



# *Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.*

## *Newsletter*

Volume 11, Issue 4

Editor: Reggie Whitehead April 2009

### **March in Review**

The March 23 meeting of the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society was called to order at 7:45 PM by president, Reggie Whitehead.

He announced that the Board of Directors of the society, met earlier in the evening and discussed several items. One was that we would be sponsoring Gil Nelson, author of *Florida Ferns* on September 28. He also announced that Marie Nockwill chair the Spring Sale April 26 for the Society.

Reggie thanked our new webmaster, Bob Benaim for updating and taking care of the [www.tfeps.org](http://www.tfeps.org) website, which now features a calendar of upcoming events, and you will also be able to view past newsletters.

The society will also be sending future newsletters by e-mail (Please see article: *Electronic Newsletters*).

The Editor of our newsletter thanked Ralph Hernandez for supplying the refreshments for our February meeting, his wonderful refreshment table was inadvertently omitted in the March newsletters. The Raffle table was provided by speaker, Dolores Fugina and Richard Button of Bloomin' Good Flowering Tree Nursery.

Richard Button gave a brief description of the many plants on the raffle table. A few of these species were a Japanese gardenia. A Jamaican nutmeg, a New Guinea mosquito tree, a Golden [grafted] gardenia with creamy white flower that slowly turns orange, similar to the different shades of the, *Yester-*

*day, Today and Tomorrow* plant.

Tom Moore, our new Treasurer gave our balance of \$18,693.72. (Reggie mentioned that our Secretary, Karen Mashburn could not attend the meeting this evening, and he asked Sherrin Smith to fill in.)

Lastly, Reggie was thanked for providing the evening's refreshments which included homemade bar-b-cued shredded brisket.

#### **Speaker**

Dolores Fugina's topic was *The Romance of Fragrance*.

Her program evolved from a 3 AM dream one morning. Out of bed to the kitchen and wrote down how perfumes are an integral part of life.

Scents were already in use at the time of the Wise Men who brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh as gifts for the baby Jesus .

The history of fragrances in-

*(Review continued on page 2)*

### **Next Meeting, Monday, April 27**

This month we present Mr. Larry Cox who will speak on *Tropical Slipper Orchids*, or **Paphiopedalum Orchids**. Everyone has seen these interesting orchids, and now you can learn how to cultivate and admire your own.

The Raffle Table will be supplied by David McLean, John Banta and Home Chaovanich.

And, there will also be orchids for purchase as well. See you there!; 7:30 p.m.

### **Electronic Newsletters?**

The Board of TFEPS has approved a motion to move into the 21st century. You will now have the option of receiving your newsletter, electronically, via a PDF file or continue receiving it through the U.S. Mail.

We realize that there are some members who do not have an e-mail address and they will still receive a "hard copy" of the Newsletter. We already have e-mail addresses for those members who have sent in their renewal information along with their dues over the past few years . We will be using those addresses as our database for our electronic mailing list. If you have not sent us your e-mail address, please forward it to our [tfeps1@aol.com](mailto:tfeps1@aol.com) account. We already have those members who have sent in their renewal info over the past few years. We are mailing out the April newsletter via U.S. Mail. We are hoping to begin our electronic newsletter in May 2009.

Many of us who belong to several other plant societies, are already receiving newsletters via e-mail. (After receiving your Newsletter on your computer, if you want a paper copy, you can easily print it out).

Each month we spend approximately \$200 in printing and mailing. Over the course of a year, this is approximately \$2000. (And there is the untold hours of those who put together and mail the newsletter.)

If you do not have the PDF software from Adobe, it is free and easy to add to your computer. Here is a link to download it: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>



## Show and Sale 2009

Can you believe it, our Annual Show & Sale is almost here, June 6 and 7.

All members are encouraged to participate in the show which will take place once again in the Garden House at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. There will be ribbons awarded in several major categories. This year's show will feature a landscaped setting, with our plants as the focal point.

