



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 4

April 2014

March Meeting in Review

Date—March 24, 2014

Speaker—**Jody Haynes**

Topic—**Cycads for South Florida**

Treasurer's report balance—not available

President called meeting to order at—7:35 p.m.

Hospitality- another amazing table, with the usual suspects

Raffle provided by — **Ree Gardens**, including some unusual plants such as *Hoffmania roezlii*, several rare crotons, *Angiopteris evecta*, and more

meeting ended at—8:40 p.m.

President Kiefert opened the meeting and reiterated that we should wear our appointed name tags; both for recognition to other members, and as a good way to win a “name tag” plant specially chosen for those who are dedicated enough to wear their name badges. **Marie Nock** introduced the speaker, **Jody Haynes**, of Signature Trees and Palms, in addition to his illustrious resume. Jody hails from parts elsewhere, got his Bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska, Master of Science in New Orleans, honed his cycad skills at the Montgomery Botanical Center as well as Florida International University, and is well known for his expertise with the cycad family. (It may be more correct to say plant families –plural--;

many genera are in their own families). Jody presented a power point program outlining a wide array of genera and species suitable and unsuitable for our area. Some of the issues in cultivating certain genera and species involve our derelict, bankrupt soil (some **Encephalartos**); our monsoonish climate

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Next Meeting, Monday, April 28

The **Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society** presents **Jeff Searle** who will speak on **Thailand, A Plant Lover's Paradise** on Monday, April 28th at 7:30 pm. The meeting will take place at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, in the Corbin Building.

A year and a half ago, **Jeff Searle** attended the International Palm Society's Biennial meeting at Nong Nooch in Thailand. He extended his stay to go the plant markets in Bangkok and Chang Mai and visited many local gardens and nurseries. His talk will be a pictorial presentation of his trip and the amazing plants he encountered.

Jeff owns Searle Brother's Nursery in Southwest Ranches in Broward with his brothers and father, “Pops”. He is well known for his Rainforest Collection of rare tropical palms and plants.

This month's Raffle plants are donated by Stelmar Gardens (**Philip Iloo**). Refreshments will be served.

2014 Show and Sale

Our 2014 Annual Show and Sale is just around the corner. We are looking forward to another beautiful and successful show and sale.

All members are encouraged to participate in the show which will take place once again in the Garden House at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. There will be ribbons awarded in several major categories. This year's show will feature a landscaped setting, with our plants as the focal point.

There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons, for not only ferns, but also for flowering plants as well. Larger rosettes will be awarded to **Best Native Plant, Best Flowering Plant, Best Fern, Best Croton, Most Unusual Plant** and **Best in Show**. We are awarding a special ribbon, **Sweepstakes**, for the most Blue Ribbons awarded to an individual.

Members may bring in plants on **Thursday, May 29** beginning at 10 a.m. Plants will need to have Plant Entry Cards and a Plant Entry Sheet. You may pick up cards at the May meeting, or on May 29 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 May 29. All members are encouraged to participate in the display. Judging will be on a fair scale affording both the novice and seasoned grower a chance to win awards.

While there will no doubt be many ferns entered, there will be major awards given to non-fern plants as well.

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The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.

Officers for 2014

President

Ron Keifert (305) 445-7228

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

Marnie Valent (305) 233-5929

Reggie Whitehead (305) 613-5944

(and current officers)

Committee Chairs

Membership — Sherrin Smith (305) 213-2598

Hospitality — Emaly 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

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The first Saturday of each month is a special day!

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Contact – Bob Benaim, 305-793-9755 or

staghomrescue@gmail.com

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for others (**Macrozamia**); the plague of **Aulacaspis** scale (most *Cycas* species), for others the reasons are more subtle yet still profound (**Bowenia**, *Zamia dressleri*). Many listeners took notes on which plants to grow that actually LIKE our climate; most of the **Dioon** species, **Encephalartos lehmannii** (amongst the easiest of the blue-leaved spp.), many of the **Ceratozamia** species, and several species of **Encephalartos** such as *E. kisanbo*, *E. laurentianus* and *E. hildebrandtii*.

