



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 6

Editor: Reggie Whitehead June 2012

2012 Show and Sale

Our annual Show and Sale was held on June 2 & 3, and what a fantastic weekend it was. Show Chairman Marnie Valent organized a hardworking group of society members to pull off this year's show to wide acclaim.

Attendance was at an all-time high this year to view the beautiful display set up and arranged by Bob Benaim, Gerry Valent, and Reggie Whitehead. Making sure that all display plants were in order, Vivian Waddell did an exceptional job of keeping track of the many plants that filled our exhibit.

Our landscaped show changes every year due to the plants brought in. This year, large **Platycerium** ferns (Staghorns) dominated the exhibit. Spectacular staghorns such as a huge **Platycerium superbum**, brought in by David Foster, and multiple beautiful staghorns by Bob Benaim and a 'Best Fern in Show' **Platycerium wandae** brought in by Tom Moore were highlights.

There were exquisite ferns, orchids, crotons galore (thanks to new member Ron Keifert), cycads, aroids and a host of other exotic beauties gracing our beautiful display. We gratefully thank Dr. Lester Kallus, Martha Kent and Georgia Tasker for participating as judges this year (and Vivian Waddell and Reggie Whitehead for serving as clerks).

Our show and sale can not function properly without fuel, deliciously and copiously supplied by Emaly Israel and her committee of workers. Our menus keep getting better and better — and more interesting. This year, Swedish meatballs whose prime ingredient (sauerkraut), were a HUGE hit — thank you Martha Bogaards for bringing in this treat.

We wish to thank ALL of our many volunteers who freely donated their time and plants to make this year's show and sale as successful as ever.

May in Review

President Marnie Valent called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The Raffle Table was supplied by Palm Hammock Orchid Estates and Craig Reid. The refreshment table was supplied by Emaly Israel and Martha Bogaards. Treasurer's Report" — \$14, 652.25 (Note: This amount includes pre-show income.)

Vice President Marie Nock introduced our speaker, Georgia Tasker. Georgia is on staff at Fairchild and has written 3 handbooks in her on-going series, *Gardening with Fairchild*. She has traveled extensively and regaled us with stories from her trip through South Asia.

Georgia introduced us to the secretive and beautiful country of Myanmar (aka Burma), who recently re-opened it's doors to the world. Georgia visited gardens and observed plants in the wild, and spoke about the many people she encountered on her trip.

Georgia's trip took her to Nepal, Bhutan and parts of vast and beautiful India, where she was fortunate to see India's big cat, the elusive tiger, which she photographed. A slide of this beautiful tiger concluded her breathtaking trip through South Asia. *Thank you Georgia!*

Next Meeting, Monday, June 25

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society presents **Benoit Jonckheere** who will give **A Virtual Tour of the Miami Beach Botanical Garden** on Monday, June 25th. MBBG was renovated and transformed last year based on a design by famed landscape architect, Raymond Jungles. The "tour" will feature all aspects of this garden oasis.

The Raffle Table will be provided by Larry and Glenda Weed.

See you at 7:30 p.m.

Barbara Joe Hoshizaki

by Betsy Feuerstein



Barbara Joe Hoshizaki

(Fern author and grower Barbara Joe Hoshizaki passed away in Los Angeles, at the end of May. We extend our sympathies to her loving husband, Takashi and their family.)

I met Barbara Joe at the second LA Fern Society show at the LA Fairgrounds in the mid 70's in the evening before the show. It was my first venture out into that big fern world all by myself. That was a huge show and she was busily moving about directing activities and preserving sanity.

A Mr. Lazlofy had brought in native ferns in poisonous wood containers like poison ivy so all had to be very careful how to handle and how to keep the show visitors from having problems. I helped until the wee hours of the morning and came back the next day to buy my fill of the small pots of mysterious ferns. To say that Barbara Joe was an unbelievably wonderful person to work with does not even to begin to express my memories of this show and of Barbara Joe. Her sense of humor was soft and

(Hoshizaki continued on page 2)

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
Officers for 2012

President

Marnie Valent (305) 233-5929

Vice President

Marie Nock (305) 232-2257

Secretary

Craig Morell (305) 667-1173

Treasurer

Tom Moore (305) 666-0219

Membership

Sherrin Smith (305) 448-2598

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

Argeo Hernandez (305) 633-9099

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

Mike Twyford (305) 444-6332

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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(Hoshizaki continued from page 1)

gentle but in this case, she needed help and a stranger offering to help was a welcome respite from the huge project at hand. I asked if she needed help and her comment was, "HELP!" She always had that helping hand for others to give information or to be there if you needed her expertise to judge a show or a fern scrap you needed identified. She judged the two shows that the Memphis Fern Society had in the late 70's.

