May Meeting in Review

Date — May 27, 2013  
Speaker — Dr. Bruce McAlpin  
Topic — Propagation Tactics for Rare and Unusual Plants  
Treasurer’s report — $8584.70  
President called meeting to order at — 7:40 p.m.  
Hospitality — Martha Bogaard, Emalyn Israel, and Lamar Sapp, Sherrin Smith and Rusty Brown — quite a bounty for a packed room  
Raffle provided by — Tim Anderson and David McLean  
Meeting ended at — 9:35

President Marnie Valent reminded the audience that the judging for the Fern Show was coming up on the 31st, and the show and sale was on June 1st and 2nd. The judges would be Dr. Lester Kallus from New York, Georgia Tasker from Fairchild and your own Secretary, Craig Morell from Pinecrest Gardens.

She introduced Dr. Bruce McAlpin, formerly of Miami-Dade College where he taught horticulture for 30 years, and the New York Botanical Garden, and Las Cruces Botanical Garden in Costa Rica and who now lives in Muse, Florida, near Ft. Myers.

Bruce displayed a wide array of ferns, Hoyas (including the large growing H. archboldiana with 8-12” heads of 2 inch flowers), succulents and cacti, including several plants of the same species which looked markedly different just by way of different growing conditions. Among the most interesting plants he brought in for show and sale were: Nephrolepis pectinata, Microgramma heterophylla, some hefty plants of Aglaomorpha coronans, and Dischidia platyphylla. He showed some very simple propagation techniques, including using 6-12 tip cuttings and branch cuttings of Riipsalis and Epiphyllum in a hanging basket to make a fuller, denser basket rather than a single cutting in a pot. One of the most interesting points mentioned in the program was that most succulents grow in the Spring and Fall, not during the Summer. For this reason, fertilizing at these times of the year will bring on bigger plants than Summer fertilizing will.

Bruce is one of the few people to cultivate the extraordinary Strophocactus wittii, an Amazonian epiphyte with clasping leaves that appear to be flattened against a tree branch. This species, often found just above water level in flooded areas, flowers on moonlit nights, and has a need to be grown on tree-fern mounts in very high humidity. Bruce also brought in some beautiful specimens of Anthurium besseae (related to A. clarinervum), as well as tables full of well grown and unusual plants at very good prices. His programs are always well attended by growers and collectors, this program was no different.

(Review continued on page 2)

Annual Show and Sale in Review

The beauty of the Annual Show and Sale, particularly the Show, is that the display gets more and more interesting every year. Our members grow some of the most gorgeous specimens to be found anywhere. This year, we had plants from all over the tropical plant spectrum — from ferns to carnivorous plants.

Show Coordinator Marnie Valent brought together volunteers from everywhere to ensure that the show weekend was once again a memorable experience for everyone.

The exhibit portion of the show began with the setting up of the display’s frame work, and then show designers Reggie Whitehead and Martha Kent, set about selecting plants and placing them throughout the landscaped display.

Vivian Waddell, who checked plants in throughout the day, kept track of the many specimens arriving at the show.

As the day progressed, what was once a barren and lifeless structure in the garden house, the room came alive with a burst of color and forms. Because of the nature of our show, the display plants are always changing. This is a testament of what our members can beautifully grow and what our society is all about.

There were specimens of all types including a very large specimen of Microsorium punctatum displayed by Marnie and Gerry Valent. There were also beautiful specimens of begonias from the collection of Tim Anderson and Dr. Jeff Block. This year we had a collection of carnivorous plants, exhibited by Sheryl Taylor, and a collection of flowering trees courtesy of Richard Button and Dolores Fugina.

While all of our plants in the display will

(Show and Sale continued on page 2)
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2013

President
Marnie Valent  (305) 233-5929
Vice President
Marie Nock     (305) 232-2257
Secretary
Craig Morell    (305) 667-1173
Treasurer
Bob Benaim    (305) 793-9755
Membership
Sherrin Smith    (305) 213-2598
Hospitality
Martha Bogaards    (305) 661-2305
Emalyl 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

were of an extraordinary nature, we awarded specialty ribbons in several categories (please see photo insert for specialty ribbon winners).

