

# TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY, INC.

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 12

March 2015

### Message from the President

I hope all members plan to join us for our **annual Show and Sale at Pinecrest Gardens on Saturday March 21 and Sunday March 22**. Don't forget to enter your plants for prizes in the show – they must be at Pinecrest Garden by noon on Friday, March 22 (and earlier is always better).

Don't forget to tell your friends and family about our show and sale – since this is a new date and venue we need all the publicity we can get.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have donated their time and effort and everyone who brings in a plant (or better yet, plants).

We also have a very interesting speaker for our monthly meeting on the Monday after our show – Rodger Hammer on Everglades wildflowers. See you all there!

### FEBRUARY MEETING IN REVIEW

DATE: February 23, 2015

SPEAKER: Jennifer Possley, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

TOPIC: The Secret Lives of Miami's Rare Native Ferns

TREASURER'S REPORT:

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT: 7:30 pm

HOSPITALITY TABLE: Emaly Isreal

RAFFLE TABLE: Redland Nursery , Oasis Nursery and Jennifer Possley

MEETING ENDED AT 9:00 p m

Jennifer Possley, originally from the village of Dexter, Michigan, has been a field biologist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 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.

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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.

Jennifer also spoke about the varied and comprehensive efforts being made to preserve the remaining rare ferns, as well as propagating rare species, even in other states, for re-establishment in this area.

### **Message from the Secretary**

I was unable to attend the meeting, but have heard that the meeting was one of the best programs of recent times, showing an area of fern growing most of the membership has not seen before. Great images, a wide-ranging knowledge of the topic (she is, after all, an author, field biologist and researcher,) and a well-crafted program made the evening's presentation memorable.

We thank Jennifer for keeping the torch lit in the rarified world of preserving rare ferns in our area, many of which species are either un-spectacular or commercially viable plants. Florida has the largest inventory of fern species in the USA (124 species,) and 1/5 of them reside in Miami-Dade County, or what's left of it that hasn't been developed.

This type of program shows the skills of field biologists which we don't often see, but should be appreciated even more.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Craig Morell, C.P.A.*

*Certified Plant Addict*

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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 retired from the Miami-Dade Parks Department as senior naturalist in 2010 after a 33-year long career.

He has published numerous identification cards and books, the latest one being *Everglades Wildflowers*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2014, which will be available for purchase and autograph.

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](http://www.tfeps.org) or call 305 232-2257.



### MOUNTING PLAQUES

Made of 1" x 3" Pressure Treated Lumber

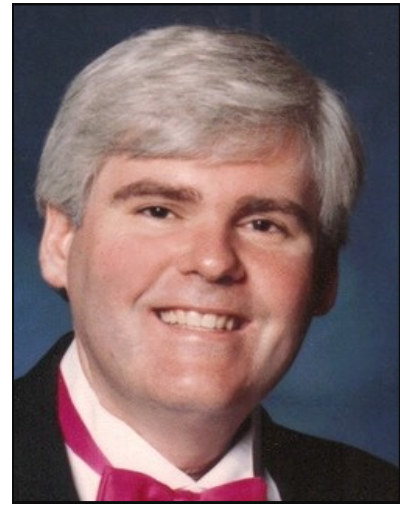
12' x 12" - \$ 7.00      15' x 15" - \$10.00

18' x 18" - \$13.00      24" x 24" - \$20.00

Contact—Bob Benaim 305-793-9755 or,

[bobbenaim@gmail.com](mailto:bobbenaim@gmail.com)

## *In Memoriam*



For a soft-spoken man, Craig Kolhoff certainly made an impression. He left his hometown, Cincinnati, long ago for the migration to our milder climate. Blessed with a quick mind, he was a computing whiz, and a valuable one at that, working his entire career at the University of Miami. By the time illness forced Craig to leave the university, he was a Senior Systems and Network Analyst, and Systems Administrator.

But Craig had broader interests, too. In a description posted to a popular website, he said, "I'm involved with horticulture, including native plants, orchids, palms, rare fruit, tropical flowering trees, and ferns.... Also interested in travel, Maya, Inca, and other historical references." Clearly he appreciated a wide swath of tropical plant families, and that avocation dovetailed with his love of travel. He made numerous trips to the tropics, often with other local plant enthusiasts, to satisfy his inquisitiveness.

Surely, Craig had many more trips planned to slake his thirst for knowledge, but his life ended too soon on February 6, 2015, just weeks after his 54th birthday.

We shall miss his friendship and enthusiasm.

## Goodbye, Chemical Pesticides

By John Banta

A new method of controlling agricultural pests may be about to dawn. Recently, the Max Plank Institute for Chemical Ecology has devised an entirely new method of combating the most important pest of potatoes, the Colorado potato beetle. By making genetic changes in the chloroplasts in the leaves when the beetle feeds on the leaves it loses the ability to produce a protein vital to its life. The way this process works isn't simple but it may lead us away from our heavy dependence upon chemicals.

First some basic genetics: DNA is the recipe of life; it performs its duties by regulating the production of proteins via RNA molecules. There are several flavors of RNA; mRNA (messenger RNA {that makes the proteins}); dsRNA (double stranded RNA); iRNA (interference RNA); siRNA (small interfering RNA). When a virus infects a host it utilizes dsRNA to reproduce. This viral dsRNA is detected by the host's RNAi system that chops up the virus's dsRNA into siRNA that then detects and destroys the foreign RNA. RNAi can also prevent ANY gene from being expressed by targeting mRNA. When this happens synthesis of the encoded protein is blocked and if it is a vital protein you now have a precise, potent insecticide. Making these changes in the chloroplast genome preserves the effectiveness of this genetic change.

Genetic modification is an answer not a problem.



### **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