



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 9

Editor: Reggie Whitehead November 2009

October in Review

On Monday, October 26, 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.

As guests arrived to preview the many tropical plants at the auction, they were also greeted by a full and welcoming refreshment tables. Our hospitality hostesses Emaly Israel and Martha Bogaards, planned a feast for hungry guests. We must also extend a thank you to all of the members who brought in goodies for the goodies table.

Guests did not know whether to first head to the registration table or the refreshment tables or the plant tables. So many wonderful choices to choose from.

We were fortunate to have Patty and Bob Benaim at the registration and cashier table. The Benaims registered guests, kept track of the bids for the evening, and also acted as cashiers for the evening.

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

The evening had many beautiful, quality specimens. Once again, we were generously helped out by Patricia Bullis of Bullis Bromeliads. This year, Bullis donated three handsome specimen-sized plants includ-

ing a highly sought after *Alcantarea odorata*, a very handsome *Aechmea Harvey's Pride*, and the always striking *Aechmea 'Blue Tango'*.



Aechmea 'Blue Tango'

(Review continued on page 2)

Next Meeting, Monday Nov. 23

This meeting we present **Duane Petersen** who will discuss growing and propagating Maidenhair ferns and Boston Ferns. Duane is one the leading growers of these types of ferns, and he will be with us to teach us how to grow them better. (This is a rare opportunity to purchase some of the rarer Boston fern cultivars and maidenhair ferns.)

The evening's Raffle table will be supplied by Peter and Clara Kouchalakos. With Duane's fancy ferns and Peter and Clara's fancy bromeliads, what a great meeting this will be. See you at 7:30 p.m.

Message from the President

Happy Birthday to the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society!

What an exciting 10 years we've had. Our plant society is 10 years old. The people we've met, the things we've learned, the talks, the programs, the auctions, the show and sales, the book-signings, the field-trips, etc. What an exciting time for all of us.

Things are changing for all of us, and why should our society be any different. Once again, we are putting out our feelers for new blood to run our very successful plant society.

We have formed a nominating committee: Tom Moore, Steve Forman and Lise Dowd, who have been asking members to take the helm and lead this great 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?

This plant society does belong to each of us, and many have contributed beautifully over the past 10 years. I am delighted that you stayed with us and lent your voice, talents, time and support. We look forward to seeing all of you in the future, and remember, this is your plant society — and we gladly welcome any time that you are able to give us. Here's to another 10 GREAT years.

Reggie Whitehead

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.

Officers for 2009

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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
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
	Craig Reid	(305) 251-0143
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

Another of our perennial donors, Silver Krome Nursery (Bill and Denis Rotolante), donated several beautiful aroids and **Calatheas**.

Palm grower extraordinaire De Hull donated several very special-palms, as did our own Dr. Jeff Chait.

Our plant donations came from everywhere, including orchids from New York member Michael Riley and a very nice **Sobrelia** orchid (courtesy of Ecuagenera of Ecuador) which fetched a very high price at the beginning of the evening.

Note here, members who have not attended our auctions in the past — you've really missed out on some great plants at GREAT prices.

This year, fern grower Larry Johnston brought approximately 15 ferns such as *Platyserium stemaria*, *Pseudodrynaria coronarium* and a couple of very nice specimens of **Davallia** and **Pyrrosia** species. His many ferns were very popular and caused several bidding wars.

As always with our auction, there were lots of plants from different plant groups. Other popular items were several flowering trees donated by Dolores Fugina and Richard Button.

From the extraordinary collection of Marie and Steve Nock (Ree Gardens), we received several beautiful specimens.

Once again, we gratefully thank the following members who generously donated their time, plants, and expertise towards making our 2009 auction a resounding success: Emalyl Israel, Martha Bogaards, Sherrin Smith, Nichole Kleinhaus, Brenda Martinez, Ann Marie Scherr, Georgia Tasker, Sandy Schulz, Steve and Marie Nock, Bob Mills, Bob Benaim, Craig Reid, David McLean, Richard Button, Dolores Fugina, De Hull, Denis and Bill Rotolante, Patricia Bullis, Vivian Waddell, Michael Riley, Ecuagenera, Martha Kent, Larry Johnston, Argeo Hernandez and Reggie Whitehead.

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New Members

Samuel and Barbara Reiser
1779 Tigertail Avenue
Miami, FL 33133
(305) 213-0157
S_Reiser@bellsouth.net

2009 Ramble at Fairchild Garden November 20, 21 and 22

Remember: This year's Ramble will begin on a Friday. If you are able to volunteer at our Society booth, please contact Marie Nock: (305) 232-2257.

Holiday Party

You are cordially invited to attend our Annual Holiday Party. This year's festivities will take place at the beautiful home of Sally and Jim Jude.

*The date is Tuesday, **December 22**, 7:30 p.m., the address, 200 Edgewater Drive, Coral Gables, FL. RSVP no later than December 17. Please contact Emahyl Israel - (305) 235-0886*

Raffle Tables for 2009—2010

November 23	Peter Kouchalakos
December	Holiday Party
January 25	John Lucas
February 22	Tim Anderson
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: _____

Name of additional member: _____

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Phone: _____ **Amount enclosed: \$** _____

Our Future with GMO

by John Banta

Luddites were individuals who distrusted mechanical progress in 17th century England.

We have a similar situation today with the introduction of genetically modified crops. The derisive term “frankenfoods” is used by some technophobes to demean some of the agricultural progress that is solving many human problems. For instance, 40% of the children under 5 in third-world countries suffer severe health problems due to the lack of Vitamin A in their diet. Genetically modified rice “Golden rice” is the result of only adding 2 genes to the rice plant so that its normally produced beta carotene accumulates in the rice grains. Not such a big deal. Did you know that carrots were purple or white before a Dutch horticulturist bred orange ones

to honor the House of Orange-Nassau? GMO is genetically modified organisms.

Man’s ability to modify plants is in the process of great advancement. Cotton is a widely grown crop not only for the fibers but also for the high quality oil. The seeds contain amounts of gossypol that is used by the plant to resist insects. Unfortunately, the cotton seed meal that contains high amounts of proteins is only used in certain animal feed due to the presence of gossypol. When genetics removes the gossypol from the seed millions of tons of protein will become available for hungry humans. All tools have the potential for great good as well as harm. We should reject the Luddite urge and embrace the cleverness our creator graced us with.

Next Meeting, Duane Petersen: Maidenhair and Boston Ferns, Monday, November 23; 7:30 p.m

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

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