There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons, for not only ferns, but also for flowering plants as well. Larger rosettes will be awarded to **Best Native Plant, Best Flowering Plant, Best Fern, Most Unusual Plant** and **Best in Show**. We are awarding a special ribbon, **Sweepstakes**, for the most Blue Ribbons awarded to an individual.

Members may bring in plants on Thursday, June 4 beginning at 10 a.m. Your plants will need to have Plant Entry Cards and a Plant Entry Sheet. You may pick up cards at the May meeting, or on June 4 when you bring your plants in.

All plants must be identified before they are entered for display. If you are unsure of the botanical name, someone will be there to help you on June 4. All members are encouraged to participate in the display. Judging will be on a fair scale affording both the novice and seasoned grower a chance to win awards.

While there will no doubt be many ferns entered, there will be major awards given to non-fern plants as well.

The success of this show depends on the generous nature of our members, who by the way made the past shows so

successful.

All you will need to bring are your plants, we handle them from that point on. You will need to come back on Sunday after the show to collect your ribbons and plants.

Remember, we will begin accepting plants at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 4. You may bring plants in, up until 7 p.m. that evening. If you need help in getting a plant to the garden, please let Tom Moore know (305) 666-0219. We will try to accommodate all reasonable requests.

### Grooming Plants

It is never too late to discuss some of the basics. Our show will have an easy judging standard, however, we still require that plants be as free as possible from glaring blemishes. This means, no pests and no leaves or fronds that are severely marred by pests. Plants will be judged on quality, appropriate number of leaves or



flowers, or (in the case of ferns) fronds on a specimen.

Small plants, or young plants certainly should be entered in the

show, reasonable care should be made to show them off to their best advantage. This rule of thumb also applies to older, mature plants. Plants should be well-supported and established on their mountings or pots (if terrestrials).

When transporting plants to the show, particular care should be given so that important foliage is not damaged. Wrapping plants in newspaper and plastic helps reduce damage and breakage of award-winning specimens. If you are transporting a hanging basket of ferns where the rhizomes have covered the base of the basket, you might want to use a plastic crate to rest the bulk of the plant in so that you do not damage the rhizomes. Also, you could place cushions of wadded up newspaper underneath the plant to keep the fronds from being crushed.

### Display Plants

If you have signed up as a vendor, your display plants also will need to be brought in on Thursday, June 4, beginning at 10 a.m. More information for vendors is covered in the vendor packets (being sent out very soon). Since our vendor's plants will be an essential part of the display, it is imperative that these plants be at the Garden in a timely manner so that they may be incorporated into the design — your show designer will be extremely grateful.

Other member's display plants may also be brought in during this period.

### Selling Plants — Member's Table

Members wishing to sell through the Member's Table will be able to bring their plants in on Friday, June 5 and Saturday morning, June 6 **before** 9 a.m.

Members may bring in up to 30 plants per day.

Your plants **MUST** be double tagged. One tag will go to the cashier (please mark your tag with your initials) and one tag remains with the plant. The society collects 15% of your sales. Member's participating on the Member's Table will be mailed a check from our Treasurer, shortly after the weekend sale. If you are interested in selling through the Member's table, please contact Leigh Elliott (305) 255-7481.

### **Volunteers Needed**

The society will need volunteers to help with the show and sale.

When you bring your plants in on Thursday, we will be setting up the show. If you can spare some free time, our show designers would welcome your help with arranging the exhibit. We will be arranging the display from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

We will need volunteers to sit at our Membership Table (passing out literature, greeting guests, etc.) and volunteers are needed to man the holding area. Volunteers are also needed to monitor the display and answer questions (to the best of your ability, no training required). This also serves to keep plants out of harms way.

We are hoping that you will be able to put in a little time in some capacity. We will not need you for the entire weekend, just an hour or two. There will be a sign-up sheet at the May meeting, or call Tom Moore (305) 666-0219 or e-mail: [tommoore7@aol.com](mailto:tommoore7@aol.com).

Fairchild has also changed its policy for free entrance for society members. If you are a member of the Garden you are automatically admitted free. If you are a member of the society and are working for the show, you will be able to attend for free, if not you will be charged the general admission price for the Garden, \$20.00.

