September in Review

Date—September 24, 2012

Speaker- Dr. Robert Pope

Topic- Singapore’s Gardens by the Bay Project

Treasurer’s report balance- not presented

President Marnie Valent called meeting to order at—7:40

Hospitality- Martha Bogaard and Emalyl Israel, Craig Morell

Raffle provided by—Gardino Nursery and Oasis Nursery, Ron Kiefert and Robert Pope also donated crotions in excellent condition.

Meeting ended at—9:20 p.m.

President Marnie Valent made a call to arms to bring plants next month for the auction, either from your own collection or from a nursery, but bring something. As always, people are needed to work the sale in a number of positions. This is a major fund raiser for the Society, so attend and spend freely.

Dr. Robert Pope is a retired Biology teacher from Miami-Dade College. He had the good sense to marry the sister (the delightful Pek) of a very notable globetrotting and highly influential plantsman, Dr. Kiat Tan, then of the Singapore Botanical Garden. Consequently, Robert has excellent connections in Singapore, amongst other places.

For the last 6 or 7 years, Robert has been catalyzing the acquisitions of countless plants for the Gardens by the Bay (GBB) project on Singapore Bay. In addition to being a great Croton collector, Robert is well known in the nursery business, for which talents he was tapped in acquiring and expediting plants from the So. Florida area to Singapore. His brother-in-law has an extraordinary need for interesting plants and trees of all sorts to fill the needs for an extraordinary garden, unlike any other on the planet.

Annual Plant Auction

Our auction will once again be held at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, on Monday, October 22, beginning at 7:00 p.m. 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.

The auction will begin at 7:30 p.m., however, a preview of the auction plants will begin at 7 p.m. So that you can study all of the beautiful plants that will be available. [You might also want to bring along your appetite, our Hospitality Committee always provides a wonderful table.]

Many donations are already coming in such as a specimen of this unique once-pinnate Angiopteris, Angiopteris smithii, (from Sarawak, Borneo) donated by Dr. Jeff Block.

Annual Plant Auction

Monday, October 22

Plant Preview — 7 p.m.

Auction — 7:30 p.m.

See you there!!!
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2012

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Marnie Valent    (305) 233-5929
Vice President
Marie Nock     (305) 232-2257
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Raffle Table
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The crown jewels in this amazing garden site are the two modernistic conservatories. One of the 2.5 acre domes is a flower dome, the other is a cool mountain rain forest dome. The interior plantings rival any conservatory on Earth, and the show of plants changes constantly. In both domes, the climate is refreshingly cool, but the flower dome is cool Mediterranean, delightfully dry as a respite from the equatorial heat just outside. There are enormous metal “supertrees”, some as tall as 200 feet, which look like nothing terrestrial, and act as a hybrid of plant display tower and cooling structure for the infrastructure of the small city which lays beneath the concrete. Towering over the entire garden is the 3-tower Sands Casino and Hotel, 50 stories tall with a millennium pool and restaurant on top.

Dr. Tan has spent years traveling the world, looking for the most interesting plants and garden artifacts that can be found, with a hefty budget to work with, and a travel agent who must be extremely tired.

The entire project is a curious blend of giant-size engineering, meditation gardens, and wonderful collections of plants in dozens of specialized collections. It is surely one of the most diverse and user-friendly gardens on earth, and a destination unto itself. Singapore had a grand plan to have a garden section for its busy residents, and GBB filled the need over and above the need. Recently opened, the Gardens will be utterly spectacular in about 5 years when the plants have established. On a personal note, I saw this project 4 years ago, in its infancy. I would relish the chance to see it again now that it is completed. Robert concluded the program at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Morell, CPA
Certified Plant Addict

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(Review continued from page 1)
something for the philatelists (stamp collectors) in South Florida. Dr. Bob Pope who spoke at our last meeting about the new Gardens By the Bay in Singapore, has donated a couple of First Day Issue stamps for our auction.

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.

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

Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society
6880 S. W. 75 Terrace
South Miami, FL 33143
___ Individual Member $15. ___ Household Membership $17.
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It all started when I thought I would clear up the confusion between black pepper and chili pepper. I thought that I could blame the whole problem on Christopher Columbus. It appears that Columbus wanting to impress the royal Spanish backers of his first ocean voyage introduced Chilies as peppers because the value of black peppers in Europe at that time was quite high. The fact that they both produced a hot sensation in the mouth allowed the switch to be accepted. Unfortunately, the two names became interchangeable even though their origins and botany are quite distinct. Pepper derives from Sanskrit “pippali” meaning “spirit or energy” was translated to Latin “piper” to old English “pipor”. Whereas chili originates from the Nahuatl word, “Xilli or Chilli.”

The genus for chili peppers is **Capsicum** that is derived from the Greek word, “kapto” meaning, “to bite.” To confuse matters even more chili peppers were introduced into India (the origin of black peppers) and were reintroduced to Europe as an Indian spice.

Needless to say, peppers do fascinate me and to bring a quick close to this article I ask that you go to the following web site for broad view of the genus, **Capsicum**. www.Fatalii.net/chile/

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**Annual Plant Auction, Monday, October 22, 7 p.m**

**Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.**
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South Miami, FL 33143