare or missing there.

It has exploded in numbers in the Deering Estate since Hurricane Andrew where some plants are eight feet tall with fronds four feet across. Prefers rather wet areas and bright light. Very easy to grow in cultivation but will not reach its full potential in a pot.

Pteris grandiflora: A very large plant with fronds to eight feet long and a foot wide. Whether this species is native or not is a moot point since it has been extirpated from the wild. Shortly after its discovery at Paradise Point (the east end of Coral Reef Drive), the area became an exclusive development.

Fortunately, some plants were rescued by Dr. Monroe Birdsey and set out on the grounds at the University of Miami. Threatened by a building project, they were moved to Dr. Birdsey’s “jungle” where they persist today. A second small colony was reported by George Avery in 1965, “in a hammock near the Cutler Ridge power plant.” Extensive and repeated searches have failed to find these plants.

Raffle Tables for — 2012

January 23	Frank and Sally Tasting
February 27	Redland Nursery
March 26	Steve and Marie Nock
April 23	Philpp 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.

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Almost as Good as Jungle Collecting

by John Banta

Nothing can match the thrills of jungle collecting but as you age activities must change. The ephemeral songs of gibbons in the morning mists. The ammoniacal smell of fresh elephant dung and the measured swish of Hornbill wings are life altering experiences. What is an old man to do?

Visit nurseries! Not quite the same but there is still the rush and thrill of seeing a plant that is new to you. So I took advice from the Wizard of Oz and started at home. A very fortu-

nate choice as I went to a Fort Myers nursery, "Tradewinds Signature Botanicals" run by John Lucas and was rewarded with remarkable new plants and valuable information. John has collected in Asia a number of times and his "plant-sense" is a joy to experience. If you are in need of a jungle trip but lack some of the essentials "Tradewinds Signature Botanicals" could be an affordable substitute. Especially if you fancy **Adeniums** of every description and a dazzling array of Bougainvilleas as well as an eclectic assortment of uncommon plants.

Next Meeting, Monday, Jan. 23, Dr. Scott Zona, Tour through Chile, at 7:30 p.m.

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