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.

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 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.
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
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
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Marie Nock (305) 232-2257
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Juan Espinosa-Almodovar (305) 444-3103
Raffle Table
Craig Reid (305) 251-0143
Webmaster
Bob Benaim (305) 248-2770

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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(Review continued from page 1)

us a little background regarding these intriguing members of the orchid family.

He let us know that Paphiopedilums or Paphs are not epiphytic, nor are they true terrestrials. While they do tend to grow in the ground, they prefer to grow in the layers of leaf litter that normally carpet the grounds in tropical forests. These layers of leaves provide excellent drainage and aeration for the roots of Paph orchids.

He said that Paphs are primarily shade lovers, they prefer an evenly moist soil, and that he waters his plants twice a week. He uses a medium fir bark mix and uses this type of mix for all his Paphs. He cautioned that you should never let the medium go stale — and repot the plants every 12-18 months. Larry prefers plastic pots over clay for his Paphs. For fertilizing, he recommends 1/4 strength.

It was a great evening all the way around, champagne, a worthy cause, a great raffle table, and a super talk.

Many thanks to all involved in the Success of the evening.
**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.

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**We Welcome New Lifetime Member**

Wayne Poole
817 Fairway Drive
Plantation, FL 33317-4437

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**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

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**Raffle Tables for 2009**

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

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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.

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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, *Etlingera*. 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.