



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 5

Editor: Ron Kiefert May 2014

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-**Emalyl** 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- fea-
turing 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 primar-
ily 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 socie-
ties. His nursery is a wholesale opera-
tion, 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 beau-
tiful landscape at his home and nursery.

Jeff presented a series of images from
recent Thailand trip. Navigating photo-
graphically 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, splotched 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 collec-
tion of flowering trees, palms or cycads,
with dozens of each species, set in a mani-
cured 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 Cro-
tons 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 life in a container.

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Movell, CPA
Certified Plant Addict

Next Meeting, Monday, May 26

The **Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society** pre-
sents **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
Corbin 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 **Lamar 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 remind-
ers 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 help-
ful 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,

(Show and Sale continued on page 2)

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

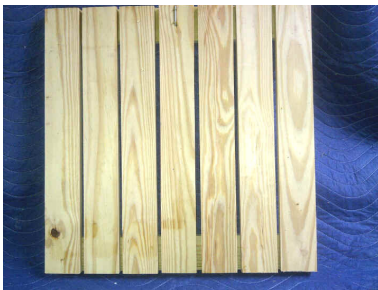
The first Saturday of each month is a special day!

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

staghornrescue@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, are 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: \$ _____

Eating the Bouquet

By John Banta

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 “Arroz amarillo con achiote”.



The *Calendula* petals and some chopped chives and peppers make this common dish an outstanding offering. Which reminds me, why is *Bixa orellano* (*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.

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

***Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
6880 S. W. 75 Terrace
South Miami, FL 33143***

