



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 4

Editor: Reggie Whitehead April 2013

March Meeting in Review

Date—3-25-2013

Speaker- **Tom Moore**

Topic- **An Overview of the Fern World**

Treasurer's report balance-
\$8,629.93

President called meeting to order
at—7:35

Hospitality- **Bob and Peck Pope,
Richard Button and Dolores
Fugina, Marnie Valent, and (new
member) Lamar Sapp.**

Raffle provided by— **Bloomin'
Good Nursery**

Meeting ended at— 9:30

President Marnie Valent announced that TFEPS had acquired Lamar (and Neli) Sapp, a new member who signed up at the USDA Community Day. Welcome! Marnie also announced that it was Emalyl Israel's birthday, and a wonderful cake was produced, along with cheers, libations and a lot of eating. On behalf on all the members, Emalyl, Happy Birthday, (and we all put our low-carb diets on hold for another day or 12).

Tom Moore, a retired teacher, long-time educator about ferns, and co-founder of TFEPS, started his program with the announcement that TFEPS is 13 years old. The society was formed to fill a niche that would include ferns and other tropical plants in one society

(TFEPS remains, as strong as ever and one of the most cohesive societies left in business today —*secretary's note, not Tom's opinion*).

Tom brought in a wide array of ferns, including an impressive **Lycopodium squarrosus** (now called **Huperzia squarrosa**), a Selaginella fern ally, a juvenile **Angiopteris evecta**, and amongst others, a fern not seen before, **Meniscium serratum**, a Florida native.

One plant of note was a specimen of **Microsorium whiteheadii** (from the Southeast Asian country of Indonesia, on the island of Sumatra), named after our own Reggie Whitehead.

Tom stated that the fern family

(Review continued on page 2)

Next Meeting, Monday, April 22

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, is pleased to present **Mr. Jesse Durko**, who will speak on **Sustainable Plants in the Landscape** at our next meeting, Monday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Corbin Building at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden.

The tropical landscapes that Jesse has designed are known for not only their color, texture and elegance but also for their sustainability. In his presentation he will share tips on unsustainable plants to use as well as placement and care for best results in the South Florida environment. He will also bring plants that will be available for sale following his presentation.

This month's Raffle Table will be supplied by **Stelmar Gardens** (Phillip Iloo). *See you there!!! 7:30 p.m.*

2013 Show and Sale

Our 2013 Annual Show and Sale is just around the corner. We are looking forward to another beautiful and successful show and sale.

Marnie Valent has agreed to chair the show again this year and will be contacting you for your help with various aspects of the event.

All members are encouraged to participate in the show which will take place once again in the Garden House at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. There will be ribbons awarded in several major categories. This year's show will feature a landscaped setting, with our plants as the focal point.

There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons, for not only ferns, but also for flowering plants as well. Larger rosettes will be awarded to **Best Native Plant, Best Flowering Plant, Best Fern, Best Croton, Most Unusual Plant** and **Best in Show**. The ever popular croton was added this year at member request. We are awarding a special ribbon, **Sweepstakes**, for the most Blue Ribbons awarded to an individual.

Members may bring in plants on **Thursday, May 30** beginning at 10 a.m. Plants will need to have Plant Entry Cards and a Plant Entry Sheet. You may pick up cards at the May meeting, or on May 30 when you bring your plants in.

All plants must be identified before they are entered for display. If you are unsure of the botanical name, someone will be there to help you on May 30. All members are encouraged to participate in the display. Judging will be on a fair scale affording both the

(Show and Sale continued on page 3)

(Show and Sale continued from page 1)

novice and seasoned grower a chance to win awards.

While there will no doubt be many ferns entered, there will be major awards given to non-fern plants as well.

The success of this show depends on the generous nature of our members, who by the way, made the past shows so successful.

All you will need to bring are your plants, we handle them from that point on. You will need to come back on Sunday after the show to collect your ribbons and plants.

Remember, we will begin accepting plants at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 30. You may bring plants in, up until 7 p.m. that evening. ***However, it would be extremely helpful for plants to arrive earlier in the day so that they may be properly placed in the display.*** If you need help in getting a plant to the garden, please let Marnie Valent know (305) 233-5929. We will try to accommodate all reasonable requests.

Grooming Plants

It is never too late to discuss some of the basics. Our show will have an easy judging standard, however, we still require that plants be as free as possible from glaring blemishes. This means, no pests and no leaves or fronds that are severely marred by pests. Plants will be judged on quality, appropriate number of leaves or flowers, or (in the case of ferns) fronds on a specimen.