The fern world has lost its leader for the commoner. I worked with her on many shows at the LA Arboretum and elsewhere. She always took the group on tours of the plants in the show and gave a brief description of the plants. I know that the LA show this last weekend felt a huge loss to their society and also to the world.

Barbara Joe was a unique person. She opened her home to me many times. She used to grow small ferns in large pickle jars on her kitchen window ledge. What a treat to see and then be offered whatever I wanted. Such treasures are not only treasures of ferns, but of memories of her kindness and her interest in spreading fern knowledge. She traveled with groups to China and other locations throughout the world. She would bring back spore and many of the ferns we now see on the market, are a direct result of her dedication to ferns and her generosity to give spore to so many.

Barbara will be so dearly missed to those of us who have known and loved her. Her kindness, her caring, her willingness to be helpful was so open and so encompassing with her love of ferns. Of course, *The Fern Growers Manual* was such an advancement at the grass roots level, not only the botanical aspects but the growing aspects of ferns. We have her to thank for so very much that today we take for granted. She brought ferns to the fern lover on a level of graciousness that I have never known from any other.

Her legacy is untold in her books, her articles and the good times and good information she has shared with us. I know she is at a fern patch looking down on all of us. She will live on in our memories through her many publications on ferns. I know she had many efforts waiting for her attention but for now, she can take a rest. So many memories and so much gratitude for having such a person in my life.



**Frank and Sally Taster — Most Unusual Plant:
Nephrolepis exaltata 'Suzy Wong'**



**Steve and Marie Nock —
Best Flowering Plant: *Globba* 'Blue Hawaii'
and Blue Ribbon Sweepstakes Winners**



**Glenda and Larry Weed —
Best Florida Native: *Campyloneurum angustifolium***



**Thomas Moore —
Best Fern in Show: *Platycerium wandae***



**Dr. Jeff Block —
Best in Show: *Anthurium magnificentum***



*Photos by
Lester Kallus
additional photos can be found at
[http://www.acdseeonline.com/
album/lkallus/599914](http://www.acdseeonline.com/album/lkallus/599914)*



Welcome New Members

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Raffle Table for June

June 25.....*Larry and Glenda Weed*
 July No Meeting
 August..... No Meeting

**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: \$** _____

Water, Water, Everywhere

by John Banta

Even though I'm lucky enough to live at the edge of a large river I find that ponds add greatly to my garden. The life of the river is quite different from the life of the ponds. The river is like a big city whereas the ponds are like small towns. Insects and amphibians that are rarely seen in the river enjoy the safety of the ponds. Sitting beside a pond produces a state of relaxation that is often difficult to achieve in our active daily lives. I lack the time and commitment for normal pets but the fish fill that void. The usual goldfish and Koi are not acceptable due to the predation of raccoons, otters and native fish eating birds. Most tropical fish don't survive our occasional cold winters but the Paradisefish (*Macropodus opercularis*)

thrives here and eliminates the mosquito problem; lives on inexpensive ground up dry cat food; reproduces abundantly and is highly attractive being related to the Siamese Fighting Fish (Betta)

A constant source of fresh water provides a grand resource for many of our garden's co-habitants. Water lilies, Lotus and other neat aquatic plants add interest to any garden. Many uncommon aquatic insects such as back-swimmers, whirligigs and diving beetles as well as damselflies and dragonflies find refuge here. A pond is a wonderful way to add another dimension to your garden and enrich your environment.

Next Meeting, Mon. June 25, Benoit Jonckhere , Virtual tour of Miami Beach Bot. Gardens 7:30 p.m.

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