



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 2

Editor: Reggie Whitehead February 2013

January Meeting in Review

Date—January 28, 2013

Speaker- Dr. Scott Zona

Topic- Sex in the Garden

President Marnie called meeting to order at—7:35 and made note that member Craig Kolthoff had been injured once again, but is recovering. She also noted that the candidates for club offices will be announced next month, and that the bylaws had been sent out to the members.

Hospitality- Emaly Israel and Martha Bogaards

Raffle provided by—Frank and Sally Tasteringer and Redland Nursery

Meeting ended at—9:05

Dr. Scott Zona is a well known botanist and educator at Florida International University in Miami. He is well known and well published for his numerous works with palms, and is also well represented on the Internet for his myriad and excellent photographs of almost everything imaginable that is plant related. His program tonight dealt with the pollination ecology, and the array of methods by which plants can be pollinated, some of which are more efficient than others. Dr. Zona stated that there are 3 basic methods of pollination: biotic, abiotic, and self-pollination. The first method is usually done via wind or water pollina-

tion, as is seen in some food crops , grasses , conifers, and aquatic plants. This method requires a lot of wind-blown or water-borne pollen to provide enough chance for the pollen to find receptive stigmas to pollinate. The second method is via insects or animals, with the plant providing some reward of pollen, resin, lipids, shelter and other methods including deceit. Animal pollination involves a wide range of culprits, including ants, birds, geckos, lemurs, bats, mollusks

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Next Meeting, Monday, February 25

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, is pleased to present **Mr. Craig Morell** at our February meeting, at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (the Corbin Building), Monday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Tricks of the Gardening Trade--New Ways to Do Old Things and Rediscovering Old Ways for New Growers

Pinecrest Gardens Horticulturist Craig Morell will lead a diverse discussion on some of the myriad tactics used to grow and repair tropical plants. He will cover some of the tried-and-true basics of propagating , recovering and growing some of the more exotic tropical plants we grow in this area. Some of the oldest gardening techniques still work well, yet new growers may not know of them, and there are always revisions to some techniques based on new technology.

This month's Raffle Tables will be supplied by **Ree Gardens** (Steve and Marie Nock). See you there!!!

Drynarias

Drynarias belong in the family **Polypodiaceae**. There are 18 species in the genus **Drynaria** and one natural hybrid. They range from Africa and Madagascar across to Polynesia via India and much of Asia, from Australia in the South to Southern China in the North.

The three species, **Drynaria rigidula**, **D. sparisora** and **D. quercifolia** are the species that can usually be found in collections.



Drynaria rigidula in Malaysia

Drynaria ferns are noted for their dimorphic fronds — that is two types of fronds. The shield fronds or nest fronds are usually shorter, lobed, erect, and eventually turn brown. The fertile fronds which are much longer and, narrower, upright — eventually hanging downward. These ferns are epiphytes, and when cultivated, they require a well drained open mix, or a container of sphagnum moss.

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

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 staghomrescue@gmail.com

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 and numerous others.

In some cases, there are insects and birds that steal nectar from flowers, sometimes pollinating them sometimes not. Dr. Zona went on to say that some forms of reward are more “rewarding” than others, e.g. lipids have 3 times the calories (valuable food for busy pollinators) than pollen. Members of the **Malpighiaceae** are in this group. One clever group of orchids in the genus **Ophrys** deceive flies into mating with the flowers; good for the flowers, a bad deal for the flies. Since flies are fairly unable to learn from errors and are easily deceived, the orchids’ flowers have been successful in their ways for centuries.

The program ended with numerous member questions, and a new appreciation for the numerous ways that plants carry on their generations, all of which are interwoven with pollination and pollinators. The meeting closed at 9:05.

Correction to notes for last month: Larry Schokman informed me that he is not on staff at UM or at Miami-Dade College. He’s still a really talented guy, though.

Respectfully submitted,

*Craig Morell, CPA
 Certified Plant Addict*

REE GARDENS PLANT SALE

7860 S. W. 124 Street
 Miami, FL
 (305) 232-2257
 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
 February 22, 23, 24

A great selection of rare and unusual plants that the collector will relish including *Pentagonia wendlandii*; Bromeliads; *Medinillas*; *Alocasias*; *Anthuriums* (including *regale waroqueanum* and *veitchii*); *Philodendrons* (including *campii*, *goeldii* & *joepii*); *Osmoxylons*; hundreds of varieties of *Crotons*; *Coccoloba pubescens* and *rugosum*; *Saracas*; *Browneas*; Breadfruit trees; *Taccas*; *Calatheas*; *Hoyas*; *Ficus dammaropsis*; *Thai Aglaonemas*; *Angiopteris*; fragrant shrubs; vines (including green jade); dwarf Betel Nut palms and much more!

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 February meeting.)

Welcome New Members

Martha Kent
7640 S.W. 60 Avenue
Miami, FL 33143-5006
Martha.kent@att.net

Get Well Craig Kolthoff

Craig has been released from Doctors Hospital and is at home. He is on bed rest and is to do nothing for at least two weeks at which time he will begin Physical Therapy again.

Raffle Tables for — 2013

<i>February 25</i>	<i>Ree Gardens</i>
March 25	Bloomin' Good Nursery
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: \$** _____

Tiny Thieves

by John Banta

One of my gardening pleasures is breeding gingers, **Marantas** and **Calatheas**. They are similar in several ways; they have very decorative leaves, dormant periods during the cold Winter months and seeds with an oily aril. The oil in the aril is a very high energy food that is attractive to ants and other creatures. This is the way these seeds get widely distributed. I was skeptical that ants could carry away a seed many times their size and weight. The seeds are about the size and weight of a grain of rice.

I would collect the seeds in the morning while I was pollinating their flowers. The seed were stored in a paper

cup in the potting shed. If the seeds are stored in a closed bottle they become covered with a fungus that greatly reduces their germination. One morning I noticed that the seeds in the paper cup were noticeably fewer in number. I blamed the loss on mice. It wasn't until the next year I discovered the real culprit. A clump of bright green ginger seedlings just outside of the potting shed drew my attention. Closer examination revealed that they were growing out of an ant hill. Now the collected seeds are stored in a wide mouth fruit jar with a screen top securely screwed in place. It should be no surprise that the rewards of our gardening efforts are coveted by others.

Next Meeting, Craig Morell — Tricks of the Gardening Trade, Monday, February 25, 7:30 p.m

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