



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 8

Editor: Reggie Whitehead October 2012

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 Emaly Israel, Craig Morell

Raffle provided by—Gardino Nursery and Oasis Nursery, Ron Kiefert and Robert Pope also donated crotons 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.



Singapore's Gardens By the Bay

The GBB project started as a concept about 8 years ago, and was in play two years afterward. Singapore decided to build an unbelievable garden / city / entertainment / casino area, collectively called Gardens by the Bay. The scope of the project is astonishing, and hard to describe. The project is comprised of 3

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**Annual Plant Auction
Monday, October 22
Plant Preview — 7 p.m.
Auction — 7:30 p.m.**

See you there!!!

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.



Angiopteris smithii

Our auction is even featuring

(Auction continued on page 3)

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

President		
Marnie Valent	(305) 233-5929	
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

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www.tfeps.org

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major connected blocks, approximately 250 acres, nestled against Singapore Bay. The value of the land alone in this hyper-price city would easily be in the billions of dollars. There are numerous specialty gardens, but the 4 main theme gardens are Chinese, with a red theme color; Malay, with yellow and orange theme colors; Indian, with a purple theme color; and a British theme, with a black / white color scheme. Intermixed through these gardens are “edu-tainment” areas, and myriad areas for seating and for children’s play areas.

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*

(Auction 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.

New Members

Ana & Jose Lopez
21288 S. W. 123 Court
Miami, FL 33177
305 775-3048
josealbertolopez@yahoo.com



Raffle Tables for — 2012

October 22..... *Annual Auction*
November 26..... *PCK Orchids*
December..... *Holiday Party*

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: \$ _____

Etymological Stew

by John Banta

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 origi-

nates 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/

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

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