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 Emalyl 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, or at 786-218-5012.

Some examples from the list include:

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

**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 Drymophloes begunii.

**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 Calyprocalyx species, the genus Reinhardtia, and the Rhapis group of Lady Palms. Chris brought several plants for demonstration. The meeting concluded at 9:15, with a full house of members and visitors.

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

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Mike Twyford    (305) 444-6332
Vice President
Marie Nock     (305) 232-2257
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Librarian
Juan Espinosa-Almodovar    (305) 444-3103
Raffle Table
Skye Palmer     (305) 595-9291
Webmaster
Bob Benaim     (305) 793-9755

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
Reggie Whitehead    (305) 613-5944

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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: ______________________________________________________________

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City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip + 4: _________ + ______

E-mail: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: ________________________________ Amount enclosed: $_____________


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.

This Newsletter is also available through PDF and our www.tfeps.org website.