

TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY, INC.

NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 11

February 2015

Message from the President

I hope everyone is planning to attend our show/sale on March 21 and 22 at Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 Red Road, Pinecrest, FL. All members are also encouraged to participate in the display. Judging will be on a fair scale to afford both the novice and the seasoned grower a chance to win awards. The success of this show depends on the generous nature of our members who have made past shows so successful.

Please encourage your friends to attend as well. Pinecrest Gardens is a new venue and dates have changed from last year so we need everyone's help in publicizing the show. The show is free after the \$5 admission fee and free parking is just outside the gate.

The following are some recommendations for show participation:

Plants for the display

You may pick up plant entry cards at the February 23rd meeting or, on Friday, March 20th 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 March 20th. We will begin accepting plants at 9 am on March 20th. Although you may bring plants in until 5 pm, it would be extremely helpful if your plants could arrive earlier so that they may be properly placed in the display. Judging will begin at 2 pm, so if you want to enter your plants for judging, they will need to be at the garden by 12 noon. If you need help in getting a plant or plants to the garden, please let the Show Coordinator Lise Dowd at (305) 662-2368 know; we will try to accommodate all reasonable requests. You will need to come back on Sunday after the show (around 4:30 pm) to collect your ribbons and plants. If you are participating as a vendor, your display plants also need to be brought in on Friday beginning at 9 am.

Selling Plants at the Member's Table

Members wishing to sell through the Members' Table will be able to bring their plants in on Friday, March 20th between 9 am and 5 pm and, Saturday morning before 9 am. 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 will remain with the plant. Remember to include the price of the plant on both tags. The society retains 15% of your sales; members participating in Members' Table sales will be mailed a check from our Treasurer, shortly after the weekend sale.

Continued, next page

President's Message, continued

Volunteers

The society will need volunteers to help with the show and sale. There will be sign-up sheets at the February 23rd meeting or, you may contact the Show Coordinator, Lise Dowd, at (305) 662-2368.

Volunteers are invited to our Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, March 20th. If you would like to bring something for the luncheon, please contact Emaly Israel at (305) 235-0886.

Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society Press Release

Meeting: February 23, 2015

The **Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society** presents **Jennifer Possley** who will speak on **The Secret Lives of Miami's Rare Native Ferns** on Monday, February 23rd at 7:30 pm. The meeting will take place at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL in the Corbin Building.

Miami's small county preserves are home to 25 threatened and endangered fern species. Many of the wild populations have just a few dozen individuals! A chance event such as a hurricane, pest outbreak, or even just moving a pile of fill could easily wipe out an entire population. Monitoring wild populations and building a representative collection of these ferns in the Garden is paramount. Join Jennifer Possley, a field biologist and member of Fairchild's "Conservation Team," as she takes you on a virtual tour to some of Miami's remaining fern grottoes and describes the work Fairchild is doing to preserve the remaining rare ferns.

Jennifer Possley has been a field biologist at Fairchild since 2001. She maps and monitors the rare flora of Miami-Dade County preserves. She has special interests in ferns as well as non-native invasive plants. Prior to joining Fairchild's staff, she received a B.A. in biology from Kalamazoo College and a M.S. in agronomy from the University of Florida. She is originally from the village of Dexter, Michigan.

There is no admission fee and the public is invited to attend this presentation.

There will be plants for Raffle provided by Redland and Oasis Nurseries.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information please visit www.tfeps.org or call 305 232-2257.

The Membership Committee is reminding you that if you have not renewed your Membership, please bring the **2015 Membership Application** (on the last page) together with your payment to the upcoming Monday, February 23rd meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LARRY SCHOKMAN

TFEPS Life Member, **Larry Schokman**, was recently honored as the 2015 recipient of the **David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration** by the National Tropical Botanical Garden. This annual award is given to an individual who embodies the spirit and passion of David Fairchild in plant exploration and introduction.

For more than 30 years Larry served as horticulture director and later director of the Kampong which was at one time David Fairchild's estate and garden and is now part of the National Tropical Botanical Garden. While there he introduced many new or improved cultivars of tropical fruits and flowering trees gathered on his travels.

Larry is the author of *Plants of the Kampong* and has contributed to the Harvard Papers in Botany.

Congratulations on this significant award!



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 24" x 24" - \$20.00

Contact—Bob Benaim 305-793-9755 or,

bobbenaim@gmail.com

Dreams Answered

By John Banta

It seems it was just last month that we discussed the possibilities of producing *Microsorium hybrids*. Since then I have learned that the accepted spelling for *Microsorium* is either *Microsorium* or *Microsorium*. In any event, we understand the genus we are talking about and I'm very pleased to learn that there will be hybrid *Microsorium* plants sold at the March Sale. They have originated in Thailand; often the source of so many neat plants. Some hybrid Platyceriums may be in the same shipment. The very nature of hybrids assures that there will be a great variety between them. Lycopodiums and other primitive pteridophytes will doubtlessly add to the treasures. This is the reason we all love plants and plant collecting.

