September in Review

Speaker- Tom Moore
Topic- Fern Morphology
Treasurer’s report: balance — $13, 289.04
Hospitality-Brenda Martinez, Marie Nock, Martha Bogaard, Emalyl Israel

President Mike Twyford called the meeting to order at—7:45
meeting ended at—9:10 p.m.

Tom Moore is one of the founders of the Tropical Fern and Exotic Plant Society some 10 years ago. He started his program by saying that many people had the misconception about ferns that they were delicate plants. Many ferns are not only un-delicate, but as large as small trees! Many tree fern species grow to 20 feet or more in height, some are twice that height.

Ferns are distinguished from other vascular plants by propagating by spores and by having complex vascular systems. The spores are single cells, and go through several stages of growth, changing their appearance in the process, before they become adult ferns.

Tom brought in an amazing array of ferns for display, from the very lacy-looking Adiantum maidenhair ferns to a beefy Angiopteris angustifolia, which has the potential to grow to a 20 foot diameter monster, 10 to 20 feet tall. Tom pointed out that Adiantums can be distinguished by their black stems, called stipes.

There are several basic fern frond types: simple, pinnate, bipinnate, palmate, and variants therein.

Some of the species he brought in were the simple (and thin) frond fern, Campyloneurum angustifolium “Crinkled,” as well as C. phyllitidis, a Florida native, with its broad, simple, lance-like fronds.

He brought in another Florida native, Tectaria heracleifolia, also known as the Halberd fern.

Under the “exotic” and rare category, Tom talked about several specimens. One interesting fern, Microsorum latilobatum, a native of New Caledonia. This fern, had a unique fern shape, it’s fronds resembled the letter “Y”, a shape not easily encountered in the fern world.

Another unique fern Tom brought in was Colysis digitata, a North Viet Nam native. Tom mentioned that this fern was a gift from John Banta who had visited North (Review continued on page 2)

Annual Plant Auction Monday, October 25

It is almost time for our wonderful, Annual Plant Auction. Our auction will once again be held at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, on Monday, October 25, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

People all over South Florida look forward to our auction, and we don’t want to disappoint them.

Members are asked to participate in our annual fundraiser.

To add to our collection we are also asking our usual friends at nurseries and plant shops to participate. Their generosity in the past has been tremendous and it is only matched by our own members’ generosity.

Your donations may be of any plant of your choosing. Whether it is a fern, bromeliad, heliconia, aroid, flowering tree, orchid, or any plant that you feel would be a nice addition to our line-up of special plants. Please have plants at the garden no later than 6:30 p.m. so that they may be arranged.

If you are not able to donate a plant to the auction, we still hope you will come out and support us with your presence. To make things easier for purchase, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

Our hospitality committee has planned a wonderful repast for us. If you would like to bring something for the refreshment table, please contact Emalyl Israel (305) 235-0886 or Martha Bogaards (305) 661-2305.

ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
October 25
Come and support the society.
7 p.m. - Preview
7:30 p.m. — Auction
The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2010

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

Viet Nam several years ago. *C. digitata* has an interesting digitate frond shape, resembling the 
“fingers of a hand.”

*Helminthostachys zeylanica,* was another specialty of the eve-
ing. Tom mentioned that this rarely-cultivated fern is mono-typic, 
and a member of the *Ophioglos-sun* family. The fern arises from a 
small creeping rhizome, on a slen-
der stem, with a single almost-
digitate frond, and the fertile spike 
arises out of the center of the frond — the Malayans call it : *Tunjuk langit* — “pointing to the sky.”

Trinity Churchside Garden

*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!*

There are ferns for almost any culti-
vation scheme, and ferns can be 
aquatic, terrestrial, epiphytic and 
almost any variant in between, 
sometimes bridging two or more 
ecotypes.

Tom brought in an impressive 
specimen of *Platycerium wandae* 
one of the largest of the staghorn 
fern group. Earlier this year, it had 
pulled away from its rotting mount-
ing board, and had fallen to the 
ground. However, he had remem-
ber reading in an old fern journal 
how people had sought to save their 
downed specimens.

(Redvant continued from page 1)
Using a carpenter saw he cut away the dead back section of the fern and mounted it on a new mounting board, affixing it tightly with heavy fishing line. The plant recovered nicely, and is on its way to growing the 6 and 7 foot long sterile and fertile fronds for which it’s known. Nothing delicate about this plant!

Tom concluded his program by showcasing the diversity of ferns, their morphology, and their adaptability. President Mike Twyford closed the meeting at 9:15.

Tom has presented many programs in the past and is always entertaining and educational, a tough combination to find in the plant world these days.

The raffle table was not presented this evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, CPA
Certifiable Plant Addict

Raffle Tables for 2010 — 2011

October 25 ............................................ ................................................... . Annual Auction
November 22, 2010 ............................................................................................. Peter Kouchalakos
December 2010 ..................................................................................................... Holiday Party
January 24, 2011 .................................................................................................. Sid Gardino
February 28, 2011 ............................................................................................... Tim Anderson/Redland Nursery
March 28, 2011 .................................................................................................... Steve Nock/Philip Iloo
April 25, 2011 ............................................................................................ David McLean/Craig Reid
May 23, 2011 ........................................................................................................ John Lucas/Rebecca& Duane Tannenbaum

On the Mend

Wishing Tim Anderson (Palm Hammock Orchid Estates), a speedy recovery.

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: $_____________
Giant’s Shoulders
by John Banta

A good plant friend died recently and I was asked to help dispose of his library. Unfortunately a leaky roof had damaged some of the books. One of those was Exotica. As I assessed the damage to this famous book I realized the debt we all owe to the author. Alfred Byrd Graf’s horticultural interests began at the Botanical Gardens of Vienna and grew as he moved from the California orchid nursery, Armacost and Royston to the New Jersey rose nursery, Bobbink and Atkins and finally his own greenhouses in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Even though he had no formal degree, his contributions to horticulture continue to shine through the ages. The first edition of Exotica was published in 1957 subsequent editions have grown in both size and popularity to the over 13 pound, 1900 page tenth edition. It has become the "must have" book for any lover of tropical plants. The newest Exotica is published in a 2 volume set to overcome the binding problems attendant with such huge and weighty books. The lack of color pictures in the Exotica books was answered in 1978 with the first edition of Tropica. With only 1120 pages it was not as comprehensive as Exotica but the color was a great addition. Graf’s Exotic Plant Manual is like a much condensed form of Exotica with only 840 pages; it is not only less expensive but easier to lug around. Alfred Graf used a Leica and a Nikon to do his work. Next time: Giants who worked with brushes but never painted anything.

Next Meeting, Monday, October 25, Annual Plant Auction, 7:00 p.m.

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

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