



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 1

Editor: Reggie Whitehead January 2009

Happy New Year

November/ December in Review

The November 24, 2008 meeting was called to order at 7:45 by Reggie Whitehead. He welcomed all members and guests. Our treasurer reported that we have \$19,103.37 in the bank.

The Christmas party [will be] held Friday, December 12 at Robert and Patty Benaim's home at 7:00 P.M. The address is 17850 SW 280th Street.

Our members sold nearly \$10,000 worth of plants at Fairchild's annual Ramble. 30% of that total was collected by Fairchild and 3% was collected by the society.

Reggie also mentioned that our Show and Sale will be held the first weekend of June 2009 and that members should begin preparing their plants for the event.

Peter Kouchalakis, who was our speaker for the evening, also provided the plants for the raffle table.

Among the many spectacular bromeliads on the table was a remarkably splendid and sought after specimen of *Alcantaria odorata* – (you must remove the small pups (kekis) from this plant for the mother will “eat them”!

Martha Bogaards and Emaly Israel brought in an excellent refreshment table.

Peter's lecture centered on a

discussion of the BIG 5 Genera of Bromeliads.

Vriesia is the second largest genus. **Vriesias** and **Guzmanias** are similar in the following ways: They prefer low light, and they don't bite or attack you with thorny leaves. They have a paddle-like inflorescence which is not the flower. The flowers bloom on the inflorescence. Some **Vriesias** produce their pups from the center of the plant.

Guzmania – Likes low light and lots of water. Good for interior-scape. Peter helped us to identify a green **Guzmania** from a **Vriesia**. The **Guzmania** leaves showed striated vertical lines in the light, and **Vriesia** leaves had horizontal lines.

Aechmea is one of Peter's favor-

Next Meeting, Monday, January 26

This month, A Variety of Ferns, presented by **Tom Moore**. While we believe that we can easily identify a fern, there are some ferns that still baffle our imagination. Tom Moore will bring in several ferns and fern allies to discuss at our next meeting.

See you there, 7:30 p.m.

ites. There are 200 species in the genus. They have beautiful inflorescences. Their primary characteristic is the bloom. They are the best in landscapes in Florida. **Aechmeas** require bright filtered light to full sun. They will root on a tree, the grounds, a rock, a chain link fence or almost anywhere. They forgive neglect and low water. They are tough.

Tillandsia: Another of Peter's favorites. There are approximately 500 species. They require bright filtered light to full sun. There is great variety within the species. They are true air plants, which do not need to be watered every day. You can mount them on trees using a cable tie. They are monocarpic which means they throw seeds but do not produce pups.

Neoregelia – This is most popular genus because of the color of the leaves. The flower blooms in the center of the cup. There is tremendous range in size, color, diversity (variation of the same plant). It will take a range of bright filtered light to full sun. They are gorgeous in winter. Always keep water in the cups/tank.

Other bromeliads that deserve mention are:

Bilbergia – blooms are pendant

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The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.

Proposed Officers for 2009

President

Reggie Whitehead (305) 666-0219

Vice President

Leigh Elliott (305) 255-7481

Secretary

Karen Mashburn (305) 661-7488

Treasurer

Tom Moore (305) 666-0219

Hospitality

Martha Bogaards (305) 661-2305

Emalyl Israel (305) 235-0886

Librarian

Juan Espinosa-Almodovar (305) 444-3103

Raffle Table

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

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and beautiful, lasts 3-4 days

Cryptanthus – Need soil and bright filtered light. Great border plant. Tolerant of water.

Portea – Peter showed us *Porteana petropolitana* which has a pink spike.

Pests: For snails, Peter recommends deadline pellets/granules, but use with caution. They are bright blue and might look delicious to dog, cats, kids, birds. Deadline is composed of a heavy metal and can cause tremendous pain in small animals. Deadline also can be lethal to pets — so caution is urged

Peter Kouchalakos gave a wonderful and educational program about the world of bromeliads. The society, learned a lot that evening.

Holiday Party — December 12

On Friday, December 12, our Annual Holiday Party was held at the home of Bob and Patty Benaim. The Benaim's home in South Dade was a beautiful setting for our annual get together.

As has become the hallmark of our parties, the food was exceptional, the company great and the weather tried to cooperate — meaning, no rain. However, old man winter does pay South Florida an occasional visit, and it decided to rescue us from the unseasonably warm weather we had been having.

But, back to the festivities, wonderful holiday music filled the air, as members dined *al fresco* and got a chance to mingle and catch up on the year's activities.

Martha Bogaard and Emalyl Israel decorated the tables with a holiday motif, and coordinated all for the evening. Sally and Jim Jude provided a sumptuous turkey. This year's holiday gift was a special and possibly new Selaginella (we believe from The Philippines) courtesy of Ray and Cathy Roberts. Its new Selaginella produces small

Trinity Churchside Garden

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Medicinal, Weird, and Native Plants*

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The first Saturday of each month is a special day!

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305 448-2598 Phone 305 668-4622 Fax

E-mail: sas56chevy@bellsouth.net

2009 Dues are due!

Membership dues for the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society are currently being collected. The society has many interesting projects this year, and we would love for you to be a part of all of them.

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**

(If your address label reads 2008, dues are due now. If your address label reads 2009, you are covered until the end of the year.)

Dues may also be paid at the next meeting, **January 26.**

Get Well Soon

What a way to start the new year! We want to send a hearty *Get Well Soon* wish to Leigh Elliott.

Leigh has been in Jackson Memorial Hospital for approximately two weeks recuperating from a couple of surgeries to alleviate pain that he has been experiencing for many years. We wish Leigh Good Luck.

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

June 6 and 7

(It will be here before you know it)

Raffle Tables for 2009

January 26	Craig Reid
February 23	Tim Anderson
.....	Craig Reid
March 23	Richard Button
April 27	David McLean
.....	Home Chaovanich and John Banta
May 25	Ree Garden

Please make check payable to:

**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.

Members Name: _____

Name of additional member: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip + 4:** _____ + _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ **Amount enclosed: \$** _____

How the Economy Changed My Garden

by John Banta

It all started behind a small bakery in Ipswich, England. It was here that William Thompson pursued his passion for growing rare plants in the early 1800's. With encouragement from the likes of Sir Joseph Hooker and Charles Darwin, Thompson's nurseries published their first catalog of rare plant seeds in 1855. The success of the business demanded the participation of a good business manager and John Morgan was that man. The firm of Thompson and Morgan has for 154 years continued to offer the most remarkable array of seeds. Their catalog is one of the finest books around to entertain the dreams of any plant lover. If you suffer without this fine catalog I

urge you to fill this gap in your botanical world.

I just received my 2009 Thompson and Morgan catalog and I've found neat new varieties of vegetables I must try. With over 200 pages of colorful flowers and other botanical gems this is a catalog that lingers for years on bookshelves. Now to decide which of the over 20 varieties of beans to choose. This catalog is such an educational and pleasurable experience I urge you to go on the web to get a copy: www.tmseeds.com.

Next time "Vegetable Games".

Next Meeting, A Variety of Ferns — Tom Moore, Mon., January 26; 7:30 p.m

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6880 S. W. 75 Terrace
South Miami, FL 33143***