Small plants, or young plants certainly should be entered in the show, reasonable care should be made to show them off to their best advantage. This rule of thumb also applies to older, mature plants. Plants should be well-supported and established on their mountings or pots (if terrestrials).

When transporting plants to the show, particular care should be given so that important foliage is not damaged. Wrapping plants in newspaper and plastic helps reduce damage and breakage of award-winning specimens. If you are transporting a hanging basket of ferns where the rhizomes have covered the base of the basket, you might want to use a plastic crate to rest the bulk of the plant in so that you do not damage the rhizomes. Also, you could place cushions of wadded up newspaper underneath the plant to keep the fronds from being crushed.

Display Plants

If you are participating as a vendor, your display plants also will need to be brought in on **Thursday, May 30, beginning at 10 a.m.** More information for vendors is covered in the vendor packets. (Since our vendor's plants will be an essential part of the display, it is imperative that these plants be at the Garden in a timely manner so that they may be incorporated into the design — your show designer will be extremely grateful for your help in this regard. Other member's display plants should also be brought in during this period.). If you are a member and are interesting in selling as a vendor, you will need to contact Vivian Waddell, (vcwaddell@yahoo.com).

Selling Plants — Member's Table

Members wishing to sell through the Member's Table will be able to bring their plants in on Friday, May 31 and Saturday morning, June 1 **before 9 a.m.** Members may bring in up to 30 plants per day.

Your plants **MUST** be double tagged. One tag will go to the cashier (please mark your tag with your initials) and one tag remains with the plant. Remember to include the price of plants on both tags. The society collects 15% of your sales. Members participating on the Member's Table will be mailed a check from our Treasurer, shortly after the weekend sale.

Volunteers Needed

The society will need volunteers to help with the show and sale.

When you bring your plants in on Thursday, we will be setting up the show. If you can spare some free time, our show designers would welcome your help with arranging the exhibit. We will be arranging the display from 12 noon until 7 p.m.

We will need volunteers to sit at our Membership Table (passing out literature, greeting guests, etc.) and volunteers are needed to man the holding area. Volunteers are also needed to monitor the display and answer questions (to the best of your ability, no training required). This also serves to keep plants out of harms way.

Fairchild has also changed its policy for free entrance for society members. If you are a member of the Garden you are automatically admitted free. If you are a member of the society and are working for the show, you will be able to attend for free, if not you will be charged the general admission price for the Garden, \$25.00.

(Show and Sale continued on page 4)

(Show and Sale continued from page 3)

This show and sale, will be another great experience for us. Please participate in any way you can. We would love to have your plants in the display, or your time as a volunteer.

On Friday, May 31, volunteers, are of course invited to attend our Appreciation Luncheon. Volunteers working the show are invited to attend the judges luncheon on Friday, May 31st at 12:00 noon. We would like to ask those who can do so to contribute a favorite dish to help make our luncheon a much anticipated event as in past years. Please let Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886 or Martha Boggards (305) 661-2305 know what you will be bringing so that they can coordinate the menu.

This is a luncheon that is set up amidst the backdrop of the display, “food among the plants,” so to speak. Our luncheon will begin at 1 p.m., prior to judging of the show.

Our Show and Sale has become extremely important to us, and being the only plant show in South Florida that brings in so many tropical plants in one giant display, we will work hard once again to put our best face forward.

Last year’s sale brought in many new species of plants that were not in cultivation. Our Show and Sale is the perfect venue for getting new plant material. We will still have the plants you’ve always loved, and the plants that have eluded you in the past. The bottom line is, please come, and tell your neighbors and friends. And, while at the Garden, take the time to look around and enjoy Fairchild. There is a dedicated shuttle that runs between the new Visitor’s Center and the Garden House, this will also help you get your plants back to your vehicle. There will also be porters who will be standing by to help you as well.

We are hoping that you will be able to put in a little time in some capacity. We will not need you for the entire weekend, just an hour or two — but would love it if you did stay and enjoy the show and sale, and tour Fairchild. Finally, there will be a sign-up sheet at the May meeting, or contact Marnie Valent (305) 233-5929 if you are interested in volunteering on Show Weekend. Do not forget to tell family and friends, as well as strangers about our beautiful annual show and sale.