We thank our judges Dr. Lester Kallus, Craig Morell and Georgia Tasker, for their knowledge and expertise; and their clerks Vivian Waddell, Tom Moore, Martha Kent and Reggie Whitehead.

Of course our show and sale also benefited from the generous supply of hospitality and refreshments coordinated by Emalyl Israel and her many volunteers who prepared our Appreciation Luncheon, as well as lunches on the weekend. (Special mention to Philipp Iloo who, without prompting, brought in homemade baked goods for breakfast and lunch.)

We wish that it were possible to list all of the dedicated volunteers who manned the cash register, membership table, member’s sales table, holding area, and acted as display monitors throughout the weekend, please accept our sincere gratitude for all of your very hard work over the show weekend. We really could not have pulled off another spectacular show and sale without YOU, our great members.

Meeting in Review continued from page 1)

exception; the room was packed to capacity.

Bruce summarized the salient growing points of:
--very bright light for most succulents—VERY regular watering for smaller ferns. They like the consistent supply of water followed by air in the root zone. This is a fundamental tenet from most fern growers.
--excellent soil drainage and allowing succulents to go dry between waterings
--light doses of controlled-release fertilizer such as Osmocote or Dynamite especially in the Spring
--growing plants in hanging baskets for pendant species

Bruce ended his program with a small frenzy of buyers rushing the display tables to get plants before they went on general sale that weekend at the Show. I was quite happy to acquire a substantial division of the giant epiphytic fern Merinthosorus drynarioides. His programs are always informative and something new is learned every time, even if one has seen his programs many times before.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Morell, C.P.A.
Certified Plant Addict

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

Mounting Plaques
Made of 1” x 3”
Pressure Treated Lumber
12” x 12” - $ 7.00
15” x 15” - $ 10.00
18” x 18” - $ 13.00
21” x 21” - $ 16.00
24” x 24” - $ 20.00
Contact – Bob Benaim, 305-793-9755 or staghornrescue@gmail.com
2013 TFEPS Major Ribbon Winners
Photos by Dr. Lester Kallus

David Foster, Best Flowering Plant

Bruce McAlpin, Best in Show

Jose Lopez, Best Croton

Frank & Sally Tastinger, Best Fern

Regina & Sid Gardino, Sweepstakes Award

Regina & Sid Gardino, Most Unusual Plant

Bruce McAlpin, Best Florida Native
Congratulations to all who made this year’s show such a “beautiful” success. More photos can be found at: http://www.acdseeonline.com/album/lkallus/1833335/
Welcome New Members
Armando Palomo Sartoris and Susana Rodriguez de Palomo
23 Calle
30-60 Zona 11
Guatemala City, Guatemala
502-5205-5530 and 502-5205-5531
armando.palomog@gmail.com (and) palomo.suzy@gmail.com

Adriana & William Muinos
4804 Biltmore Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146
(786) 390-0891
armuinos@aol.com

Terry Shaw
1000 N. W. North River Drive, Unit 115
Miami, FL 33136
(786) 266-5694
CMTS115@bellsouth.net

Rod Gates
4719 South Carrollton Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119-6026
rodpates@gmail.com
(504) 210-9580

Welcome New Members

Linda Fitzgerald
3070 Allamanda Street -Apt. G
Coconut Grove FL 33133
(305) 498-1832
lafitz@bellsouth.net

Raffle Table for June
June 24.............................................................................................................. Larry and Glenda Weed

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: $___________
The “Green Revolution” of the 1950's improved crops; use of fertilizers; pest control; and agricultural practices; and relegated Malthus to historical footnotes. But the projected growth in human population over the next century casts a dark cloud over our ability to feed these millions of additional mouths. That dark cloud is dispersed by wonderful scientific discoveries regarding the basic growth of plants. Science to the rescue! Recent work on plant proteins has revealed natural adjustments to groups of proteins that enhance a plant's ability to flourish on crappy soils. Soils that are loaded with toxic levels of salts, toxic levels of aluminum due to low pH, and low iron and zinc levels.

These advances in plant physiology are due to a better understanding of plant membrane transporters. The nature of the proteins of these transporters enable plants to be grown in areas deemed unsuitable for agriculture. These advances are reported in the May 2nd, issue of the Journal, “Nature”. Mankind's collective intelligence has again tossed another “hot potato” far into the future.