June in Review

Date—June 26
Speaker John Banta
Topic- The Realm of the Peacocks
Treasurer’s report balance—$14,385.31
President Mike Twyford called the meeting to order at— 7:50
Hospitality-Emalyl Israel, Martha Bogaard, Marie Nock
Raffle provided by—Larry and Glenda Weed, Anne-Marie Scherr, Bob Benaim
Meeting ended at—9:20

John Banta has been growing and collecting gingers, aroids, and a dazzling array of odd and unusual plants for nearly 50 years. His expertise seems limitless, and tonight he spoke primarily on the Kaempferias and allied genera of Thailand. With the help of dueling slide projectors, 2 carousels of slides, and an extensive handout, John did service to a large group of plants that deserve more attention in the horticulture trades. Some of the many dozens of species have kaleidoscope foliage, while some allied genera such as Siphonochilus have large richly colored flowers.

Some of the slides John had showed us were plants in their native habitat, one species had leaves as large as a platter! John mentioned that discovering this plant was one of the greater moments in his life. There are myriad subtle differences in these genera, and that in many instances they represent a spectrum of differences which may be highly related, in that every valley and mountain range has subtle (sometimes rather bold) differences in a given species. This can be expanded to say that even very distinctly different species may be anciently related, with only cosmetic differences showing up overtly.

John has produced, collected, and hybridized dozens of plants for modern horticulture, ranging from Impatiens through gingers and aroids. One of his better Kaempferia creations is called “Raven”, and has striking dark feather patterns on upright silver-green foliage. Although many species in this genus go dormant briefly, the foliage and

(Review continued on page 2)

Next Meeting, Monday, September 27

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents Tom Moore who will speak on the morphology or shapes of ferns. Tom is one of the founders of our plant society as well as its treasurer.

Tom will bring in plants to illustrate the diversity of ferns that he has in his own collection.

This month’s Raffle Table is supplied by Richard Button and Dolores Fugina. See you there — 7:30 p.m.

Tricia Frank

Sadly, on June 25, we lost a beloved and important member of our horticultural community. Tricia Frank, mentored and encouraged many of us in the plant world.

We all learned much from this remarkable and beautiful woman. When I first began coming to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, I would see Tricia everywhere, at any time, always busy with the Garden’s business. She volunteered at Fairchild in almost every capacity. Later in her life she became a devoted employee of the Garden.

Tricia was also very active in many plant societies, including our own. One year she and her husband Chayo hosted our Annual Holiday Party at their architecturally stunning home. Tricia, we will greatly miss you — Reggie Whitehead
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

Trinity Churchside Garden
Landscape Design, Consulting;
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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

Visit us at: www.tfeps.org

In Memoriam

Our member Dr. Dave Anderson passed away on Tuesday, August 10. Approximately 1 week prior, Dave had fallen and suffered massive head trauma. Dave was one of the charter members of our plant club. Dave was quite generous to our society in the past, especially during our auction.

With his passing, his generosity has increased our library, with the addition of many of his plant books, including the Encyclopaedia of Ferns (David L. Jones), Chamaedorea Palms (Donald R. Hodel), Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas (Henderson, Galeano and Bernal), Genera Palmarum (Uhl and Dransfield).

Dave was 89 years old. —
Reggie Whitehead
New Lifetime Member

Nick Marchand
4551 N. W. 15th Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

New Members

Ron & Jackie Arrick
5100 60th Street, East Lot D-17
Bradenton, FL 34203
(941) 727-3293
rlarrick@hotmail.com

Eugene Tannenbaum & Gloria Lee
6230 S. W. 83rd Avenue
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 271-1722
Gloleek@comcast.net

Theresa Chormanski
1655 S. W. 10th Street
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 804-2677
theresameis@yahoo.com

Annual Plant Auction
Monday, October 25
7 p.m.
Get those plants ready!

Raffle Tables for 2010 — 2011

September 27 ................................................................. Richard Button and Dolores Fugina
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

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: _____________________________________________

Street Address: _________________________________________________________

City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip + 4: _______ + ______

E-mail: ________________________________ Amount enclosed: $_________

Phone: ________________________________
The Shadow Knows
by John Banta

When I was a kid I used to listen to a radio program called “The Shadow”. My memory of it was jogged while I was talking to an old timer about growing greenhouse plants. I asked his opinion about fertilizers: “is urea as good a source for nitrogen as nitrates or ammonia?” He responded as follows, “Son, there are so many different fertilizers on the market today to respond to the multitude of growing conditions and various plants that you have to have a PhD to make a wise choice. But I’ll give you some good advice that I got years ago when I asked “what is the best fertilizer?”

The best fertilizer is the grower’s shadow. The dumb look on my face let him know that I had no idea what he was talking about. He was a good teacher as well as a good grower so he explained that plants cannot communicate with us so it is incumbent on the grower to observe and detect problems while they are minor. Look for mites before you see their silken strands, knock a plant out of its pot and check the roots and move plants that show signs of water or light stress. The grower is far more important than the blend of fertilizer.

Next Meeting, Monday, September 27, Tom Moore on the Morphology of Ferns, 7:30 p.m.

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

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