



# Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 2

Editor: Reggie Whitehead February 2011

## January in Review

Mike Twyford called the meeting to order at 7:40,

He thanked Brenda Martinez, Emalyl Israel, Martha Bogaards, Fern Hartnett for refreshments.

Thanks to Emalyl and Martha for set-up at Sallye Jude's fabulous home for the dinner party last December

The Treasurer's report yielded \$11, 229.21

Mike announced that memberships and renewals are still available, get them while the year is still young.

Mike also reminded the membership that Fairchild's member's day sale in April is coming up fast, so prepare your plants now for sale, if you are interested in selling at this event.

The raffle table was provided by Sid Gardino. Marie Nock introduced the speaker, adding a caveat that his name is pronounce 'Crissick', not with a W in the pronunciation.

John Criswick talks about "My Life as a nurseryman in Granada."

Granada is an island off the north-east coast of South America. The island is 12 miles wide x 26 miles long, with population of 100,000 people. Granada is 12 degrees N. of equator, with a balmy climate with temperatures of 75 F at night and 86 F daytimes almost all year. Damaging cold weather is almost

unknown here. The soil is naturally rich, being of volcanic origin, loamy sand, with rainfall of 80-120 inches per year.

John moved to Granada from Guyana in 1972. One of the more famous landmarks is St. George's Medical School, popular with American students. The American military incursion was in 1983, and lasted just 2 days. US troops released political prisoners and Rastafarians from long term incarceration. John showed some spectacular landscape pictures, as well as some of the non-plant inhabitants such as Anglo-Nubian goats. John remarked that the process of building a nursery was a labor of love, and that sometimes materials were hard to come by. Business has been slow in recent times, witnessed by the empty cargo docks, formerly full of freight containers. Despite the economic downturn, there is still a

tourist business, as well as new construction. John is an avid gardener, known to many Florida plant collectors as a grower and collector for more than 30 years. John showed an amazing array of plants grown in his nursery, some of which came from Miami nurseries.

Plant pics: *Areca hutchinsonaiana*, from Wattana Sumawong

*Anthurium moonenii*

*Schefflera calyptratus var. variegates*

*Lagerstroemia speciosa*

*Cassia multijuga*, easily seen throughout the island with its sunny yellow masses of flowers

*Combretum constrictum*, with dwarf red pom-poms of flowers on a short bushy plant

*Cordyline 'Dr. Brown'*

*Philodendron 'angra dos rios'*, from Brazil, with red spots on petiole

*Philo. Melinonii*

*Isertia parviflora*

*Phoenix thailandensis*, a short sp. from Nong Nooch

*Clitoria fairchildiana*, ex FTG, gorgeous cobalt flowers in pendant racemes

*Brunfelsia 'Isola'*

*Otacanthuis caeruleus*

*Aclaypha 'Bannochie Red'*

*Cochliostema odoratissima*

*Dieff. seguine*, and *D. daguense*

'Ceylon' Mango, aka 'Sri Lanka',

(Review continued on page 2)

## Next Meeting Monday, February 28

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents **Craig Morell** who will speak on **Advanced Propagation Techniques for the Novice, Hobbyist and Professional**, Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

This month's Raffle table will be provided by **Palm Hammock Orchid Estates** and **The Redland Nursery**.

***The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.***  
**Officers for 2011**

<b>President</b>	Mike Twyford	(305) 444-6332
<b>Vice President</b>	Marie Nock	(305) 232-2257
<b>Secretary</b>	Craig Morell	(305) 667-1173
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Moore	(305) 666-0219
<b>Hospitality</b>	Martha Bogaards	(305) 661-2305
	Emalyl Israel	(305) 235-0886
<b>Special Sales</b>	Marie Nock	(305) 232-2257
<b>Librarian</b>	Juan Espinosa-Almodovar	(305) 444-3103
<b>Raffle Table</b>	Skye Palmer	(305) 595-9291
<b>Webmaster</b>	Bob Benaim	(305) 793-9755

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

<b>Steve Forman</b>	(305) 662-2368
<b>Debbie Lamb</b>	(305) 251-8675
<b>Reggie Whitehead</b>	(305) 613-5944

**Trinity Churchside Garden**

*Landscape Design, Consulting;  
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*The first Saturday of each month is a special day!*

**SHERRIN A. SMITH**

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*(Review continued from page 1)*

lauded as the best mango John has ever tasted.