Jody stressed the importance of a well-drained spot in the garden or a REALLY well drained medium in pots. For garden areas, berm / hill culture helps grow many species better than flat-ground culture; container media should be extremely well drained; coarse sand, Turface or ground volcanic rock components work well to keep roots from rotting.

He also mentioned that a balanced controlled release fertilizer such as Nutricote or Plantacote will suffice for the needs of most species. Jody brought some exceptional plants for sale and most went home with happy and well educated customers.

The program ended at 8:15 and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, C.P.A.

Certified Plant Addict

(Show and Sale continued from page 1)

The success of this show depends on the generous nature of our members, who by the way, made the past shows so successful.

All you will need to bring are your plants, we handle them from that point on. You will need to come back on Sunday after the show to collect your ribbons and plants.

Remember, we will begin accepting plants at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 29. You may bring plants in, up until 7 p.m. that evening. ***However, it would be extremely helpful for plants to arrive earlier in the day so that they may be properly placed in the display.*** If you need help in getting a plant to the garden, please let Ron Kiefert know (305) 445-7228. We will try to accommodate all reasonable requests.

Grooming Plants

It is never too late to discuss some of the basics. Our show will have an easy judging standard, however, we still require that plants be as free as possible from glaring blemishes. This means, no pests and no leaves or fronds that are severely marred by pests. Plants will be judged on quality, appropriate number of leaves or flowers, or (in the case of ferns) fronds on a specimen.

Small plants, or young plants certainly should be entered in the show, reasonable care should be made to show them off to their best advantage. This rule of thumb also applies to older, mature plants. Plants should be well-supported and established on their mountings or pots (if terrestrials).

When transporting plants to the show, particular care should be given so that important foliage is not damaged. Wrapping plants in newspaper and plastic helps reduce damage and breakage of award-winning specimens. If you are transporting a hanging basket of ferns where the rhizomes have covered the base of the basket, you might want to use a plastic crate to rest the bulk of the plant in so that you do not damage the rhizomes. Also, you could place cushions of wadded up newspaper underneath the plant to keep the fronds from being crushed.

Display Plants

If you are participating as a vendor, your display plants also will need to be brought in on **Thursday, May 29, beginning at 10 a.m.** More information for vendors is covered in the vendor packets. (Since our vendor's plants will be an essential part of the display, it is imperative that these plants be at the Garden in a timely manner so that they may be incorporated into the design — your show designer will be extremely grateful for your help in this regard. Other member's display plants should also be brought in during this period.)

Selling Plants — Member's Table

Members wishing to sell through the Member's Table will be able to bring their plants in on Friday, May 30 and Saturday morning, May 31, **before 9 a.m.** 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 remains with the plant. Remember to include the price of plants on both tags. The society collects 15% of your sales. Members participating on the Member's Table will be mailed a check from our Treasurer, shortly after the weekend sale.

Volunteers Needed

The society will need volunteers to help with the show and sale.

When you bring your plants in on Thursday, we will be setting up the show. If you can spare some free time, our show designers would welcome your help with arranging the exhibit. We will be arranging the display from 12 noon until 7 p.m.

We will need volunteers to sit at our Membership Table (passing out literature, greeting guests, etc.) and volunteers are needed to man the holding area. Volunteers are also needed to monitor the display and answer questions (to the best of your ability, no training required). This also serves to keep plants out of harms way.

Fairchild has also changed its policy for free entrance for society members. If you are a member of the Garden you are automatically admitted free. If you are a member of the society and are working for the show, you will be able to attend for free, if not you will be charged the general admission price for the Garden, \$25.00.

This show and sale, will be another great experience for us. Please participate in any way you can. We would love to have your plants in the display, or your time as a volunteer.

