



# Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 6

Editor: Reggie Whitehead June 2009

## May in Review

The May 25, 2009 meeting was called to order by Reggie Whitehead at 7:45 P.M. He welcomed all members and guests. He thanked Emaly Israel and Martha Bogaards who supplied a plentiful and delicious refreshment table. Reggie acknowledged that this is our tenth year.

The treasurer reported that we have \$17,348.98 in the account.

The raffle table was supplied by Steve and Marie Nock, John Lucas, John Banta and Home Chaovanich. One of the highlights of the Raffle Table was a variegated, thornless, white Bougainvillea.

Reggie announced plans for our annual show and sale at Fairchild June 6-7. Set up will start Thursday, June 4. An appreciation luncheon will be held on June 5 at 1:00. There will be 13 vendors in the Corbin Building. Please sign up to help, and bring plants for the sale.

The program this evening was presented by our friend, Dr. Bruce McAlpin. Bruce is a member of the National Cactus and Succulent Society. He attended their convention in Tucson, Arizona where he found a book on **Adeniums** which he brought to show.

Many of these plants are hybridized here and abroad. They occur in Africa and on the Arabian Peninsula. Mark Dimmitt is a hybridizer of **Adenium** in Arizona who has some interesting new plants. The website is:

[www.ScathinglyBrilliantIdea.com](http://www.ScathinglyBrilliantIdea.com).

Water Ferns was the subject of our program this evening.

There are many ferns that grow in water. Dr. Bruce McAlpin brought some examples to show and some plants to give away.

**Marsileacea** species are easy to grow but very hard to get! Some are called water clover because the leaf looks like clover.

Bruce mentioned other genera of water ferns such as **Regnellidium** **Pilularia**.

He also showed plants from the genera **Ceratopteris** and **Microsorium**, and mentioned how a couple of **Microsorium** species are sold in the aquarium trade. These aquatic plants grow submerged or emerged. They grow in shady ravines along rivers. When in collections, after 2 or 3 years, they die. Perhaps they need very soft water.

The general **Azolla** and **Salvinia** species are floating water ferns. They grow fast and cover the surface in a couple of weeks. They grow thick and clog waterways. **Azolla** is used in rice fields, because it lives in symbiosis with blue-green algae, taking advantage of their ability to fix nitrogen.

It is considered beneficial to grow along with rice to produce a

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## Next Meeting, Monday, June 22

This month we present David McLean who will speak on **Medicinal Plants**. The Raffle Table will be supplied by David McLean and Larry (& Glenda) Weed. Lots of plants this evening. See you there!; 7:30 p.m.

## What A Show!

We did it and we did it in a BIG way. This year's Annual Show and Sale was absolutely BIG. Big and spectacular specimens everywhere.

This year, new member **Raymar Rodriguez** hauled in an **Asplenium nidus** specimen that spanned 16-feet. It was truly a specimen plant, that garnered lots of attention — even a *Most Unusual Fern* ribbon.

There were some spectacular plants that were honored this year: Best of Show award went to **Den-drobium lineale**; **David Foster**. The Best Fern award went to **Goniophlebium subauriculatum 'Knightiae'**; **Philip Iloo**. The Best Flowering Plant award went to **Medinilla magnifica**; **Steve and Marie Nock**. The Most Unusual Plant award went to **Hoya Imbricata**; **Bruce McAlpin**.

In addition to the great specimens, we had a lot of new members entering plants this year. There were lots of Blue ribbons handed out to gorgeous plants. Not only were our specimens beautiful, but they were unusual as well. John Lucas brought in a perfect and rare specimen of **Dorstenia gigas**, which stumped our judges and clerks.

We gratefully thank our judges: Mary Collins, Martha Kent and Donna McGraw; and our clerks, Rod Gates and Reggie Whitehead, for working with an enormous number of plants in our landscaped show.

There were two examples of an **Oxymolon** species, one brought in by Marie and Steve Nock and the other one by Rebecca and Duane Tanenbaum.