This show and sale, will be another great experience for us. Please participate in any way you can. We would love to have your plants in the display, or your time as a volunteer.

On Friday, June 5, volunteers, are of course invited to attend our Appreciation Luncheon. If you would like to bring something for the Appreciation Luncheon, please contact either Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886 or Martha Bogaards (305) 661-2305.

This is a luncheon that is set up amidst the backdrop of the display, "food among the plants," so to speak. Our luncheon will begin at 1 p.m., prior to judging of the show.

Our Show and Sale has become extremely important to us, and being the only plant show in South Florida that brings in so many tropical plants in one giant display, we will work hard once again to put our best face forward.

This year we have approximately 12 vendors all bringing in various species from a variety of places, including Thailand, Malaysia, and The Philippines.

Last year's sale brought in many new species of plants that were not in cultivation. Our Show and Sale is the perfect venue for getting new plant material. We will still have the plants you've always loved, and the plants that have eluded you in the past. The bottom line is, please come, and tell your neighbors and friends. And, while at the Garden, take the time to look around and enjoy Fairchild. There is a dedicated shuttle that runs between the new Visitor's Center and the Garden House, this will also help you get your plants back to your vehicle. There will also be porters who will be standing by to help you as well.

Please arrange your schedules so that you are able to participate during the show weekend. Even if you are unable to enter a plant, or volunteer some time, please drop by to support the society, your presence will mean a lot to us. See you in just a few weeks.

**See you at the Show and Sale**

***Honorary Members***

The Board of Directors met on March 23, and decided to add another level of membership for distinguished service to our society. We are pleased to announce that our first **Honorary Members** will be Barbara Joe Hoshizaki and John Banta.

Barbara is a charter member of our society, and a noted authority on ferns. Her extensive and distinguished body of work has helped legions of, not only fern enthusiasts, but plant people as well.

We also acknowledge our newsletter columnist John Banta, whose witty, insightful and always useful columns about horticulture, enlighten us about the plants we grow and should be growing.

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, extends a big thank you to both Barbara Joe Hoshizaki and John Banta for their never tiring support of our society.

***New Members***

Jan Kelley and Susan Fortunow  
10605 S. W. 124 Street  
Miami, FL 33176  
(305) 256-9404  
JKelley501@yahoo.com

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Spring Sale**

If you would like to sell some of your plants through the Tropical Fern and Exotic Plants Society's booth during Fairchild's Spring Sale on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, please contact Marie Nock for details. Her email is [snock1@earthlink.net](mailto:snock1@earthlink.net); her phone is 305 232-2257.

**Raffle Tables for 2009**

April 27 ..... David McLean  
..... Home Chaovanich and John Banta  
May 25 ..... Ree Garden  
..... John Lucas

*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.

**Members Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of additional member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip + 4:** \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*The Unseen Worms*

by John Banta

Years ago I could drive by many acres of farm land covered with plastic sheets as Methyl bromide was injected into the soil to kill nematodes and other noxious pests of tomato plants. I looked at nematodes as a curse upon agriculture when I harvested my carrots and found that nematodes had caused the tap root to become very branched and useless. As a plant inspector I was aware of the many regulations to prevent the spread of nematodes. I had no reason to view nematodes as anything other than pests. Fortunately, as we grow older we find our attitudes mellow out due to more information entering our views. With an estimated half a million species of nematodes they all can't be bad. In fact the beneficial species are remarkable. Many insect problems (such as

fleas) are best fixed using nematodes. I now think of nematodes as mobile hypodermic needles that inject lethal bacteria into the bodies of many soil larvae (beetles, flies and moths). These beneficial nematodes are available for about \$10-15 per million. They provide an effective option to the use of chemical control.

I urge you to explore the world of beneficial nematodes on the web. It has been said that if the entire earth was rendered invisible except for nematodes there would remain a ghost-like image of virtually everything.. I have become a nematode convert. Known as "the worm" to scientists it has opened the way to understanding the genetic symphony of development.

*Next Meeting, Tropical Slipper Orchids — Larry Cox, Mon., April 27; 7:30 p.m*

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