John concluded his talk at 9:15, amidst a swirl of questions. One of the plants which so many people here know is *Heliconia "Criswick Red"*, a hybrid with excellent growing traits, and a robust plant. Secretary's note: it is always interesting to see what plants are grown off-shore, and under what conditions. Growers in the local Florida area are spoiled a bit by our availability of resources of plants, building supplies, logistics of airport and delivery systems, plants, and intellectual resources.

Respectfully submitted,

*Craig Morell, CPA*

*Certified Plant Addict*

***Books donated by  
 Boots Wright***

Several months ago, long-time plant friend and plant enthusiast Joe Wright passed away. His dear wife, 'Boots', recently donated several books to our library. We thank John Banta for arranging this donations:

**Ferns and Palms**

**A Field Guide to the Ferns  
 and their Related Families**

**The Fern Guide**

**Ferns to Know and Grow**

**A Treasury of American Gardening**

**Platycterium—Fern Facts**

**Common Ferns of Luquillo**

**Forest, Puerto Rico**

**Fern Growers Manual**

Dear Editor,  
 I always enjoy your newsletter and particularly John Banta's column because he brings such a deep perspective to any discussion about the introduction and development of plants for horticulture. His column in the recent issue makes a comment that implies that the Ecuadorean nursery, Ecuagera provides the market with jungle-collected plants. I think what he means, and I can verify this from having visited the nursery many times, is that a new species may be collected and introduced to cultivation from the jungle (where else?) ... but what comes to market is the result of seed-propagation in the nursery for the purpose of distribution. In fact, the Ecuadorean government monitors the inventory produced and the subsequent exportation of such species. They are legitimate and welcome introductions to horticulture indeed.  
 Michael Riley

***2011 Dues are due!***

Membership dues for the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society are currently being collected.

Dues are: \$15.00 - single

\$17.00 - for two members at the same address

Lifetime Memberships are available at: \$125 per individual, \$150 for two members at the same address. This one-time rate is valid for the life of the Society. Please make check payable to: **TFEPS**, and mail to:

**Thomas G. Moore**  
 c/o TFEPS  
 6880 S. W. 75 Terrace  
 South Miami, FL 33143

***New Member***

Sam Patterson  
 P. O. Box 10314  
 (718) 698-831140712  
 Staten Island, NY 6  
 SRP1967@aol.com

**Raffle Tables for — 2011**

February 28, 2011.....Tim Anderson/Redland Nursery  
 March 28, 2011 .....Steve Nock/Philip Iloo  
 April 25, 2011 .....David McLean/Craig Reid  
 May 23, 2011 ..... John Lucas/Rebecca& Duane Tannenbaum

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

\_\_\_ Individual Member \$15. \_\_\_ Household Membership \$17.

\_\_\_ Life Membership \$125. \_\_\_ Life Household Membership \$150.

**Member's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of additional member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip + 4:** \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

***Roots***  
*by John Banta*

The concept of roots is that of a vital system that is not very obvious. We, as plant lovers and plant collectors are part of the complex system that could be called "Tropical Horticulture". The root system is composed of major trunk lines as well as fine hair-like roots where the actual work occurs. We are often not aware of dimensions of the system we function in. The many people and organizations that comprise this system are astounding. The value of Florida foliage has gone from about 2 million dollars in 1949 to over 200 million dollars today. This kind of growth depends upon a good root system. That system includes many organizations and associations such as The Florida Nurseryman and Landscapers

Association (FNGLA) and the Florida Horticultural Society. These organizations are vital to our growing interests. They provide educational and scholarship opportunities as well as certification of professional standards. They also provide recognition of horticultural achievement.

It is a joy to see how many of our friends are members of the Florida Foliage Hall of Fame. If you have some spare time in front of your computer why not visit The Florida Horticultural Society or the Agricultural Hall Of Fame. Become aware of the vast network we are all a part of.

***Next Meeting, Craig Morell, Propagation Techniques , Monday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.***

This Newsletter is also available through PDF and  
our [www.tfeps.org](http://www.tfeps.org) website.

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