



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 3

Editor: Reggie Whitehead March 2012

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 Emaly
Israel, Martha Bogaard

Raffle provided by—Redland Nur-
sery

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 reha-
bilitation.

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 Univer-
sity. 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-
ceeds 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

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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 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

(Greetings continued on page 3)

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2012

President		
Marnie Valent	(305) 235-5929	
Vice President		
Marie Nock	(305) 232-2257	
Secretary		
Craig Morell	(305) 667-1173	
Treasurer		
Tom Moore	(305) 666-0219	
Membership		
Sherrin Smith	(305) 448-2598	
Hospitality		
Martha Bogaards	(305) 661-2305	
Emaly 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	
Argeo Hernandez	(305) 633-9099	
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
Mike Twyford	(305) 444-6332
Reggie Whitehead	(305) 613-5944

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**
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The first Saturday of each month is a special day!

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www.tfeps.org

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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..... Philpp 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: \$ _____

Magnificent Obsession

by John Banta

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.

Next Meeting, Monday, March 26, Jeff Wasielewski, Gardening in South Florida, 7:30 p.m.

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