Good hunting!

Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society Press Release

Meeting: March 23, 2015

The **Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society** presents **Dr. Roger L. Hammer** who will speak on **Everglades Wildflowers** on Monday, March 23rd at 7:30 pm. The meeting will take place at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables, FL in the Corbin Building.

Dr. Hammer will present an illustrated tour of the wildflowers of the Everglades, pointing out the numerous endangered species. Roger is known for his outstanding photography and informed commentary that only comes from years of direct experience and study.

Dr. Hammer is an award winning professional naturalist, author, botanist and photographer. He has published numerous identification cards and books, the latest one being *Everglades Wildflowers*. 2nd Edition, 2014, which will be available for purchase and autograph. He retired from the Miami-Dade Parks Department as senior naturalist in 2010 after a 33-year long career.

There is no admission fee and the public is invited to attend this presentation. There will be plants for Raffle provided by Steve and Marie Nock (Ree Gardens) and refreshments will be served.

For more information please visit www.tfeps.org or call 305 232-2257.

JANUARY MEETING IN REVIEW

DATE: January 26, 2015

SPEAKER: Dr. Scott Zona, Florida International University

TOPIC: The Astonishing World of Tropical Plants

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balance - \$12,117.00

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:35 pm

HOSPITALITY TABLE: Emaly and a team of talented donors

RAFFLE TABLE:

MEETING ENDED AT 9:00 p m

Dr. Zona is well known to the local plant world as an excellent plantsman, a world class botanist, and an outstanding speaker. He presented an illustrated survey of the evolutionary processes that gave rise to the explosion of plants we see in the tropics. He introduced the audience to the wonders of tropical plants, especially the evolutionary adaptations that go unnoticed by the majority of human eyes. He focused on plants going about the business of living, showing how they grow, defend themselves from predators and, reproduce. The stories involve sex and violence, victory and defeat, subterfuge and self-promotion (our kind of program!)

Dr. Zona, a tropical botanist, is Florida International University's Conservatory and Greenhouse Curator. He has explored for plants in more than 20 countries throughout the Western Pacific, Caribbean, Central and South America and the continental U.S. He has over 140 publications, both scientific and popular, on palms, bryophytes and other tropical plants. One of his most recent achievements is co-author of the *Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms*, a reference book for the ages.

Dr. Zona covered a wide spectrum of how plants "do what they do", and included some fairly esoteric concepts, such as rating plants into categories of ecology, e.g. K-type and R-type. K-type plants have large seeds with a lot of stored food reserves and tend to be fairly slow growing plants or trees. R-type plants have very small seeds which are rapidly dispersed, and tend to be fast growing plants and trees. Dr. Zona also covered (in detailed fashion, with photos and a clear commentary) the idea of niche ecology, where myriad species can co-exist in close proximity, each in its own little world, without competing with others nearby. Some species capitalize on light absorption, some are space hogs, and some exist without light at all. Some plants even grow on the foliage of other plants.

On a personal note, it was a sight to see that the room was standing-room only and people continued to arrive during the program. This is a testament to Dr. Zona's ability to draw a crowd, educate them, leave them inspired, and do it with ease. It is also nice to see so many people interested in plant diversity.

We need more programs like his, if any such programs exist.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell C.P.A.

Certified Plant Addict

2015 OFFICERS:

President: **Lise Dowd (305) 662-2368** Vice President: **Marie Nock (305) 232-2257**
Secretary: **Craig Morell (305) 667-1173** Treasurer: **Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755**

2015 DIRECTORS at LARGE:

Steve Forman (305) 662-2368 **Vivian Waddell (305) 665-5168**
Leonard Goldstein **Ellis Brown (305) 253-5669**

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Marnie Valent: (305) 233-5929

2015 DIRECTORS:

The board consists of TFEPS officers, the immediate past president, and elected directors at large.

2015 COMMITTEES:

Hospitality:

Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886 **Martha Bogaard (305) 661-2305**

Membership:

Sherrin Smith (305) 213-2598

Raffle Table:

Ralph Hernandez (305) 633-9099 **Skye Palmer (305) 595-9291**

Special Events:

Marie Nock (305) 232-2257

Webmaster:

Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

TROPICAL FERN
&
EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY

Membership Application - 2015

We offer four different memberships options:

Yearly:

_____ \$ 15.00 for individual

_____ \$ 17.00 for two members at the same address

Lifetime:

_____ \$ 125.00 for individual

_____ \$ 150.00 for two members at the same address

Yearly dues are for calendar year - January - December

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

Please Print

Name: _____

Phone: H or C: _____

E-mail: _____

Name: _____

Phone: H or C: _____

E-mail: _____

Street Address: _____

Zip Code + 4: _____ + _____

H - Home Phone C - Cell Phone

Enclose check payable to: TFEPS

Please mail to: TFEPS - Membership

P.O. Box 902094

Homestead, Florida 33090-2094