April in Review

Speaker: David McLean-
owner, Trinity Churchside Gar-
den, formerly an educator at
Nova Southeastern University ,
and raconteur extraordinaire.

Topic- New and Interesting
Plants for 2011

Treasurer’s report balance
$11, 510.48

President Twyford called meet-
ing to order at — 7:45.

Hospitality- refreshments by
Martha Bogaard and Emalyl Is-
rael

Raffle provided by—David
McLean

Meeting ended at —9:15 p.m.

Marie Nock introduced the
speaker, David McLean and
wife Penny, who showed several
dozen new plants, and offered
them for sale, in a most creative
marketing technique of sell-as-
you-orate about them. David is a
most talented and creative
speaker, always drawing a good
crowd who come to get edu-
cated, as well as have a good
laugh. David has been a teacher
for nearly 30 years, and has a
stunning ability to orate with a
verbal flourish that leaves
crowds with the knowledge that
they have learned a great deal,
but perhaps not knowing why
until they get home.

David brought in a wide ar-ray of plants, both native and
exotic, with the forethought of
handing out a list of what plants
were available, and at what
prices. His background as a
teacher and professor served him
well. He brought in 2 tables full
of plants, including:

Zeas perennis- variegated corn,
growing to about 4 feet tall , a
new Phlox variety via Carol
Troendle of Ball Seed experi-
ence, a Thai spineless bougain-
villea., a very rare native Satin-
wood Tree, 2 plants of our na-
tive Limber Caper, and a host of

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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 5th and 6th 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 23
meeting, OR, you may pick them up
and fill them out when you bring in
your display plant(s) on Thursday, June
2. All plants are welcome.

We will be at the Garden from
10:00 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please try to
have your plants there early so that they
may be properly and beautifully dis-
played in our landscaped exhibit. We
can also use a little manpower with set-
ting up the show and sale on June 2. If
you are planning to help with this task,
it would be great if you arrived around
11 a.m. You may come earlier — we
will spend that time organizing the
room and preparing it for the display.

On Friday, June 3, 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. Luncheon
will begin at noon. Lastly, if you would
like to volunteer at our Member’s Ta-
ble, or Holding area, we would love to
have you. We will have a sign-up sheet
at our May 23 meeting. If you would
like to volunteer for the Show weekend,
but are unable to attend the May 23
meeting, please call Mike Twyford
(305) 444-6332 or Tom Moore (305)
666-0219.

Next Meeting
Monday, May 23

At our next meeting, the Tropi-
cal Fern & Exotic Plant Society
presents Glenn Hilton who will
give A Demonstration on Tropi-
cal Bonsai.

The demonstration will include
remarks on styling, root pruning,
care, watering, location and con-
trolling pests. It will be targeted at
the beginner. This should be a
great way to learn about the inspir-
ing culture of Bonsai.

This month’s Raffle Table will
be supplied by John Lucas and
Duane and Rebecca Tan-
nenbaum. Meeting begins around
7:30, see you there.
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2011

President
Mike Twyford (305) 444-6332

Vice President
Marie Nock (305) 232-2257

Secretary
Craig Morell (305) 667-1173

Treasurer
Tom Moore (305) 666-0219

Hospitality
Martha Bogaards (305) 661-2305
Emalyl Israel (305) 235-0886

Special Sales
Marie Nock (305) 232-2257

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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others. Not only does David grow interesting plants, but imparts the knowledge needed to grow them well. David is well know in Broward County for his efforts with the BUSH Club, a group of people dedicated to the Better Understanding of the Study of Horticulture. One of the tactics he likes to use on “needy” plants is to mix up composted pine bark soil conditioner, Micromax micronutrients, and 8-2-12 Palm Special fertilizer, then wet it into a slurry and “slush” it onto a plant. The pine bark acts as an acidifier, allowing the micronutrients and palm fertilizer to do their job even better. David is also a landscape architect, and offered an unusual case in an urban plant setting where some Ligustrum trees had grown poorly in their cramped surroundings. Using a Bonsai tactic, David and his crew pulled soil cores out of the overgrown root balls, adding fresh soil to enliven the root systems. Repeating the tactic year after year in different locations on the root system yielded a lot of happy trees.

David uses Dr. Bronner’s castile soap as an organic pesticide, with few problems otherwise. The program was both educational and entertaining, David left with very few plants to take home, and the visitors had lots of new plants for their gardens.

The meeting ended at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, CPA
Certified Plant Addict
Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society

Show and Sale
June 4 & 5
at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Marjorie Fern Harnett sez: See you at the Show and Sale at Fairchild Garden on June 4 & 5

Raffle Tables for — 2011

May 23, 2011....................................................................John Lucas/Rebecca& Duane Tannenbaum

New Lifetime Member
Sam Pattison
P. O. Box 140712
Staten Island, NY 10314
SRP1967@aol.com

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 Bed of Peacocks  
by John Banta

(This article was originally run in April 2008, we are revisiting some of our favorite articles until Mr. Banta returns.)

Peacocks are synonymous with extravagant displays and it is for this reason that Kaempferia gingers are known as peacock gingers. Their bold patterns produce horticultural displays that remain locked in memories for years. These easily grown natives of Asia are still too uncommonly seen around Miami. One of the few growers of these wonderful gingers is Sid Gardino in Delray Beach and a member of this society. Some people find fault with these neat gingers because they go dormant from around Thanksgiving to Easter. Actually this is a real asset as they need no Winter cold protection and their beds can be treated for weeds with Roundup while they are dormant. They range in size from the big K. ‘Grande’, almost 3 feet tall to the diminutive K. ‘Pygmaeus’ with a few 2 inch leaves appressed close to the ground. They appear to have filled the same ecological niche that the Marantaceae fill in the new world tropics. Like the Marantaceae they sport highly ornamental patterned leaves. There are about 50 species of Kaempferias. But it is rare to encounter more than a few of the more common species such as K. Pulchra, K. Galanga and K. Rotunda. K rotunda is sometimes referred to as Indian Crocus because it flowers in the Spring before it sends any leaves up. The flowers are several inches across and resemble little orchid flowers that they are rather closely related to.

Kaempferias are the most undemanding plants. They do best with a very light application of fertilizer. They normally grow where rainfall is slight and unpredictable. They seem to favor rocky slopes and are perfectly at home in rock gardens as well as flat beds. Peacock gingers are plants that thrive in spite of our hapless efforts. Few other plants offer the visual rewards of “these peacocks of the plant world” and demand so little care. Virtually free from insect pests they require no chemical sprays and little water to make them thrive. The most amazing thing about Kaempferia gingers is that they are so seldom seen in our gardens. Plants as beautiful as these ought to be seen in many more gardens.

Next Meeting, Glenn Hilton — Tropical Bonsai Demonstration, Monday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.

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South Miami, FL 33143