



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.

Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 5

Editor: Reggie Whitehead May 2011

April in Review

Speaker: David McLean-owner, Trinity Churchside Garden, formerly an educator at Nova Southeastern University, and raconteur extraordinaire.

Topic- New and Interesting Plants for 2011

Treasurer's report balance
\$11, 510.48

President Twyford called meeting to order at — 7:45.

Hospitality- refreshments by Martha Bogaard and Emaly Israel

Raffle provided by—David McLean

Meeting ended at —9:15 p.m.

Marie Nock introduced the speaker, David McLean and wife Penny, who showed several dozen new plants, and offered them for sale, in a most creative marketing technique of sell-as-you-orate about them. David is a most talented and creative speaker, always drawing a good crowd who come to get educated, as well as have a good laugh. David has been a teacher for nearly 30 years, and has a stunning ability to orate with a verbal flourish that leaves crowds with the knowledge that they have learned a great deal,

but perhaps not knowing why until they get home.

David brought in a wide array of plants, both native and exotic, with the forethought of handing out a list of what plants were available, and at what prices. His background as a teacher and professor served him well. He brought in 2 tables full of plants, including:

Zea perennis- variegated corn, growing to about 4 feet tall, a new **Phlox** variety via Carol Troendle of Ball Seed experience, a Thai spineless bougainvillea., a very rare native Satinwood Tree, 2 plants of our native Limber Caper, and a host of

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Next Meeting

Monday, May 23

At our next meeting, the Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents **Glenn Hilton** who will give **A Demonstration on Tropical Bonsai**.

The demonstration will include remarks on styling, root pruning, care, watering, location and controlling pests. It will be targeted at the beginner. This should be a great way to learn about the inspiring culture of Bonsai.

This month's Raffle Table will be supplied by **John Lucas** and **Duane and Rebecca Tannenbaum**. Meeting begins around 7:30, see you there.

It's Show Time

In just a few short weeks, we will sponsor our Annual Show and Sale.

We are feverishly preparing last minute details for the Show and Sale on June 5th and 6th at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

A few reminders: We need your plants in order to make our show and sale fantastic. You may pick up Plant Entry Cards Entry Sheets at the May 23 meeting, OR, you may pick them up and fill them out when you bring in your display plant(s) on Thursday, June 2. All plants are welcome.

We will be at the Garden from 10:00 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please try to have your plants there early so that they may be properly and beautifully displayed in our landscaped exhibit. We can also use a little manpower with setting up the show and sale on June 2. If you are planning to help with this task, it would be great if you arrived around 11 a.m. You may come earlier — we will spend that time organizing the room and preparing it for the display.

On Friday, June 3, we will have our Appreciation Luncheon. Members who have donated their time in setting up the Show and Sale are honored at this luncheon. We would love to have as many members as possible attend. It is our *Feast among the Plants*. Luncheon will begin at noon. Lastly, if you would like to volunteer at our Member's Table, or Holding area, we would love to have you. We will have a sign-up sheet at our May 23 meeting. If you would like to volunteer for the Show weekend, but are unable to attend the May 23 meeting, please call Mike Twyford (305) 444-6332 or Tom Moore (305) 666-0219.

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2011

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
	Emaly 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;
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!

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(Review continued from page 1)

others. Not only does David grow interesting plants, but imparts the knowledge needed to grow them well. David is well know in Broward County for his efforts with the BUSH Club, a group of people dedicated to the Better Understanding of the Study of Horticulture. One of the tactics he likes to use on “needy” plants is to mix up composted pine bark soil conditioner, Micromax micronutrients, and 8-2-12 Palm Special fertilizer, then wet it into a slurry and “slush” it onto a plant. The pine bark acts as an acidifier, allowing the micronutrients and palm fertilizer to do their job even better. David is also a landscape architect, and offered an unusual case in an urban plant setting where some Ligustrum trees had grown poorly in their cramped surroundings. Using a Bonsai tactic, David and his crew pulled soil cores out of the overgrown root-balls, adding fresh soil to enliven the root systems. Repeating the tactic year after year in different locations on the root system yielded a lot of happy trees.

David uses Dr. Bronner’s castile soap as an organic pesticide, with few problems otherwise. The program was both educational and entertaining, David left with very few plants to take home, and the visitors had lots of new plants for their gardens.

The meeting ended at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Morell, CPA
Certified Plant Addict

New Lifetime Member

*Sam Pattison
P. O. Box 140712
Staten Island, NY 10314
SRP1967@aol.com*



Marjorie Fern Harnett sez: See you at the Show and Sale at Fairchild Garden on June 4 & 5

*Tropical Fern
& Exotic Plant Society*

Show and Sale

June 4 & 5

at Fairchild Tropical
Botanic Garden

Raffle Tables for — 2011

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: \$ _____

A Bed of Peacocks

by John Banta

(This article was originally run in April 2008, we are revisiting some of our favorite articles until Mr. Banta returns.)

Peacocks are synonymous with extravagant displays and it is for this reason that **Kaempferia** gingers are known as peacock gingers. Their bold patterns produce horticultural displays that remain locked in memories for years. These easily grown natives of Asia are still too uncommonly seen around Miami. One of the few growers of these wonderful gingers is Sid Gardino in Delray Beach and a member of this society. Some people find fault with these neat gingers because they go dormant from around Thanksgiving to Easter. Actually this is a real asset as they need no Winter cold protection and their beds can be treated for weeds with Roundup while they are dormant. They range in size from the big **K. 'Grande'**, almost 3 feet tall to the diminutive **K. 'Pygmaeus'** with a few 2 inch leaves appressed close to the ground. They appear to have filled the same ecological niche that the **Marantaceae** fill in the new world tropics. Like the **Marantaceae** they sport highly ornamental pat-

terned leaves. There are about 50 species of **Kaempferias**. But it is rare to encounter more than a few of the more common species such as **K. Pulchra**, **K. Galanga** and **K. Rotunda**. **K rotunda** is sometimes referred to as Indian Crocus because it flowers in the Spring before it sends any leaves up. The flowers are several inches across and resemble little orchid flowers that they are rather closely related to.

Kaempferias are the most undemanding plants. They do best with a very light application of fertilizer. They normally grow where rainfall is slight and unpredictable. They seem to favor rocky slopes and are perfectly at home in rock gardens as well as flat beds. Peacock gingers are plants that thrive in spite of our hapless efforts. Few other plants offer the visual rewards of "these peacocks of the plant world" and demand so little care. Virtually free from insect pests they require no chemical sprays and little water to make them thrive. The most amazing thing about **Kaempferia** gingers is that they are so seldom seen in our gardens. Plants as beautiful as these ought to be seen in many more gardens.

Next Meeting, Glenn Hilton — Tropical Bonsai Demonstration, Monday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.

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South Miami, FL 33143*