



# Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 3

Editor: Reggie Whitehead March 2010

## February in Review

President Mike Twyford called the meeting to order at 7:55. The treasurer reported that the Society has **\$14,442,93** in the bank. The refreshment table was beautifully stocked by Emaly Israel and Martha Bogaard.

Raffle donations were also made by Michael and Sheila O'Dea, who donated two tickets to the Orchid Show, and Chris Migliaccio who donated a very nice palm.

The raffle table was generously provided by Tim Anderson, and the tables contained some very handsome plants indeed.

Marie Nock introduced the program and speaker for the evening, Chris Migliaccio from Miami Dade College (new name for Miami-Dade Community College). Chris has been growing palms in this area for over 20 years, and had a lot of experiences to relate, along with an excellent 6 page handout. The handout lists the important characters for several dozen palms, including water needs, required shade levels, fertilizer, and how to select the right plants for the right place. Chris is also a palm consultant (perhaps he does 'palm reading' ...) and can be reached at [chrismig@bellsouth.net](mailto:chrismig@bellsouth.net), or at 786-218-5012.

Chris made excellent points, and as he spoke we could tell he had been a teacher, with a clear and organ-

ized delivery. Chris also made note of a number of topics that we sometimes downplay, such as using micronutrient mixtures such as AFEC Fer-A-Gro or AFEC Liquid Green 3 times per year for some of the understory palms; using time-release fertilizers for container growing; palm species conservation; and keeping in mind the mature size of a palm even when you plant it as a seedling. The extensive handout lists sources of palms, supplies, fertilizers, and containers.

Some examples from the list include:

**Small Palms for Filtered Light; *Chamaedorea cataractarum*, *Guihaia argyrata*, *Schippia concolor*, and *Veitchia sessilifolia*.**

### Next Meeting, Monday, March 22

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents **Dr. Bruce McAlpin** who will speak on **Propagation Techniques and Secrets**.

Bruce always presents wonderful working knowledge on plants and how we can make the most of our gardens. Please join us on for this great presentation. Raffle Table will be supplied by Richard Button and Dolores Fugina of **Bloomin' Good Nursery**.

lia.

**Small Palms For Shade areas;** try *Arenga caudate* or *Arenga hookeriana*, *Balaka seemannii*, one or more of a long list of **Chamaedoreas**, or *Licuala lauterbachii*.

**Medium Palms for Filtered Light; *Archontophoenix purpurea*, *Arenga engleri*, *Kerriodoxa elegans*, *Licuala peltata*, numerous *Ptychosperma* species and the "Zombie" Palm, *Zombia antillarum*.**

**Medium Palms for Shade areas;** many **Pinanga** species, and *Drymophloeos beguinii*.

**Understory Palms for Container Culture -Filtered Light** —The infamous Sealing Wax Palm, the orange crownshaft *Areca vestiaria*, and several of the stilt-root spine palms such as *Phoenicophorium* and *Verschaffeltia* need annual soil changes in the pots, controlled release fertilizer and usually some protection from weather under 50F and strong dry winds. For **Shade Growing**, Chris listed several *Calyptrocalyx* species, the genus **Reinhardtia**, and the Rhaps group of Lady Palms. Chris brought several plants for demonstration. The meeting concluded at 9:15, with a full house of members and visitors.

*The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.*  
**Officers for 2010**

<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;  
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!*

**FREE**

**Driftwood**

**Please call: Dale Magrew — (305) 235-9265**

**SHERRIN A. SMITH**

**PLANT, PET, AND HOUSE SITTING; Personal Assistance**

**\*Miami Native\***

305 448-2598 Phone    305 668-4622 Fax

E-mail: sas56chevy@aol.com

***Message from the  
President***

Let me introduce myself, my name is Michael 'Mike' Twyford. I am happy to serve as the new President of the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society. I was asked several years ago to consider taking on a leadership role of this great plant society, and frankly, I was scared to death. However, after continuous prodding and encouragement by our founder and ex-president, Reggie Whitehead, I finally gave in. (As you can see, he can be rather persistent and persuasive).

As you are aware, our society is unique in that we try to cover as many plant families as we possibly can, given the nature of South Florida horticulture. My own plant collection is rather eclectic itself. I thoroughly enjoy collecting aroids, particularly members of the Amorphophallus group. I have always loved ferns, and one of my deepest loves would be begonias.

Reggie thought of me as presidential material because I have served for many years as president of the Begonia Society. (I guess he figured that if I was accustomed to serving in a position for several years, this job would be a cinch.).

For now, I am here to continue with the growth of this dynamic group. I am very fortunate to have a hardworking group of officers who also take enormous pride in our society. I would like to thank them here: Marie Nock, our vice president; Craig Morrell, secretary, and Thomas G. Moore, our treasurer. In this list I also thank Emalyl Israel and Martha Bogaards for keeping us well-fed. My thanks extend to Skye Palmer who handles our raffle tables and to Juan Espinosa our librarian. My thanks also to Bob Benaim who is our great webmaster who keeps the internet abreast of our goings-on.

*Tropical Fern  
& Exotic Plant Society  
Show and Sale*

*June 5 and 6*

*At Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden*

**Reserve this date**

**Raffle Tables for 2010**

March 22 ..... *Richard Button*

April 26.....

May 24..... Ree Garden and Rebecca Tannenbaum

*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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Tomatoes***  
by John Banta

The great range of tomato fruit size, shape and color almost matches the wide range of characteristics found in our pet dogs. This is the result of human selections. A major partition of tomato varieties is based upon the nature of fruit production. Large commercial producers of tomatoes want a plant that produces all of its fruit at one time so that fields can be harvested at one time. Thus, we get the determinate varieties used for ketchup and Campbell's tomato soup that was first produced in 1897. The home gardener wants the fruit to be produced over a long period so they can be enjoyed over the entire season. Thus, we have the indeterminate varieties that continue to grow, flower and set fruit continuously.

The range in tomato varieties includes the length of time it takes a seedling to produce ripe fruit. This can range from the Siberian tomato that sets fruit in 48 days after flowering and sets fruit in 38 degree weather to the common garden varieties that don't pollinate well if the night time temperatures are much above 77 degrees . A useful source for information about tomato varieties is the catalog put out by: *Tomato Growers Supply Company, P.O. Box 60015, Fort Myers, Florida 33906*. Most of its hundreds of varieties are pictured and described. Aside from neat tomato information it includes hundreds of pepper varieties.

***Next Meeting, Monday, March 22, Dr. Bruce McAlpin, Propagating Techniques, 7:30 p.m.***

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

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

