



# Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.

## Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 9

Editor: Reggie Whitehead November 2008

### Auction in Review

Last month, we held our Annual plant auction in the Garden House at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

At 7 p.m. the room was opened to the public to come in and browse and study the many plants that were up for auction this year.

The plants were arranged on several large tables around the room; a room that was filled with interesting Halloween decorations, courtesy of a Halloween party that the Garden held the previous weekend. But strangely, the plants fit right in.

Though not as many plants as in previous years, the room nevertheless had an abundance of very nice specimens for buyers.

As guests made their way around the room, they helped themselves to the assorted refreshments (provided by our hospitality committee, headed by Martha Bogaards and Emaly Israel).

We were fortunate to have Pam and David Barrow manning the sign-in table and keeping track of the bids for the evening.

Our Auctioneer, Tom Moore, was introduced by Reggie Whitehead. Reggie also introduced the "plant runners" for the evening, himself, Debbie Lamb, Mike O'Dea and Argeo Hernandez.

The auction began with fierce bidding. Tom Moore who has been our auctioneer for many years now, masterfully held the evening together, and auctioned off all of the plants within 2 hours.

One of the highlights of the evening was an **Impatiens**. Not just

any **Impatiens**, but a caudexiforme, *Impatiens mirabilis*. This particular **Impatiens**, Reggie told us, can grow approximately 2 feet high, and they have a distinctive caudex base. The bidding on this plant was impressive, and the audience cheered for the buyer when the bidding was completed.

As with all auctions, there will be some bargains, and then there will be some cries of "Did I really pay that much for that?" But at this year's auction, there were lots of excellent plants that went for great prices. One such example was a nice specimen of *Angiotesis angustifolia*, which went for, shall we say, "a song."

This year's assortment of rare trees, hard to come by ferns, specimen hanging baskets, orchids and palms, all were greeted with glee.

There was an assortment of very choice plants and something for almost every taste.

We, of course, acknowledge our own members who donated

### Next Meeting, Monday, November 24

This month, we look at those marvelous tropical looking bromeliads. For this meeting we have invited noted bromeliad grower **Peter Kouchalakos**, who will educate us on *Bromeliad Basics*. We will learn almost everything we need to know, in order to successfully grow these wonderful plants. Also, we are fortunate that our speaker will also be supplying the Raffle Table. See you there, 7:30 p.m.

plants towards the auction. We gratefully thank Sherrin Smith, Steve and Marie Nock, Bob Benaim, Craig Reid, Martha Kent, Debbie Lamb, Ron Weeks, Leigh Elliott, Jeff Chait, Karen Mashburn, Lise Dowd and Steve Forman, Juan Espinosa and Phillip Iloo. Along with the generous plant donations from these members, also came a wealth of knowledge about the different plants being auctioned.

We especially wish to thank Dale Magrew for his plant donation of a *Dioon spinulosa*. Dale, earlier this year made a generous donation to our plant society, and still he helped out with a specimen plant donation.

The society also extends a grateful hand to Bill and Denis Rotolante of Silver Krome Nursery, who, for several seasons now, have been generous donors to our society. This year, they added several **Calathea** species to our auction, along with their usual varieties of flowering **Anthuriums** and **Alocasia** species.

We also thank a new donor, Mark Wilson of Greendale Nursery. Mark was one of our speakers earlier this year, and he has become a terrific friend of the Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society.

Finally, we wish to thank all who contributed so much to the success of our annual fundraiser.

The public always shows up and supports our society, and we are only too happy to offer some of the most interesting plants that our gardens can grow. Thank you for always being there with your great support.

# The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.

## Officers for 2008

### President

Reggie Whitehead (305) 666-0219

### Vice President

Tom Moore (305) 666-0219

### Secretary

Karen Mashburn (305) 661-7488

### Treasurer

Bob Benaim (786) 243-0502

### Hospitality

Martha Bogaards (305) 661-2305

Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886

### Librarian

Juan Espinosa-Almodovar (305) 444-3103

### Raffle Table

Sheila O'Dea (305) 253-4907

Michael O'Dea (305) 253-4907

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

### Trinity Churchside Garden

Behind the Eleventh Street Annex Restaurant

*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!*

### Benches, Pots and Cement Blocks

Dale Magrew has several orchid benches for sale, along with clay and plastic pots and cement blocks that you might use in your garden. Please call him to make an appointment

(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@bellsouth.net

## Message from the President

Hello, it's me, your longest serving president of the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society.

In this, our historic election year of 2008, I too would like to be an advocate for Change.

Now that the 2008 General Elections are over and, we no longer must suffer through ads ad nauseam, may I gently remind you that a new year is almost upon us, and that it is time for us to begin looking for new faces to help with running this exciting and successful plant society?

As usual, all offices are open, and they can be filled by any member of the club.

All of our members are qualified to hold office in this society. This is evidenced by your faithful and long commitment to the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society. Look at it this way, why should we let a few people have all the fun and glory?

With the backing and support of our existing officers, a transfer of leadership will be smooth and effortless. We are in the middle of putting a transition team together to tap some of you on the shoulders, particularly, you shy types.

This plant society does belong to all of us, and while each of us make contributions in so many ways, we can still find time to help out with running the society.

I thank you for all that you have done throughout this year. Last month we held out annual fundraiser, and we did well (\$1600). Our Show and Sale in June was equally successful, thanks to those hardworking members who stepped up, in my absence.

And now, we look towards 2009 with great anticipation, and hopefully a new crop of officers to lead us boldly into the future.

*Annual Holiday Party*

*You and yours are cordially invited to attend our  
Annual Holiday Party*

*This year's Party will be held on  
Friday, December 12 (7 p.m.) at the home of  
Robert and Patty Benaim  
17850 S.W. 280 Street  
Miami, Florida 33031*

*R.S.V.P no later than December 5. Please contact Emalyb Israel  
(305) 235-0886*

**Raffle Tables for 2008 — 2009**

November 24.....	Peter Kouchalakos
December .....	Holiday Party
January 26.....	John Lucas
February 23.....	Tim Anderson
.....	Craig Reid
March 23.....	Richard Button
April 27.....	David McLean
.....	Home Chaovanich and John Banta
May 25.....	Ree Garden

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*Please make check payable to:*

**Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society  
17850 S.W. 280 Street  
Redland, FL 33031-3321**

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

## ***Earl Grey - Mint or Citrus***

*by John Banta*

It is always a shock when a long held concept is shattered by the truth. I had always understood that Earl Grey tea possessed its unique flavor due to the addition of leaves of bergamot (*Monarda didyma*), Boy, was I misinformed.

It seems that the unusual aroma of Earl Grey tea is derived from the oil of a citrus fruit, *Citrus bergamia*. This citrus seems to be a hybrid between a seville orange and a pear shaped lemon and got its name from the town in Italy, Bergamo where it was grown for its fragrant oil used in the perfume industry. It would be neat to grow this citrus in Florida

but it's quite sensitive to cold weather and cannot stand the low acid limestone of the Miami area.

While we're on the subject of tea (an infusion of fermented leaves of *Camellia sinensis*— ***Black tea***), there are many different kinds of tea, green, oolong and white. In fact the subject of tea is so extensive that any attempt to discuss it in a short article is sheer folly. So please forgive me for leaving you on your own to Google tea if you are interested. Next time "***How the Economy Changed My Garden***".

***Next Meeting, Bromeliad Basics with Peter Kouchalakos, Mon., November 24; 7:30 p.m***

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