I wish I could list all of the beautiful plants that were displayed this year. If you would like to see more of

*(Show continued on page 5)*

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

## **Officers for 2009**

<b>President</b>	Reggie Whitehead	(305) 666-0219
<b>Vice President</b>	Leigh Elliott	(305) 255-7481
<b>Secretary</b>	Karen Mashburn	(305) 661-7488
<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
	Craig Reid	(305) 251-0143
<b>Webmaster</b>	Bob Benaim	(305) 248-2770

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

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bountiful crop. If you obtain this plant, don't share it. It is invasive!

There are perhaps five species of **Marsilea**.

Bruce mentioned a note about the genus **Pilularia**. In cultivation, it can grow in soil with pot in the water. As soil becomes acidic you will lose the plant if you do not repot in fresh soil. They are native in the U.S., growing in vernal pools. When the pools dry, the fern goes dormant.

In learning about how some water ferns propagate, Bruce talked at length about sporocarps, the enclosures for fern spores on these plants. He mentioned that these ferns will produce two types and sizes of spores. This is called heterospory.

In mentioning the growth habit of **Marsilea**, he mentioned that they grow on rhizomes and produce fiddleheads. They will grow in sand, in a pot, or water tray.

To keep the sand/soil in the pot, line the pot with a plastic bag. They are heavy feeders. Use dry fertilizer wrapped in newspaper or plant tabs once every 6 weeks in growing season (summer) then stop. You can use osmocote or regular fertilizer. Bruce has his preference of fertilizer, but said that you should use whichever fertilizer works best in your garden for you.

These aquatic plants will grow around the pot for one perhaps one or two years. They climb out but will stay around the rim. They must be completely saturated at all times. Keep them contained in the pot. In nature they grow in shallow edges of ponds at around 3 feet deep.

Thanks to Dr. Bruce McAlpin for a fascinating lecture on these aquatic ferns, a subject rarely discussed. At the conclusion of his talk, he offered free specimens of a **Marsilea** species. We want to thank him for his generous gift of 35 water plants to our members. — Submitted by Karen Mashburn

**Trinity Churchside Garden**  
 Behind the Eleventh Street Annex Restaurant

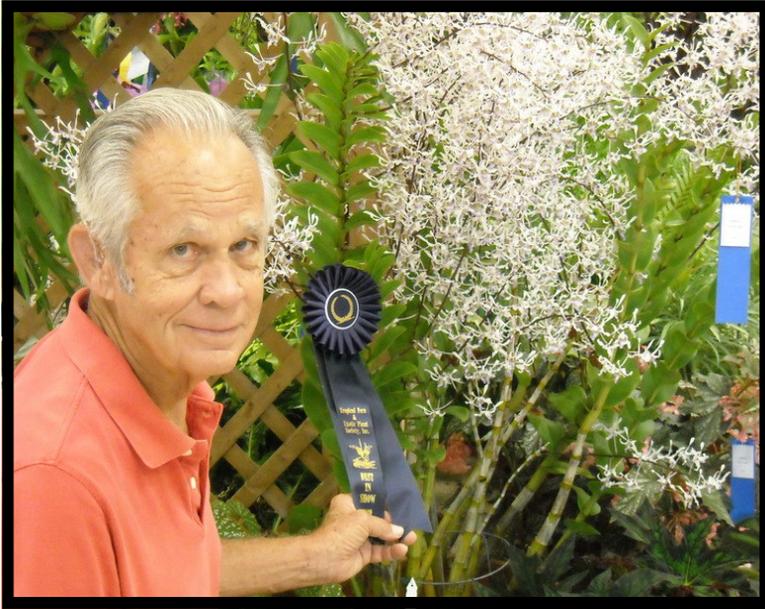
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*David Foster, Dendrobium lineale, Best of Show*



*Bruce McAlpin, Hoya imbricata*



*Steve and Marie Nock, Medinilla magnifica, Best Flowering Plant. The Nocks were also the Sweepstakes Winners for Most Blue Ribbons in the show.*

