**Auction in Review**

Our Annual Plant Auction was held on Monday, October 22 at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. It is always a great event to get new plants to stock one’s garden and landscape. Each year the plant selection differs, and there are always some choice plants to be had. This year the auction faced an unfair opponent: the Presidential debates were being televised at 9 p.m. on our auction night, so the crowd thinned out around 8:45. This allowed the remaining people an advantage of having fewer opponents to bid against.

Notable amongst the plants were several well-grown and fairly uncommon crotons, labeled expertly and narrated by the plant donor Ron Kiefert. Dr. Jeff Block brought in some extraordinary Vriesea and Tillandsia selections, as well as a rare *Angiopteris smithii*, a single-pinnate species of the giant fern from Sarawak, Malaysia (on the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia). Dr. Block mentioned that this plant was introduced into cultivation by Reggie Whitehead.

While the auction usually brings out stellar plants that usually are not available to the ordinary plant collector, or gardener, the star of the auction was an uncommonly large plant of *Heliconia illus-tris*, some 10 feet tall, and movable only by strong men. This plant elicited heavy bidding. To our knowledge it is rarely cultivated.

We must thank Denis and Bill Rolante of Silver Krome Nursery. Silver Krome has been a steady supporter of our auction for many years, and they always provide an abundance of beautifully, well-grown aroids.

There were numerous baskets of epiphytic ferns, as well as a wide array of plants for landscape use, from palm species to an odd aroid that nobody in the room had any knowledge. This was a singular case, in which the collective intellectual property of the room was

(Auction continued on page 2)

**Angiopteris and Macroglossum Species**

With the recent talk about the once-pinnate *Angiopteris smithii*, I thought that it might be a good idea to talk a little about a couple of plants of the *Angiopteris* species that can be found in local collections.

My interest in these primitive ferns began on a collection trip to Jamaica in the early 90’s, with Debbie Lamb, Karen Lawrence, Donna and Monty McGraw and Tom Moore.

This was our first collecting trip and I was only interested in collecting maidenhair ferns, but at the urging of Debbie and Karen, I collected a couple of small plants of *Angiopteris evecta*, there in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica.

What was unique about collecting this species there, is that *Angiopteris evecta* is not native to Jamaica. On this trip, we had learned that Castleton Gardens, near Kingston, had brought in a couple of species of *Angiopteris* from Madagascar. In time, spores from the Castleton *Angiopteris* found their way to the lush forests of the Blue Mountains, and subsequently, took root there.

After many collecting trips throughout Southeast Asia, where *Angiopteris* are more common, we have found many different *Angiopteris*, with their twice-pinnate fronds, reaching 22-25 feet in length. There is considerable debate regarding how many species of *Angiopteris* there really are. One hundreds years ago, due to variability in the species, it was common to note each variation, and thus give the plant a species name.

However, outside of the usual *Angiopteris*-looking species, on a trip to Java, while visiting a private collection, we discovered a once-pinnate species.

(Angiopteris continued on page 3)

**Next Meeting, Monday, November 26**

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents Dr. Larry Schokman who will give a lecture on Expand-ing Your Garden Palette on Monday, November 26.

Dr. Schokman is the former Director of the Kampong in South Florida. He is a celebrated author, who, is currently in the process of revising his book, which is a guide to the living collection of the Kampong — which discusses, DNA, nomenclature and plants and their medicinal purposes.

The Raffle Table will be provided by Peter and Clara Kouchalakos (PCK Orchids). See you at 7:30 p.m!
Board of Directors will consist of the above officers and chairs; and the following individuals.

Director
Steve Forman  
(305) 662-2368

Debbie Lamb  
(305) 251-8675

Mike Twyford  
(305) 444-6332

Reggie Whitehead  
(305) 613-5944

The hospitality tables were loaded with enough variety and quantity to suit any taste and appetite, including some of the famous barbecue meatballs so often desired, and so often eaten quickly.

Tom Moore is to be commended for his unwavering skill in auctioneering, with the clear voice and speed of delivery so necessary for his work. He cleared the room of plants in near-record time. Certainly there were 200 + plants to be auctioned. The tally for the event was $2,119.

To all those who donated their plants for the auction, the society thanks you since this is one of the primary sources of income for the group. We gratefully thank our president Marnie Valent, who valiantly chaired the auction and solicited plants and brought everyone together to make this such a successful auction. We also thank the many members who donated plants and/or refreshments. We are listing those members here, and hopefully we have not forgotten anyone: Silver Krome Nursery, Vivian Waddell, Bob Benaim, Sally and Frank Tastinger, Marnie Valent, Sherrin Smith, Ellis Brown, Jason Lopez (Fairchild), Ron Keifert, Steve and Marie Nock, Jeff Block, Bob Pope, Jose Lopez, David Foster and Linda Bell, Jeff Searle, David McLean, Martha Falgout, Chris Mayhew, Mike Twyford, Argeo Hernandez, Tim Anderson, Phillip Iloo, and Tom Moore. We sincerely want to thank all of you, and if we’ve neglected to mention someone, please accept our apologies.

Some 45 people attended, with a few hardy souls waiting until the end to get their last chances at a special plant. Living up to my moniker, I purchased a few plants for my own garden, more than I should. The meeting ended at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Morell, CPA
Certified Plant Addict
Welcome New Members

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(Angiopteris continued from page 1)

From this collection, we brought one of these new and unusual species to grow here in South Florida. We are uncertain of the plant’s origin because the grower had received her specimen from another plantsman (Greg Hambali), and he acquired it from yet another person, who had passed away — never identifying the country or island of origin.

A year later, while on a trip to Sarawak (Borneo island), Tom Moore and I stumbled upon another pinnate species of Angiopteris. This added to the intrigue of pinnate species. Fortunately, we stopped by a forestry station there, and saw our new Angiopteris with a plant i.d. tag on it, and it read Macroglossum smithii; this name has recently been changed to Angiopteris smithii. — Reggie Whitehead

Holiday Party

You are cordially invited to attend our Annual Holiday Party. This year’s festivities will take place at the beautiful estate of Sally and Dr. Jim Jude.

The date is Friday, December 7, 6 p.m., the address, 200 Edgewater Drive, Coral Gables, FL. RSVP no later than December 1.

To RSVP, please contact
Emalyl Israel - (305) 235-0886
(There is a $10 charge for non-member guests)

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Raffle Tables for — 2012

November 26.......................................................................................................................PCK Orchids

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: $_____________
Fear of Tomorrow
by John Banta

Progress is often thwarted by the fear of change, for example, a new variety of apple, ‘arctic’ has been developed that doesn’t turn brown on the cut surfaces. The United States Apple Association has firmly declined the introduction of this non-browning apple because it was developed by means of genetic modification.

Of the 57,000 genes needed to produce an apple 4 were silenced to inhibit the enzymatic process of browning. No new genetic material was added; only 4 genes were turned off yet the fear of the label ‘GMO’, genetically modified organism, was enough to prevent the introduction. Can we afford to allow Luddites to regulate our future?

Hawaii’s $64 million-a-year papaya industry was destroyed by ringspot virus until the recombinant DNA modified ‘Rainbow’ papaya revived the moribund papaya industry. Fear-mongering about recombinant DNA modified crops is without basis as extensive world-wide scientific research has identified no risks associated with DNA modified food or crops. Man’s ability to solve problems must not be held hostage to groundless fears.

Dr. Larry Schokman, Expanding your Garden Palette, Monday, November 26, 7:30 p.m