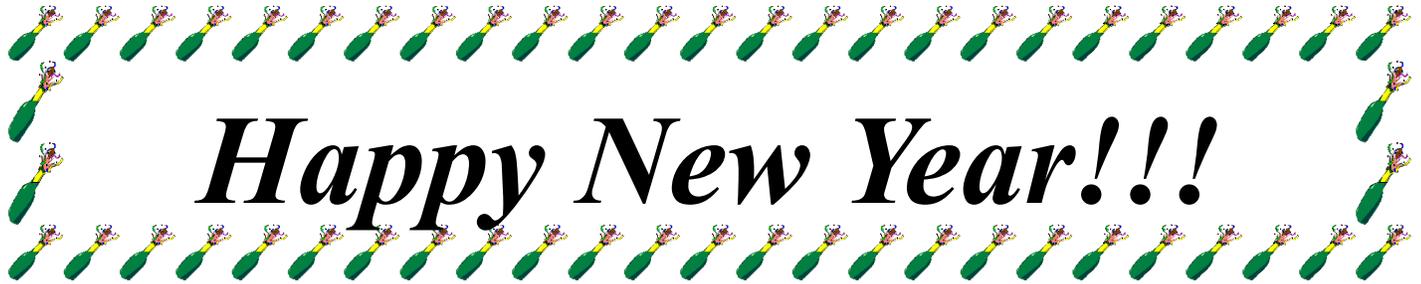




Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 1

Editor: Reggie Whitehead January 2013



Happy New Year!!!

November Meeting in Review

Date—11/26/12

Speaker- Larry Schokman, Director Emeritus of the Kampong in Coconut Grove

Topic: “15 Tropical and Subtropical Flowering Trees — Expanding Your Palette”

Treasurer’s report balance \$10,436.17

President Marnie Valent opened meeting at 7:40

Hospitality— Emalyl Israel and Martha Bogaard

Raffle provided by— PCK orchids – table of bromeliads and Cattleyas

Meeting ended at—9:25 p.m.

Ramble netted 9 new members

Larry Schokman, Director Emeritus of the Kampong of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, spoke on the wide diversity and rainbow of colors in flowering trees. Larry is a well-known expert in flowering trees, as well as a number of other venues. His career spans half a century of agriculture, horticulture and

fruit crops. He has been the minister of and goodwill ambassador for flowering trees for decades, and continues his work today. His career includes myriad plaudits and accolades, including work as an agriculture advisor, Tea Planter of the Year Award in 1967 in his home country of Sri Lanka, Garden Director of the Year Award in 1998, is a founding member of the Tropical Flowering Tree Society, and is on staff at both Miami-Dade College and the University of Miami.

Larry started off his program with citations to some of the great influ-

ences in flowering trees in Florida, such as Edwin Menninger, the Reasoner brothers, David Fairchild and Robert Montgomery. There are dozens of other people who have introduced flowering trees and shrubs into our lives, but so many of them did their work in northern or temperate states. Between the Tropical Flowering Tree Society (TFTS) and Tremendous Miami, the collaboration has planted over 10,000 trees in the Miami area, a visionary feat worthy of more praise and credit. Larry has maintained his mantras that flowering trees color the horizon, and that Miami is the flowering tree capital of the world. Flowering trees, in his opinion, make excellent xeriscape candidates, since many trees enjoy a dry winter in keeping with our seasonal dry period.

One of the many excellent points Larry made was that before experimenting with new trees in your garden, it is important to know your garden conditions. Matching the right tree to the right climate and growing conditions is vital to the success of both the tree and the garden. 15 trees of note were presented:

Brownea grandiceps
Bombax ceiba
Bulnesia arborea

(Review continued on page 2)

Next Meeting, Monday, January 28

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents Dr. Scott Zona, who will speak on ***Sex in the Garden***, on Monday, January 28 . Flowers are all about sex! This presentation explores the world of pollination, which is the transfer of pollen to the stigma and a necessary step in sexual reproduction. The marvelous ways in which this transfer is accomplished – birds, bats, wind, water, etc. are explored in depth.

Dr. Zona, a tropical botanist, is curator of the Wertheim Conservatory at Florida International University and faculty in the Dept. of Biological Sciences.

The Raffle Table will be provided by Fantastic Ferns LLC (Frank & Sally Tasting) and Redland Nursery. See you at 7:30 p.m!

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

*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
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315 Just west of South Andrews Avenue

The first Saturday of each month is a special day!