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*Philip Iloo, Goniophlebium subauriculatum 'Knightiae', Best Fern in Show*



*Colorful plants in display*



*Drynaria rigidula*



*16-feet of Asplenium nidus*



*Bevy of Begonias*



*Oxymolon sp. — Interesting plant*



*Coniogramme japonica*

Photos by Lester Kallus and Reggie Whitehead. Additional photos on our website: [www.tfeps.org](http://www.tfeps.org)

(Show continued from page 1)

these wonderful specimens and the display, see our website: [www.tfeps.org](http://www.tfeps.org)

Jason Lopez and Reggie Whitehead designed our show.

Members such as Miguel Nicolas, Vivian Waddell, Jacqueline Gaudio, Bob Benaim and Mike Freedman contributed to getting the structure in place and arranging the display.

To maintain our strength throughout the show, Emaly Israel and Martha Bogaards kept us well-fed. Emaly's committee (Sallye Jude, Sherrin Smith, and Jacqueline Gaudio) helped her with our Appreciation Luncheon. Emaly in particular spent many hours in her kitchen baking pies and cakes for us. Philip Iloo brought in a home-made cake; and Winnie Lynch brought in her signature cookies. There were so many wonderful members who contributed to the overall success of this year's show — we thank all of you, for possibly our most spectacular show to date.

We fully acknowledge our vendors whose booths were equally as impressive as our display. We also thank Leigh Elliott and the many volunteers who manned the Membership Table and our plant holding area.

Once again, "Thank you" to all of our GREAT members for another great show and sale. —

*Reggie Whitehead, Show Coordinator*

### ***We Welcome New Lifetime Member***

Wayne Poole  
817 Fairway Drive  
Plantation, FL 33317-4437

### ***We Welcome New Members***

Angela & Christian Collier  
5500 S. W. 128 Avenue  
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330  
(954) 736-6634  
giada05@comcast.net

Raymar & Jackie Rodriguez  
11585 S. W. 96 Terrace  
Miami, FL 33176  
(305) 606-4636  
jackieqr@bellsouth.net

Antonio Juan  
14885 S. W. 260 Street  
Homestead, FL 33032  
(305) 970-2051

Marnie & Gerry Valent  
15821 S. W. 86 Avenue  
Miami, FL 33157  
(305) 233-5929  
Mvalent@fairchildgarden.org

Skye Palmer  
10908 Sunset Drive  
Villa 214  
Miami, FL 33173  
(305) 595-9291  
Ziggy725@aol.com

### ***Raffle Table for June 22***

**David McLean      Larry and Glenda Weed**

(We have some FANTASTIC plants for the Raffle Table this month.)

*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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## *A Penny Saved*

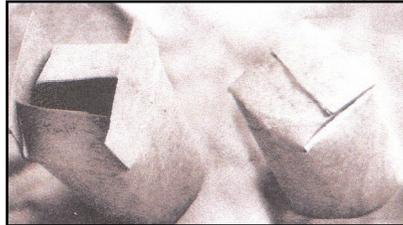
by John Banta

Being a teacher for years has resulted in thrift store shopping expertise. Our current economy has evolved from conspicuous consumption to ostentatious parsimony. Thrift stores offer economical answers to grower's needs. A light weight, portable and easy to store potting bench is available in a cheap ironing board. A shower attachment with a hose provides an ideal way to water delicate seedlings and fussy ferns.

I'm fortunate that my neighbor, Nancy, is not only frugal but also an avid gardener. She plants her many seeds in paper cups of her own making.

When the seedlings are large enough she pots them paper pot and all in larger pots where the paper; much like a peat pot, disintegrates.

The photo below illustrates pots made from the cardboard tubes found in toilet tissue and kitchen paper towels.



*Next Meeting, Medicinal Plants — David McLean, Mon., June 22; 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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6880 S. W. 75 Terrace  
South Miami, FL 33143*