April Meeting in Review

Date—April 28, 2014
Speaker- Jeff Searle
Topic- Gardens of Thailand- A Plant Lover’s paradise

Treasurer’s report balance $10,551.11
President called meeting to order at 7:40
Hospitality- Emaly and Martha; Rusty and Ellis, Marie Nock, Sherrin, Warren Sapp and many others. The buffet table keeps getting better and better!

Raffle provided by—Stelmar Gardens- featuring several Hoyas, a beautiful Medinilla, Crotons, begonias of several sorts and more.

Meeting ended at—9:15
The President announced that TFEPS gained 6 new members at the Fairchild plant sale, and we wish to welcome them.

Jeff Searle is a renowned and highly experienced plantsman, known primarily for his palm and croton collections, both personal and in his nursery. Jeff is President of Searle Brothers Nursery in Davie, Florida, in which is the famous Rainforest Collection of unusual palms and cycads. Jeff has traveled widely to acquire unusual and uncommon palms, and was the first person to travel to Asia to bring in commercial quantities of the rare Pelagodoxa henryana palm, to grow them for sale. He has been a long time member of the International Palm Society as well as several local societies. His nursery is a wholesale operation, but opens up for two energetic weekends each year (Spring and Fall), on which dates the nursery is abuzz with collectors, who fill wagon loads of plants. His own collection of crotons is approaching 500 varieties, set in a beautiful landscape at his home and nursery. Jeff presented a series of images from recent Thailand trip. Navigating photographically through the markets of Bangkok, where the famous / infamous Chatuchak weekend market has thou-

sands of vendors who sell anything that Thailand has to offer. A Mecca for plant lovers, discovering a myriad of plants in dwarf, giant, variegated, splotted and odd forms rarely seen in the West & at bargain prices. Water lilies, Heliconias, bulbs, ferns, orchids, and a countless array of other exotic gems were seen at this market. Jeff’s slide tour went on to the Disney-esque Nong Nooch Gardens in Pattaya, which has the world’s preeminent collection of flowering trees, palms or cycads, with dozens of each species, set in a manicured garden of @ 500 acres. Owned and operated by the legendary Mr. Kampon Tansacha, Nong Nooch is synonymous with a dizzying visitor experience, not the least of which is Elephant Soccer. A side trip to the mountain city of Chiang Mai yielded another plant safari with a different alliance of plants in a much sedate setting. The Crotons varieties in the Thai markets were spectacular. The Thai growers admit most of their Croton varieties don’t do well in the ground, destined to live in a container.

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Morell, CPA
Certified Plant Addict

Next Meeting, Monday, May 26
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents Ron Kiefert who will speak on Crotons for a South Florida Landscape on Monday, May 26th at 7:30 p.m. at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, in the Cortin Building.
The presentation will encompass the origins of the croton (Codiaeum variegatum), container cultivation and landscaping with crotons. A pictorial display of some interesting cultivars will follow. Next Lamnar Sapp will give a brief description of his fertilization regimen for crotons. Ron will have some crotons for sale.
The Raffle table plants will be donated by PCK Orchids (Peter Kouchalakos) and Redland Nursery (Rusty & Ellis Brown).

Refreshments will be served.
See you there!

Annual Show and Sale Reminders

Here are some last minute reminders regarding our upcoming Show and Sale.
You may pick up plant entry cards at the May 26 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.
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 (around 4:30 p.m.) 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 or plants to the garden, please let Show Coordinator, Ron Kiefert (305) 445-7228 know.
We will try to accommodate all reasonable requests. There are still a few openings for volunteers.
Display Plants
If you are participating as a vendor,
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2014

President
Ron Kiefert (305) 445-7228
Vice President
Marie Nock (305) 232-2257
Secretary
Craig Morell (305) 630-2711
Treasurer
Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755
Membership
Sherrin Smith (305) 213-2598
Hospitality
Martha Bogaards (305) 661-2305
Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886
Special Sales
Marie Nock (305) 232-2257
Raffle Table
Skye Palmer (305) 595-9291
Argeo Hernandez (305) 633-9099
Webmaster
Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

Board of Directors will consist of the above officers and chairs; and the following individuals.

Steve Forman (305) 662-2368
Debbie Lamb (305) 251-8675
Marnie Valent (305) 233-5929
Reggie Whitehead (305) 613-5944

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 slaghornrescue@gmail.com

(Show and Sale continued from page 1)
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 the plant 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
On Friday, May 30, volunteers, of course invited to attend our Appreciation Luncheon. If you would like to bring something for the Appreciation Luncheon, please contact either Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886 or Martha Bogaards (305) 661-2305.
Our luncheon will be from 12 – 1 p.m. prior to judging of the show.
The society will need volunteers to help with the show and sale. 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.
Welcome to our New Members

Enid Mendoza
4665 SW 64th Avenue
Miami, FL 33155- 5918
Ph: 305-725-3519
E-mail: enid@colson.com

Amy Klingbeil
18502 SW 79th Court
Cutler Bay, FL 33157
Ph: 305-971-7823
E-mail: amilini@hotmail.com

Jill & Gary Miller
4362 Mayfair Drive
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
Ph: 305-903-0044
E-mail: mill7676@Bellsouth.net

Phyllis & Frank Kane
3767 Kumquat Avenue
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
Ph: 786-512-1229
Cell: 786-923-6439
E-mail: Miami Slim@Bellsouth.net

Theresa Fortnash
2642 Taylor Street
Hollywood, FL 33023
Ph: 954-240-7330
E-mail: conor0404@aol.com

Ivailo Zahariev & Nadia May
1324 NE 181st Street
North Miami Beach, FL 33162
Ph: 786-942- 9060
E-mail: Ivailozahariev@hotmail.com
7869429060@hotmail.com

Raffle Table for May

May 26 ........................................................................................................................................PKC Orchids
.................................................................................................................................................... Redland Nursery

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: $__________
Using flowers as food rather than decoration goes back hundreds of years and is becoming the newest culinary fad. Not all flowers will do. Those that you grow yourself are the best because you know that they are free from any pesticides or harmful chemicals. Flowers from the florist shop are a definite “No, No”. Some of the most widely used petals are; *Calendula* (one of my favorites) these sunny orange flowers grow very well here in Florida and the petals add a saffron-like taste and color to “Arrozo amarillo conachiote”.

The *Calendula* petals and some chopped chives and peppers make this common dish an outstanding offering. Which reminds me, why is *Bixa orellana* (*Annatto*) so uncommon in our gardens? It is such an inexpensive and effective replacement for saffron.

So many flowers to choose from: citrus flowers, ginger flowers, hibiscus, impatiens, nasturtiums, marigolds, roses, orchids and Lotus. Unfortunately, NOT all flowers are edible so it is wise to check before making a new creation. Colorful flowers have broader roles to play on our dinner tables.

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**Next Meeting, Crotons for a South Florida Landscape, Ron Kiefert, Monday, May 26, 7:30 p.m**

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**Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.**

6880 S. W. 75 Terrace

South Miami, FL 33143

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**TFEPS**

**Show & Sale**

May 30 & 31 at
Fairchild Garden