



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 8

Editor: Reggie Whitehead October 2010

September in Review

Speaker- Tom Moore

Topic- Fern Morphology

Treasurer's report: balance —
\$13, 289.04

Hospitality-Brenda Martinez, Marie
Nock, Martha Bogaard, Emaly 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 founder 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 distin-

guished 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, **Microsorium 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 **Emaly 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

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(Review continued from page 1)

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 evening. Tom mentioned that this rarely-cultivated fern is mono-typic, and a member of the **Ophioglossum** family. The fern arises from a small creeping rhizome, on a slender stem, with a single almost-digitate frond, and the fertile spike arises out of the center of the frond — the Malaysians call it : *Tunjuk langit* — “pointing to the sky.”



Helminthostachys zeylanica

There are ferns for almost any cultivation 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 *Platycterium wandae* one of the largest of the staghorn fern group. Earlier this year, it had pulled away from its rotting mounting board, and had fallen to the ground. However, he had remember reading in an old fern journal how people had sought to save their downed specimens.

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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!

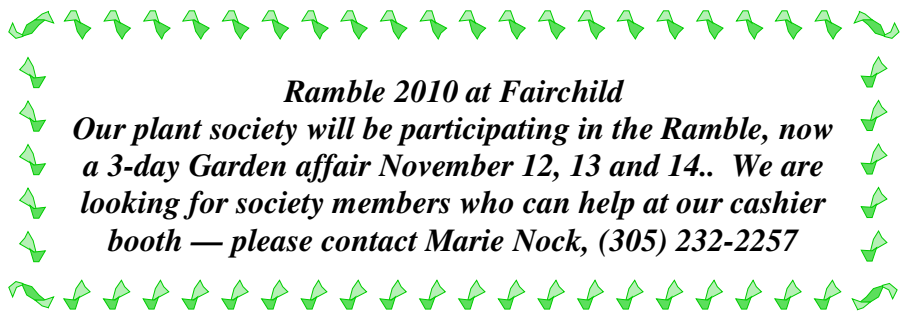
Tom concluded his program by showcasing the diversity of ferns, their morphology, and their adaptability. President Mike Twyford closed the meeting at 9:15.

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.

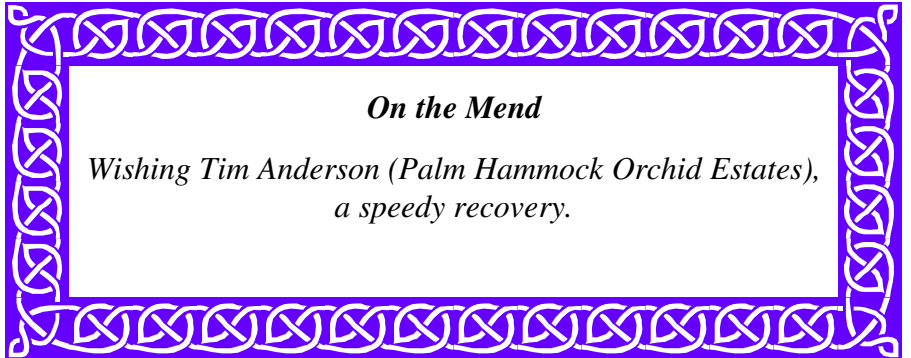
Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, CPA
Certifiable Plant Addict



Ramble 2010 at Fairchild

Our plant society will be participating in the Ramble, now a 3-day Garden affair November 12, 13 and 14.. We are looking for society members who can help at our cashier booth — please contact Marie Nock, (305) 232-2257



On the Mend

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

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

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 edi-

tions 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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