February in Review
Date—February 26, 2012
Speaker- Jesse Durko
Topic: Color, Texture and Diversity in the Landscape.
Treasurer’s report balance $11,788.84
President called meeting to order at— 7:35
Hospitality- Hospitality by Emalyl Israel, Martha Bogaard
Raffle provided by—Redland Nursery
meeting ended at— meeting closed at 9:30,
Martha Bogaard was in the hospital recently for sciatic nerve and heart
problems. We wish her a speedy recovery.
Tim Anderson is back in Perdue Medical Center for continuing rehabili-
tation.
Vivian Waddell is the program chair for the upcoming Fern sale
and show.
Raffle table provided by Redland Nursery
Marie Nock introduced the speaker, Jesse Durko, who spoke about vari-
ous aspects of making a garden more interesting.
Jesse is the owner of a nursery which bears his name, and is a special-
ist in unusual plants. His background is long and diverse, starting with a horti-
culture degree from Rutgers University. He also worked for the UF Plant
Introduction Service, and was Director of Flamingo Gardens nearby in Davie,
Florida. He opened his nursery about 22 years ago, and travels widely in
search of new plants, which he suc-
ceds brilliantly in bringing into horti-
culture. Jesse brought many interesting
plants for sale to the program, most of
which left with the members. One of
Jesse’s plant-collecting chums, the fa-
mous, globe-trotting raconteur Mi-
chael Ferrero, was also in the audience,
adding numerous bits of interesting
(Review continued on page 2)

Greetings from the President
Greetings from your new Presi-
dent, I have not personally met all
of our TFEPS members and so I
would like introduce myself. I hope
to get to know each of you better as
the year progresses. I want to thank
you for your faith in my abilities to
serve as your president and to ask
for your patience as I learn my way
around.
I have had a love for tropical
plants for many years and have en-
joyed gardening along with my hus-
band, Gerry. I am not as knowl-
edgeable about these plants as I
would like to be, but in spite of my-
self, I seem to be a fair grower and
totally enjoy our collection.
I came to Miami as a flight atten-
dant in 1969 and immediately fell in
love with the tropical foliage that
abounded. I am originally from
north Florida and knew little of
tropical plants. Gerry and I were
married in 1970 and joined Fair-
child the same year. We moved
into our first home and started col-
lecting and gardening. Much of our
knowledge has come from trial and
error and unfortunately quite a num-
ber of wonderful plants paid the
price, but we kept trying and over
the years have developed our own
techniques.
We were very fortunate in that
we bought our first home from Patty

Next Meeting,
Monday, March 26

The Tropical Fern & Exotic
Plant Society presents Jeff
Wasielewski who will speak on Gar-
dening in South Florida, Why We’re
Different.
This lecture will cover the reasons
why the rules are different in South
Florida when it comes to growing
plants. Jeff will address soils, pests,
hurricanes and climate in this informa-
tive, power-point driven presentation.
The public is invited to attend this
presentation. There will be plants for
Raffle donated by Ree Gardens and
refreshments will be served. See you
at 7:30 p.m.

(Greetings continued on page 3)
data about the plants on display. Among the long roster of unusual plants Jesse brought to the table were:

- **Pseudocaryopsis bicalcarata**, with Celosia-like lavender flowers
- **Ruttya fruticosa**- with flowers looking like black-eyed orange insects
- **Salvia mexicana**- with deep blue flowers
- **Salvia bicolor**, native Florida- with pink and white flowers
- **Anthericum**- with white flowers in small clusters
- **Heliconia angusta** yellow- with (obviously) yellow bracts on a short statured plant
- **Fernandoa magnifica**- a stunning small tree with large orange cup flowers with ink-black radiating lines in the center
- **Thunbergia crispa**- a smaller, undulate-leaved version of King’s Mantle
- **Gardenia thunbergioides**- with large-pinwheel flowers on a small tree
- **Aphelandra species**, dark green ridged leaves and a small pyramid of cinnabar-orange flowers

One of Jesse’s better points was that gardens evolve, whereas landscapes don’t. Gardens change personalities, plants sometimes outgrow their areas. If you have plants which don’t like one spot, move them and see if they find the new home more appealing.

There are so many types of plants available to plant and at such reasonable prices that there should be no reason that a landscape could go wanting for color, texture or diversity. Jesse concluded his program by selling his display plants, which prompted a fairly polite crush of people trying to get their favored plant. Jesse went home with 2 or 3 plants, after arriving 2 hours earlier with half a truckload. It would be safe to say that we like it when vendors come to do a program, and allow us access to great plants.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Morell, CPA
Certified Plant Addict
Monroe Catlow, daughter of Commodore Monroe. She & her husband Bill rather adopted Gerry & I and not only shared wonderful cuttings but taught us what to do with them. We also found that our neighborhood was home to a number of true plant pioneers including Seymour Goldwebber. He was terribly patient with us and taught us to air layer, to make cuttings, and many other valuable things. He identified pest and told us what to buy and how to treat each one as it came along. Later we met Steve & Marie Nock who also live in the neighborhood. They have been wonderful friends that have shared not only plants but also their immense knowledge. Tricia Frank was my dear friend and co-worker and always held the belief that Marie & Steve are the “best growers in Miami” and I share her sentiments.

I retired from a wonderful career of flying around the world with Delta Air Lines in January 2001 and spent more of my free time volunteering at Fairchild. In 2005 I was honored as Volunteer of the year there and soon afterward was offered a job in the Special Events Department. I am still working for Fairchild though only part time now in order to have more time to spend visiting my Mother who at age 89 is still living alone in her home in north Florida. I have a few ideas about ways to improve our club and hope that we can make this a fun, interesting and successful year for the Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society. I welcome your thoughts and thank you for your support.

Regards,
Marnie

Raffle Tables for — 2012

March 26 ............................................. ........................................... Steve and Marie Nock
April 23 ............................................ ................................................... Philipp Iloo and David McLean
May 28 ............................................. ................................................... ........Tim Anderson and Craig Reid

Last Call for 2012 dues
Dues may also be paid at the next meeting Monday, March 26.

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: $_____________
Serious plant collectors may become obsessive about obtaining a particular plant. This occurs among orchid growers especially. The degree of obsession seems to be inversely proportional to the availability of the sought after plant. I know of an orchid collector who has been seeking *Encyclia howardii* for years. The gratification of finally obtaining the desired plant is diminished by the gap it leaves in our dreams. Not a big deal as the gap is quickly filled by new desires. For aroid-nuts a view of the offerings of Ecuagenera is certain to generate any number of plants worthy of obsession.

My personal obsession is with a genus of gingers, *Siphonochilus*. This obsession is driven by a number of factors: first, the species of *Siphonochilus* are generally deciduous and that means I don’t have to worry about Winter heating costs; second, they have the largest flowers in the ginger family and some are fragrant; and finally they are very rare to find in the field as well as in good ginger collections. They also breed well.