



# Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 8

Editor: Reggie Whitehead October 2013

## September Meeting in Review

**Date**—September 23, 2013

**Speaker**- Sid and Regina Gardino —  
of Gardino Nursery in Delray Beach

**Topic**- Hoya Culture

**Meeting called to order at** —7: 35  
p.m.

**Hospitality** --Emaly Israel and Martha  
Bogaard

**Raffle provided by** —Gardino Nursery  
From President Marnie Valent:

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a good summer. On a sad note, we lost one of our long-time members . I'm sure that you all remember Marjorie "Fern" Hartnett, our lovely member who passed away last year. We have just heard from her estate's personal representative that she has left us a check for \$500.00 . She loved the society and commented to everyone that she was the one true Fern here. She was a lovely lady and will be missed. Thank you Fern.

Our annual auction will take place on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Please remember this is our one and only serious fund raiser for the year and we need to all pitch in to make it a good one. Please give some thought to what plants you can bring and remember that if you don't have something that you've grown yourself, you can always ask for donations from friends in the industry.

Also, please know that because of the renovation in the Garden House, we will host our auction in Classrooms A & B, not in the big Garden House as usual. I understand that it was once held here and is quite doable so we'll

try to figure out the most feasible way to set up. I would like to thank Emaly for providing the nice refreshment table for us. She is working on the menu for our auction and I'm sure that she would like to hear from you regarding what you plan to contribute.

November will bring our election of officers for the coming year. Please let me know if you are interested in holding one of the offices for the year.

We are also seeking someone to edit the newsletter next year. Reggie has been wonderful to faithfully get this out to us each month and has assured me that he will work with the person who takes over the task to make the transition a simple one. Remember: you ( new newsletter person) only need to put it together; Marie will send the information about the speaker; John Banta sends his article; Craig sends minutes from the last meeting, etc., leaving you to put it all together.

Due to the lack of storage at Fairchild we have removed our library cart from the Garden. The Board decided that we would have a silent auction tonight to move some of the books so that they can benefit the club in that way. There are some very interesting books and bids begin at \$10.00 per bundle. *Secretary's note: the auction raised \$ 160.00. Text-books, field guides and collector's reference books will be auctioned off at the October auction.*

The Gardinos spoke about Hoya cul-

*(Review continued on page 2)*

**Annual Plant Auction**  
**Monday, October 28**  
**Plant Preview — 7 p.m.**  
**Auction — 7:30 p.m.**

**See you there!!!**

## Annual Plant Auction

Our auction will be held at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, on Monday, October 28, beginning around 7:00 p.m., in the Corbin Building.

Members are asked to participate in our annual fund-raiser.

Your donations may be of any plant of your choosing. Whether it is a fern, bromeliad, heliconia, aroid, flowering tree, orchid, or any plant that you feel would be a nice addition to our line-up of special plants. Please have plants at the garden no later than 6:30 p.m. so that they may be arranged.

The live auction will begin at 7:30 p.m., however, a preview of the auction plants will begin at 7 p.m, so that you can study all of the beautiful plants that will be available. [You might also want to bring along your appetite, our Hospitality Committee always provides a wonderful table.]

In addition to our usual collection of plants, Fairchild Garden is also donating some very nice plants to our auction. For those of you who enjoy crotons, keep your eyes open for Exotica, courtesy of Ree Gardens, and a Milky Way croton from Pinecrest Gardens.



*Milky Way*

Our club's Library is being dismantled, and consequently, we will be auctioning

*(Auction continued on page 3)*

# *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

### **Board of Directors**

Steve Forman (305) 662-2368

Debbie Lamb (305) 251-8675

Mike Twyford (305) 444-6332

Reggie Whitehead (305) 613-5944

*(and current officers)*

### **Committee Chairs**

**Membership** — Sherrin Smith (305) 213-2598

**Hospitality**—Emaryl Israel (305) 235-0886

Martha Bogaard (305) 661-2305

**Raffle Table** — Skye Palmer (305) 595-9291

Argeo Hernandez (305) 633-9099

**Special Events** —Marie Nock (305) 232-2257

**Webmaster** — Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

### **Trinity Churchside Garden**

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**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

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Contact – Bob Benaim, 305-793-9755 or

staghomrescue@gmail.com

*(Meeting in Review continued from page 1)*

ture, one of their great specialties. Their nursery is in western Delray Beach, and they have been growing rare and interesting tropical plants for a LONG time. Sid has developed a terrific on-line nursery business, and ships widely throughout the country. (Unfortunately, I, your faithful secretary, was in Washington State during the meeting, so I cannot comment on the finer points of the program). Sid has related to me that the Hoyas prefer some things in common with most species likely to grow in our climate:

1. Use a well-drained medium, as you would for **Phalaenopsis** orchids, e.g. fir bark, perlite, coconut chunks, and peat moss.