On Friday, May 30, volunteers, are of course invited to attend our Appreciation Luncheon. Volunteers working the

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show are invited to attend the judges luncheon on Friday, May 30 at 12:00 noon. We would like to ask those who can do so to contribute a favorite dish to help make our luncheon a much anticipated event as in past years. Please let Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886 or Martha Boggards (305) 661-2305 know what you will be bringing so that they can coordinate the menu. Our luncheon will take place prior to the judging of the show plants.

Our Show and Sale has become extremely important to us, and being the only plant show in South Florida that brings in so many tropical plants in one giant display, we will work hard once again to put our best face forward.

Last year's sale brought in many new species of plants that were not in cultivation. Our Show and Sale is the perfect venue for getting new plant material. We will still have the plants you've always loved, and the plants that have eluded you in the past. The bottom line is, please come, and tell your neighbors and friends. And, while at the Garden, take the time to look around and enjoy Fairchild. There is a dedicated shuttle that runs between the new Visitor's Center and the Garden House, this will also help you get your plants back to your vehicle. There will also be porters who will be standing by to help you as well.

We are hoping that you will be able to put in a little time in some capacity. We will not need you for the entire weekend, just an hour or two — but would love it if you did stay and enjoy the show and sale, and tour Fairchild. Finally, there will be a sign-up sheet at the May meeting, or contact Ron Kiefert (305) 445-7228 if you are interested in volunteering on Show Weekend. Do not forget to tell family and friends, as well as strangers about our beautiful annual show and sale.



***The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant
Society's Annual Show and Sale is on
Saturday (May 31) and
Sunday (June 1) at
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.
Hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.***

***In Memoriam
Peter Button
(1929-2014)***

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to one of our Charter and Lifetime Members, Peter Button.

Peter passed away recently, after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife, Edna of 53 years, and his children, Deborah, Mona, Sherri and Stan.

When our society was forming, Peter and Edna took on several roles, to ensure that we would be on a path to success.

Peter lived a rich and varied life. He was a graduate of Amherst and Columbia University. Peter's interests included horticulture, his beloved Power Squadron, and he made important contributions to early satellite and ballistic missile guidance.

While Peter offered so much in his lifetime, he always found time to dabble in horticulture, enjoying orchids, our plant society, and developing the Button Farm — specializing in a variety of tropical fruit, notably pomelos (a large variety of grapefruit).

We extend our deepest sympathies to our dear friend Edna, and the entire Button family.

***The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant
Show and Sale***

Our Annual Show and Sale is just around the corner, May 31 and June 1. Members should be preparing their favorite specimens for exhibition in our Show and Sale. Remember, because of the nature of our plant society, we encourage our members to display any beautiful plant you may want. The display will feature plants from many different plant groups, and be beautifully displayed — just imagine how your plants will add to the overall exquisite beauty of our one-of-a-kind display.

***We Hope You're Feeling Better
David McLean***

One of our fine plant society members is recuperating from a stay in the hospital. We wish David a speedy recovery.

April 28 Stelmar Gardens, Inc.

**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)**

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The Good Ole Days

by John Banta

Some of my gardening friends enjoy looking at old Sear's catalogs and reminisce about how simple and good life was years ago. I must admit that I sometimes find myself wondering if the price of progress isn't a bit too high sometimes. But then I remember *tomorrow* should always be better and brighter. That is why I embrace GMO's ; genetically modified organisms. This is a topic that deserves some close scrutiny. Let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

The rewards from GMO's have the potential to alter our lives in many beneficial ways. Just recently,

a new tomato was developed that contains much more anthocyanin; a strong antioxidant pigment, like in blue berries that reduced the cancer rate in test animals by over 30%. This new purple tomato was created by moving a few genes from a Snap dragon flower into a tomato plant. I don't see any problem in this. The many other potential benefits from GMO's include all sorts of seedless fruits, dwarf fruit trees, more cold resistant crops and horticultural advances limited only by our imagination. The past is over, embrace the future.

Next Meeting, Jeff Searle; Thailand, A Plant Lover's Paradise, Monday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.

*Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
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