SHERRIN A. SMITH (Miami Native)

PLANT, PET, AND HOUSE SITTING; Personal Assistance

305 213-2598 Phone 305 668-4622 Fax

E-mail: sas56chevy@aol.com



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Contact – Bob Benaim, 305-793-9755
or staghornrescue@gmail.com

(Review continued from page 1)

Cassia bakeriana

Chorisia speciosa ‘Pink Princess’

Colvillea speciosa, which can be grafted onto a Royal Poinciana

Cordia boissieri

Jacaranda cuspidifolia and the related.

J. mimosifolia

Magnolia (formerly *Michelia*) ***cham-paca***

Pseudobombax ellipticum

Syzygium malaccense

Tabebuia ipe

Triplaris cumingiana

(From the secretary: I have neglected to add common names to avoid any possibility of round-table arguments over which tree gets which common name, since some trees have multiple common names, and some even share the same common name for different species.)

Larry stressed again the concepts of the tree for the right location, knowing something about trees before you plant them, and that trees are long-term investments, not to be planted impulsively. Plant societies are rich sources of data, delivered freely and willfully, yet often underused by the members or by municipal governing agencies. Delivered with his usual good humor and light spirit, Larry spoke to a nearly-full room, indicative of people who were interested in his expertise and experience.

On a separate note, the TFEPS Holiday Party last December was a major success, held at Sallye and Dr. Jim Jude’s amazing property in Coral Gables. There was an unfortunate incident in which a member suffered a broken ankle, to which we all wish Craig Kolthoff, a speedy recovery.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, CPA

Certified Plant Addict

DUES ARE DUE

Dues for 2013 are currently being collected. Have you rejoined TFEPS? If not, *Please* do so today.

Please make checks payable to **TFEPS** (and mail to):
Sherrin Smith, Membership
4339 S.W. 9th Terrace
Miami, FL 33134-2627

(Members who joined after June 2012 are paid up through December 2013.)

Dues are (still):

\$15.00 - single

\$17.00 - for two members at the same address

(Dues may be paid at our January meeting.)

Welcome New Members

Mayotte, Shirley and Ziggy
4081 Woodbridge Road
Miami, FL 33133-6617
(305) 666-9832
zigmayotte@aol.com

Schokman, Larry and Colleen
4030 S. W. 37 Avenue
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
(305) 445-5107
schokman@bellsouth.net

McNeil, Sigrid
11411 S. W. 110th Lane
Miami, FL 33176
(305) 274-0520
sigridmcneil@comcast.com

Schmidt, Ann
6974 Hardee Road
Miami, FL 33143
(786) 218-5823
annfschmid@aol.com

Romanowski, Rianna
1614 Euclid Avenue #36
Miami Beach, FL 33139
(415) 517-5248
rianna_romanowski@fastmail.fm

Wiltsie, Victoria C.
12605 S. W. 71 Avenue
Miami, FL 33156-6236
(305) 232-2718
Yellowbird1983@hotmail.com

Raffle Tables for — 2013

January 28.....	<i>Fantastic Ferns LLC</i>
.....	<i>Redland Nursery, Inc.</i>
February 25	Bloomin' Good Nursery
March 25	Ree Gardens
April 22	Stelmar Gardens, Inc.
May 27	Palm Hammock Orchid Estate
.....	Trinity Churchside Garden

**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: \$ _____

Thieves in the Garden

by John Banta

The sense of loss soon turned to anger. I had been watching the Lancetea mango for months as it grew into a 5 pound beautiful fruit. Now, it was gone. Foot prints revealed the thief: a raccoon! The quickly installed electric fence protected the remaining fruit. Others covet our fruits as much as we do. Lychees appeal to squirrels like chocolates do to us. I don't begrudge a few fruit in a good season but when squirrels chew through the peduncle and cause unripe avocados to drop and rot I really get angry! I thought I had protected the lychees from the squirrels when I realized that crows were also stealing the fruit.

In spite of their thieving ways I almost admire crows

for their cleverness. When we raised chickens, the eggs were collected and put into Styrofoam egg cartons stored in the tool shed. One day I discovered that the crows not only went into the shed; opened the egg cartons and swiped an egg but were clever enough to conceal their theft by closing the egg carton before they left. With so many garden thieves I shall have to finish this tale next time.

Dr. Scott Zona, Sex in the Garden, Monday, January 28, 7:30 p.m

***Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
6880 S. W. 75 Terrace
South Miami, FL 33143***