2. Use hanging pots, smaller than you think would be needed to grow the plant. The smaller pots encourage plants to grow foliage and stems and flowers, and not turn energy into root production.

3. Unless you are really familiar with the climate needs of the species you're buying, keep the plants warm in winter, above 50 F. While some species can take cooler temperatures, it's a safe bet to keep plants above 50 F.

4. Fertilize plants with a balanced water-soluble orchid fertilizer ( such as 20-20-20 or Miracle-Grow) at half strength once a month, reduce fertilizing from November to April to every other month. If you use slow-release fertilizer such as Dynamite, apply in March, so it runs out by December.

5. Don't over-trim your plants, Hoyas re-bloom on their long tentacle-like stems. Some species have stems many yards long, wind the stems through the slats of an orchid basket, weave them through a wire cage or around a loop of wire above the pot. The more stems accumulated the blooms you'll get.

6. Thick-leaved species need less water than the soft, thin-leaved species do. Start with watering the succulent types twice a week, whereas the thin-leaved ones may need water every day or every 2 days. Reduce watering in the short-day / cooler weather to reduce root-rotting.

Sid and Regina brought in many interesting species for sale, some of which have rich and vibrant colors. In all matters of growth and culture, contact Sid at [www.rareflora.com](http://www.rareflora.com), and enjoy their website, as I do, especially for referencing some of the rarest plants in the business.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Craig Morell C.P.A.**

***Certified Plant Addict***

(Auction continued from page 1)

many of our books, and donating others to Fairchild. Some of the books that will be included in our auction are:

- **Hortus Third** by Liberty Hyde Bailey & Ethel Zoe Bailey 1976
- **Flora of Malaya** Vol II Ferns by R.E. Holttum 1954
- **Flora of Florida** Vol 1 Peter Wunderlin & Bruce Hansen 2000
- **Tree Ferns** by Mark Large & John Braggins 2004
- **The Cycads** by Loren M Whitelock 2002
- **Fern Growers Manual** (revised) Signed by Barbaba Joe Hoshizaki 2001
- **The Palms & Cycads of Thailand** by Donald R. Hodel 1998

If you are not able to donate a plant to the auction, we still hope you will come out and support us with your presence. To make things easier for purchase, checks and cash, will of course be welcomed.

If you would like to bring something for the refreshment table, please contact **Emaly Israel** (305) 235-0886 or **Martha Bogaard** (305) 661-2305.



**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's  
Ramble 2013**

Reminder: The Ramble at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Ramble, Nov. 8-10.

**Welcome New Members**

Garrett Yebernetsky  
1350 Lenox Avenue  
Miami Beach 33139  
(305) 538-7055  
(646) 298-4363 (Cell)  
gyiinc@aol.com

**Annual Plant Auction..... October 28**

**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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## *Ants in your Plants*

by John Banta

It is said that if you could weigh all of the animals in a rain forest except for the ants, the total weight of the ants would exceed the total weight of the larger animals. No wonder that the role of ants in rain forest ecology is so broad. The more we examine these complex relationships between ants and plants the more we wonder how much we still have to learn. There are areas in Brazil that are referred to as “devil's Gardens” where the ants have almost total control.

Plant collectors often have myrmecophilous plants in their collections such as, **Hydnophytum** or **Dischidia**. *Dischidia rafflesiana* is especially interesting as its leaves fuse together to form a small flower-pot that the ants fill with detritus: then the plant produces a root near the fused leaves that then grows into the pot filled

with the soil-like material. Ants are not always beneficial to their plant companions and that may result in the plants taking “sanctions” against the ants. For example; in the New World Tropics a plant, *Hirtella physophora* produces leaves with pockets that provide a domicile for ants that monitor the plant for harmful insects. The ants often destroy the plant's flower buds to encourage more leaf production for more places to live. If too many flowers are prevented from forming the *Hirtella* produces much smaller (and useless to the ants) leaf pockets. To prevent unilateral exploitation by the ants the plants maintain their mutually beneficial relationship by withholding leaf pockets when the ants become too pushy.

***Next Meeting, Annual Auction, Monday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.***

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