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—Emalyl 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 28th. 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 Emalyl 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. Textbooks, field guides and collector’s reference books will be auctioned off at the October auction.

The Gardinos spoke about Hoya (Review continued on page 2)

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—Emalyl 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
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

Craig Morell C.P.A.
Certified Plant Addict
Annual Plant Auction............................. October 28

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

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 Barbara 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 **Emalyl Israel** (305) 235-0886 or **Martha Bogaard** (305) 661-2305.

(Auction continued from page 1)
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 myrmecophillus 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.*