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 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 influences 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 Treemendous 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 Tast-inger) 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

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Sherrin Smith 
(305) 448-2598

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Martha Bogaards    (305) 661-2305
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Librarian
Juan Espinosa-Almodovar 
(305) 444-3103

Raffle Table
Skye Palmer    (305) 595-9291
Argo 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

(Review continued from page 1)

Cassia bakeriana
Chorisia speciosa ‘Pink Princess’
Colvillea speciosa, which can be grafted onto a Royal Poinciana
Cordia boisseri
Jacaranda cuspidifolia and the related.
J. mimosifolia
Magnolia (formerly Michelia) champaca
Pseudobombax ellipticum
Syzygium malaccense
Tabebuia ipe
Tiplaris 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

Mounting Plaques
Made of 1" x 3"
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Contact – Bob Benaim, 305-793-9755
or staghornrescue@gmail.com

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
**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.)

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**Welcome New Members**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayotte, Shirley and Ziggy</td>
<td>4081 Woodbridge Road, Miami, FL</td>
<td>(305) 666-9832</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zigmayotte@aol.com">zigmayotte@aol.com</a></td>
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<td>11411 S. W. 110th Lane, Miami, FL</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:annfschmid@aol.com">annfschmid@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiltsie, Victoria C.</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Yellowbird1983@hotmail.com">Yellowbird1983@hotmail.com</a></td>
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**Raffle Tables for — 2013**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Table</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Fantastic Ferns LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Redland Nursery, Inc.</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>Bloomin’ Good Nursery</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>Ree Gardens</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Stelmar Gardens, Inc.</td>
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<td>May 27</td>
<td>Palm Hammock Orchid Estate</td>
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<td>Trinity Churchside Garden</td>
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**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: $_____________
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.