

TROPICAL FERN AND EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY, INC.

NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 8
October 2014

Annual Plant Auction

Monday, October 27, 2014

at 7:00 pm

It is almost time for our incredible annual plant auction which will be held in the Garden House at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden on Monday, October 27, 2014 at 7:00 pm. Auctioneer Tom Moore will once again take the floor along with auctioneer Jeff Searle to provide an evening of excitement as they open the bidding on many rare and unusual plants waiting to become a part of your collection. We have bidders from all around South Florida anxiously awaiting this event and we don't want to disappoint.

Members are asked to participate in our annual fundraiser by donating plants of interest. Your donations may be of any plant of your choosing, be it a fern, heliconia, aroid, flowering tree, orchid or, any plant that you feel would be a nice addition to our auction. If you are not able to donate a plant we hope that you will contact friends in the business for a donation.

Please deliver your plants on Monday October 27th to the Fairchild Garden House no later than 6:30 pm so that we have adequate time to arrange them for the auction.

To add to our members' collection, we are also asking our usual friends at nurseries and plant shops to participate by donating plants. Their generosity in the past has been tremendous and is only matched by our own members' generosity.

Remember, even if you do not have plants to bring, you can still support your society by being there and bidding on some great plants. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and provides the funds for us to operate and to keep our membership fees low.

Another way of donating is to volunteer your time as we need volunteers for many positions; please let Marie Nock or Lise Dowd know if you are available.

Our hospitality committee is also anxious for your help in providing a favorite snack for the refreshment table. Emaly Israel provided a sign-up sheet at the September meeting; if you missed signing up please let Emaly know you will be contributing to the table.

As always, we will accept cash and checks, but no credit cards.

The TFEPS Board of Directors is proposing a change in the Society’s By-Laws that will enable more members to participate in the governance of the society. The current ARTICLE IV. Directors reads:

ARTICLE IV. Directors

Section 1. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will consist of the Officers, the Immediate Past President and three Directors at Large.

Section 2. Term of Office. The term of office of each Director shall be one year or until the next annual meeting of members following his/her election or until his/her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified. The Directors shall be entitled by majority vote to designate specific, consenting members of the corporation as “Ex Officio Directors” from time to time and such Ex Officio Directors shall serve in an advisory capacity without vote and at the pleasure of the Directors.

The proposed change is below and would provide for one more Director and for staggered terms for the Directors. A vote will take place at the November 24th TFEPS annual business meeting.

ARTICLE IV. Directors

Section 1. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will consist of the Officers, the Immediate Past President and **four** Directors at Large.

Section 2. Term of Office. **The term of office of each Officer and Immediate Past President shall be one year or until the next annual meeting of members following his/her election or until his/her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified. The term of office for each Director at Large shall be two years with two Directors at Large being elected at each election so that the terms of all Directors at Large are overlapping but staggered.** The Directors shall be entitled by majority vote to designate specific, consenting members of the corporation as “Ex Officio Directors” from time to time and such Ex Officio Directors

2014 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

2014 DIRECTORS at LARGE:

Steve Forman (305) 662-2368

Debbie Lamb (305) 251-8675

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Marnie Valent: (305) 233-5929

Save-the-Date!

Don't forget our holiday party: Friday, December 12th at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens in the second floor of the Visitor's Center.

Also, our new TFEPS show date and place: Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22, 2015 at Pinecrest Gardens.

SEPTEMBER MEETING IN REVIEW

DATE: September 21, 2014

SPEAKER: Ivan Portilla

Ecuagenera of Ecuador

TOPIC: Flora of Ecuador

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balance - \$11,112.00

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:35 pm

HOSPITALITY TABLE: Emaly and Martha,
the Browns and others

RAFFLE TABLE: Ron Kiefert and Sid Gardino

MEETING ENDED AT 9:30 p m

The program opened with a short course by Craig Morell on plant grooming for the upcoming auction and for those who wish to show/sell plants at next Spring's TFEPS sale.

There was a brief discussion by Lise Dowd and Marnie Valent about where to have the upcoming show, after which there was a request for a vote from the membership to choose between Fairchild Garden and Pinecrest Gardens for the show. The membership voted for Pinecrest Gardens in March 2015.

There will also be a "Plant Market" at the Montgomery Botanical Center on Old Cutler Road on October 25 and 26. This is a first-of event, meant to introduce the public to a number of nurseries and societies not often seen at Fairchild, and at a modest entrance fee.

Sid and Regina Gardino spoke about the raffle plants after which Ivan Portilla from Ecuagenera delivered an impressive power point program on many of the interesting flora available at Ecuagenera's group of nurseries in Ecuador.

