



# Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 5

Editor: Reggie Whitehead May 2009

## April in Review

The April meeting took on a different tone for the evening. At 7:45, Reggie Whitehead assembled all of the guests together in the meeting room. There, he and Tom Moore offered Champagne (Roederer) and a non-alcoholic bubbly for a toast. The occasion was to commemorate the graduation of Chad Husby who received a Doctorate of Biology degree from Florida International University earlier that day. Reggie offered a toast explaining Chad's journey to Florida, from Michigan. Everyone raised a crystal champagne glass to the new graduate. The refreshment table was also filled with lots of food — delicious Cuban cuisine. Emalyl Israel and Martha Bogaards decorated the room befitting the occasion.



**Brock Husby, Chad Husby, Reggie Whitehead and Carol Husby**

Chad's mother Carol, and his brother Brock, came down for the occasion. The evening included international guests from *Vitro Plus Plant*

Lab in Holland and Wayne Poole and Gary Hennen of Oglesby Plants.

The graduation party gave way to the evening's plant society's business. The Raffle table was supplied by David McLean. Argeo Hernandez and Skye Palmer enthusiastically sold raffle tickets. It was a fantastic collection of plants, including a nice specimen on *Angiopteris angustifolia*. Michael Hughes also donated a couple of plants for the raffle table, as did Jeff Chait, with his donation of beautiful roses. Reggie told the us about our upcoming Show and Sale, and that member participation would be greatly appreciated. He then introduced our speaker for the evening, Larry Cox.

The topic of the evening was Paphiopedilum orchids, or tropical slipper orchids.

Larry's talk was most impressive. He had several beautiful plants available for demonstration and later for sale.

He told us that his collection is housed in the Redland area in a 3,500 square foot shade house and he has been growing Paphs for almost 30 years.

Larry began his impressive Powerpoint presentation by giving

*(Review continued on page 2)*

## It's Show Time

In just a few short weeks, we will sponsor our Annual Show and Sale. We are feverishly preparing last minute details for the Show and Sale on June 6 and 7th at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

A few reminders: We need your plants in order to make our show and sale fantastic. You may pick up Plant Entry Cards Entry Sheets at the May 25 meeting, OR, you may pick them up and fill them out when you bring in your display plant(s) on Thursday, June 4. All plants are welcome. ALL PLANTS.

We will be at the Garden from 10:00 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please have your plants there so that they may be properly and beautifully displayed in our landscaped exhibit.

We can also use a little manpower with setting up the show and sale on June 4. If you are planning to help with this task, it would be great if you arrived around 11 a.m. Of course you may come earlier — we will spend that time organizing the room and preparing it for the display.

On Friday, June 5, we will have our Appreciation Luncheon. Members who have donated their time in setting up the Show and Sale are honored at this luncheon. We would love to have as many members as possible attend. It is our Feast among the Plants.

Lastly, if you would like to volunteer at our Member's Table, or Holding area, we would love to have you. We will have a sign-up sheet at our May 25 meeting. If you would like to volunteer for the Show weekend, but are unable to attend the May 25 meeting, please call Reggie or Tom at (305) 666-0219.

## Next Meeting, Monday, May 25

This month we present Dr. Bruce McAlpin who will speak on *The Water Ferns*. The Raffle Table will be supplied by John Lucas, John Banta and Home Chaovanich. Lots of plants this evening. See you there!; 7:30 p.m.



***Congratulations Chad Husby***

Degree: ***Doctor of Philosophy in Biology***

Title of dissertation: ***Ecophysiology and Biomechanics of Equisetum giganteum in South America***

Date of dissertation defense: March 24  
Date of graduation: April 27

We proudly congratulate fellow member Dr. Chad Husby for his outstanding accomplishment. Chad has been a member of TFEPS since 2002. He was also a recipient of our Donald R. Keller Education Scholarship.

We wish Dr. Chad Husby much success.



***We Welcome New Lifetime Member***

Wayne Poole  
817 Fairway Drive  
Plantation, FL 33317-4437

***We Welcome New Members***

Miguel Nicholas  
8341 N. W. 197 Street  
Hialeah, FL 33015  
(305) 409-2070  
Miguelnicholas@bellsouth.net

Janet E. Perez  
145 N. E. 103 Street  
Miami Shores, FL 33138  
(305) 331-2906  
J1Perez@bellsouth.net

Nanette O'Donnell  
1685 Onaway Drive  
Miami, FL 33133  
(305) 860-5411  
grossman@bellsouth.net

**Raffle Tables for 2009**

May 25 ..... Ree Garden  
..... John Lucas

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

## *Gifts that Grow*

by John Banta

With a title like that you might assume that plants were the subject of this article. Such is not the case. Good friends, Gary and Bunny, gave me a set of place mats. Each place mat has 15 images of various fungi. Puffballs, jelly fungi, slime molds and stinkhorns. Not entirely the kind of images you appreciate while dining but they do stimulate the mind. One of the stinkhorns resembles the inflorescence of a ginger, *Etilingera*. Fungi are strange as they are neither plant nor animal. They diverged from those kingdoms about a billion years ago. The interesting photos of these various fungi prompted me to go to the web site, [www.fungiphoto.com](http://www.fungiphoto.com), run

by Taylor Lockwood. What has grown from this nice gift is my interest and amazement of the remarkable world of fungi. The largest living organism in America, (*Armillaria*) is a fungus network covering some thousand acres of forest in Washington State. There are many fungi that glow in the dark, eat nematodes and feast on compact disks.

This is a fascinating life form that has great economic importance in our world. Amaze yourself by looking into this often neglected aspect of our lives.

*Next Meeting, The Water Ferns — Dr. Bruce McAlpin, Mon., May 25; 7:30 p.m*

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