Food and Garden Festival and Spring Sale at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Saturday, April 20, 2013 - Sunday, April 21, 2013 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Come see what's cooking at Fairchild during our annual celebration of local foods and the gorgeous gardens they grow in, then take home spectacular plants from our [34th Annual Spring Plant Sale](#).

- Gather new tips and recipes from our popular culinary and gardening demos taught by top chefs and gardeners.
- Shop our Farmers’ Market! Local vendors showcase the best fruits, vegetables and herbs available in South Florida, as well as honey, jams and fresh baked goods and spices.
- Celebrate the season with crisp and refreshing spring brews and summer ales in our Beer Tasting Garden.
- Discover Fairchild's Edible Garden, lush and delicious with herbs, vegetables, fruits and ornamentals that can be grown in your home garden.
- Hear *Random Acts of Gardening*, ‘pop-up’ lectures in the plant sales area covering South Florida gardening, edible landscaping and more.
- Enjoy special hands-on and culinary kids' activities in the KidWay.

Shop the [34th Annual Spring Plant Sale](#) with thousands of plants from Fairchild's nursery and local plant vendors.

**Assemblage Art
at Tropical Audubon Society**

The Tropical Audubon Society invites the public to a show of assemblage sculptures by Miami native Rick Cohen. The exhibit will have an opening reception at the Doc Thomas House (5530 Sunset Drive. Miami, Fla. 33143) on Sat. April 20 from 6-9 p.m. We will close the night with an *al fresco* featured presentation of the film "Last Stop at the Oasis," which clearly depicts the water shortage crisis affecting the globe and how some countries are solving this issue.

Cohen's sculptural collages manipulate and arrange recycled found objects into a variety of multidimensional objects of art. His pieces are abstract, non-representational works that are composed of varying arrangements of shapes, colors, and materials.

The event is free and open to the public. Join us for an evening of repurposed art, and cinema under the stars.

(Rick Cohen is a member of our Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society)

Welcome New Members

Lynda Lynch LaRocca
517 Palermo Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134-5710
(305) 441-8589
(305) 972-3192
lyndall45@yahoo.com

Cheryl Solomon
P. O. Box 332168
Miami, FL 33233
(305) 856-1610
cherylsolmon25@hotmail.com

Lamar and Neli Sapp
6001 S. W. 19 Street
Plantation, FL 33317-5219
(772) 201-4000
lamar.nativeson@gmail.com

**2013 Show and Sale
June 1 and 2
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**

Raffle Tables for — 2013

April 22 **Stelmar Gardens, Inc.**
May 27 Palm Hammock Orchid Estate
..... Trinity Churchside Garden

**Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society
P.O. Box 902094
Homestead, FL 33090-2094**

___ Individual Member \$15. ___ Household Membership \$17.
___ Life Membership \$125. ___ Life Household Membership \$150.
(Yearly dues are for calendar year - January - December)

This is for a New Membership: ___ or for Renewals: ___

Member's Name: _____

Name of additional member: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip + 4: _____ + _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Jack Kramer

1927 – 2013

by John Banta

I was fortunate to know Jack Kramer. He lived in Naples, Florida since 1987. It was always a pleasure visiting him. Visits usually consisted of a remarkable lunch and a chance to view beautiful old botanical prints; often being organized for an exhibit at a Botanical Garden. His library was a joy to behold. Rare Botanical books that were centuries old filled the shelves. I generally asked him to autograph one of the many plant books he had written that I had in my library. You may well have one of his plant books in your own collection as he authored over 170 of them. Jack started writing books in 1963 when he learned that there were no books available on growing orchids in the house. This resulted in "*Growing Orchids at your Windows*" and was followed by a remarkable river of books covering many topics ranging

from birdcages, roller skating, racquetball and especially any aspect of gardening. All of Jack's books were written with the average reader in mind and he avoided technical jargon. Jack's early years in Coral Gables gave him an appreciation for tropical plants. This was fostered in part by his frequent visits to Alberts and Merkle, Jones and Scully, and Fennells Orchid Jungle. Jack finished his last book this past year: "*Bromeliads for Home and Garden*". Jack's most impressive book is the coffee table book, "*World Wildlife Fund Book of Orchids*"

Alas, it is futile to try to convey the dimensions and accomplishments of such a complex and talented man as Jack Kramer. We have all lost a real treasure in his passing.

Next Meeting, Jesse Durko — Sustainable Plants in the Garden, Monday, April 22, 7:30 p.m

***Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
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South Miami, FL 33143***