Ivan started by saying that Ecuador has the highest diversity of flora and fauna on Earth, with hundreds of species of butterflies, an equal variety of birds, 4500 species of orchids, and the richest diversity of aroids. Ecuagenera has several large nurseries in low and high altitudes, a comprehensive on-site tissue-culture lab and propagation program, and forest preserves in which orchids and other plants are preserved both as a germplasm bank and as an ecological site for research and for tours. Ecuagenera also has a sales staff that works over 75 shows and sales in several continents annually. With a series of eye-opening images of giant aroids, specimen orchids and in-situ plants, I believe many of the members will book tours and visits to Ecuador soon.

Ivan brought several dozen plants for sale and left with far less than he brought.

The next meeting is the annual TFEPS auction for which we seek plants and a house full of members and guests ready to buy plants not often seen.

The program ended at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell C.P.A.

Certified Plant Addict

Golden Rice and Super Bananas

By John Banta

Golden Rice, a GMO with enhanced vitamin A content, was developed back in 1999 to alleviate childhood blindness in Asian countries. Other than some trials in the Philippines it has suffered limited introduction due to the actions of poorly informed individuals. Now these same misguided people are attempting to thwart the introduction of Super Bananas. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation invested over 10 million dollars to develop this cooking banana enriched with vitamin A that is a major food source in much of Africa. Now, the critics are screaming; “too much vitamin A can cause cancer” (mostly in smokers and persons exposed to asbestos fibers) and in amounts seldom found in normal diets. They also suggest alternate measures, such as using dietary supplements (limited availability and cost reduce this option) or, grow alternate crops such as sweet potatoes (agricultural practices limit this option.) Two valid solutions to widespread human suffer-

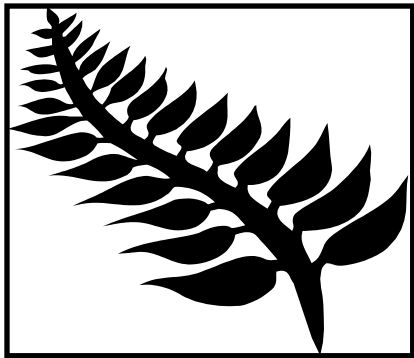


MOUNTING PLAQUES

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,



Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 902094, Homestead, Florida 33090-2094

___ Individual Membership \$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 Renewal ___

Member Name: _____

Name of Additional Member: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip + four: _____ + _____

Email: _____

JUNE MEETING IN REVIEW

DATE: June 23, 2014

SPEAKERS: round table discussion with Philip Iloo,
Ellis Brown, Jeff Block, and Marie Nock

TOPIC: The Amazing *Medinilla*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balance - \$10,774.55

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:35 pm

HOSPITALITY TABLE: Emalay and Martha, of course
And a grand table it was...

RAFFLE TABLE: Larry and Glenda Weed

Valerie Holt described the plants

Three plants donated by Redland Nursery

MEETING ENDED AT 9:45 pm

The meeting was remarkable in that in few other places in this country could an entire meeting be held about the cultivation and propagation of a genus so extraordinary, and so uncommon in cultivation, of the genus *Medinilla*.

We are fortunate to have not only a great climate in which to grow the plants, but talented, innovative growers and nurseymen to import, grow, trial, and distribute the plants. The four speakers all contributed their insights about growing *Medinilla* species, from miniature species such as *M. sedifolia*, to robust small trees, such as *M. myrianthina* and *M. miniata*. The genus of some 400+ species belongs to the tropical plant family *Melastomataceae*, within it a hefty 4500+ species. The diversity in plant shapes and sizes within *Medinilla* is amazing, with flower colors ranging from white through purple, red and orange, from pin-point flowers to phlox-sized blooms the size of a 25-cent coin. Hailing from Oceania, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Borneo, Madagascar and Africa, the genus has a lot of potential for growth in our area, providing we can provide plants the even moisture, high-quality irrigation, epiphytic potting media and stable climate which fosters their growth.

Jeff Block showed a series of images detailing his work with pollinating, propagating and cultivating *Medinilla gregori-hambali*.

Several attractive species, such as *M. sieboldiana*, *M. crassata* with its large pink pendant flower stems, *M. dolichophylla* (from Arden Dearden) and *M. cumingii* are available at local specialty nurseries. Two extraordinary hybrids, *M. florinella bella*, and *M. la dolce bella* may be available soon via European growers.

Most growers used an epiphytic mix suitable for Phalaenopsis orchids, and Harrell's 18-6-8 controlled release fertilizer was discussed as useful for growing these species.

The meeting concluded after a series of questions about media life, and how and when to propagate various species, with a spectrum of answers, correlated to the frequency of watering and repotting.

The meeting ended at 9:45 pm, and the guests and members went home with new species of *Medinilla*.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell C.P.A.

Certified Plant Addict

2014 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Hospitality:

Emalay 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