

May 2007

Vol. 9, No. 05

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 20, at 2:00 p. m. – Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77044 – Phone: (713) 529-3960**

**A message from our President:**

Hi Everyone,

We have had such a great spring; I hate to even go into the house because my ferns are up and growing so well. The cool nights and the afternoon showers have promoted good growth. Who could ask for a nicer spring, at least for us in Southeast Texas?

The April meeting was lots of fun for those that were able to make it. Larry Rucker led the group in putting together a Selaginella wall hanging. This is a small version of those seen at the New Orleans Botanical Gardens. I'm looking forward to hearing how everyone's plants are doing by year's end. They should be full and beautiful.

This month's meeting will feature a presentation by Patrick Hudnall on how to get those 1" baby ferns up to the next size and how to harden them off from the terrarium conditions they have been grown in from spore. This promises to be a great learning experience. It will be another hands-on lesson. Also, Patrick has a great new fern to share with those at the meeting.

I will be unable to attend this meeting; I will be in Miami at their "Fern Show and Sale". This will be my first time back in about 5 years and I'm very much looking forward to going. Larry, John, Lulu, Joe and I will be off to Florida on Friday. We will take lots of pictures and share with you what you missed this year and hopefully next year we will have more members wanting and able to attend. I'm sorry that I will miss Patrick's presentation, and I hope you will share your experience with me at the June meeting.

I would like to thank everyone that has been bringing in raffle plants; you have done a great job and I know everyone has enjoyed the large variety of ferns and other plants.

Take care, each of you, and I will see you in June.

Darla



**DUES, DUES, DUES!**

If you haven't paid your dues for 2007 yet, **don't forget!**

Dues amounts:

- Individual: \$10.00
- Family: \$15.00
- Student: \$5.00

Our Treasurer will be available to collect them at the next meeting or you may mail your payment to:

Mary McConnell  
6218 Wister Lane  
Houston, TX 77008

Please make your checks payable to Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society or simply TGCFS.

Members: - Spread the word – encourage someone you know to visit us - we always have room for more!



**Officers and Committees:**

- President: Darla Harris
- Vice President: Larry Rucker
- Secretary: Patsy Geiger
- Treasurer: Susan Peacock
- Board Members at Large: Ted Richardson & Cecil Strange, Jr.
- Membership Chair: Mary McConnell
- Newsletter: Paul Geiger
- Library: Patrick Hudnall
- Raffles: Jean Keiser
- Hospitality: Jessica Sheldon
- Welcoming at Door: Emma Lee Payne



**Meeting Refreshments**

Jessica Sheldon, our Hospitality Chairperson wants to remind everyone that we now have several categories of refreshments each month to encourage more participation from our members. The categories are: **Drinks** (sodas, ice tea, water, etc.); **Snacks** (chips, dips, crackers, cookies); **Fruit or Veggie Tray** (seasonal foods); **Desserts** (bought or yum, homemade); **Service Ware** (plates, cups, plastic ware, napkins). And for those who would like to express their culinary talents, think outside the usual and surprise us with your own creation!

**Refreshments for the April meeting** were generously provided as follows:

- Drinks: Jessica Sheldon
- Snacks: Cecil Strange
- Fruit/Veggie tray: Gary Wooldridge
- Desserts/Service ware: Al and Susan Peacock
- Entree: Laura Lee

**Refreshments for the May meeting** will be provided by Patsy and Paul Geiger. Come out and enjoy some really good and delicious food!



**Society Tee Shirts**

We have a few more T-shirts - if you forgot to order or would like another one, they are \$10.00 each. Call Darla at 281-733-5564 or send an email to: [darla@fernplantation.com](mailto:darla@fernplantation.com) to place your order for color, size and quantity.



### Library

We encourage you to take advantage of the great resource of information available in our library. At each meeting there are take-home sheets that contain a brief review of available books. Also at each meeting is a wide variety of books and videos available for immediate checkout.

Don't forget to visit our web site (see link in header, page 1) and click on **Library** to see the current list of books available. There you will see some pictures of the books we have and links to reviews at Amazon and elsewhere.



### Plant of the Month

#### Selaginella kraussiana 'Gold Tips'

Selaginella: < L selago –like a mall selago (former name of club moss); ella- diminutive

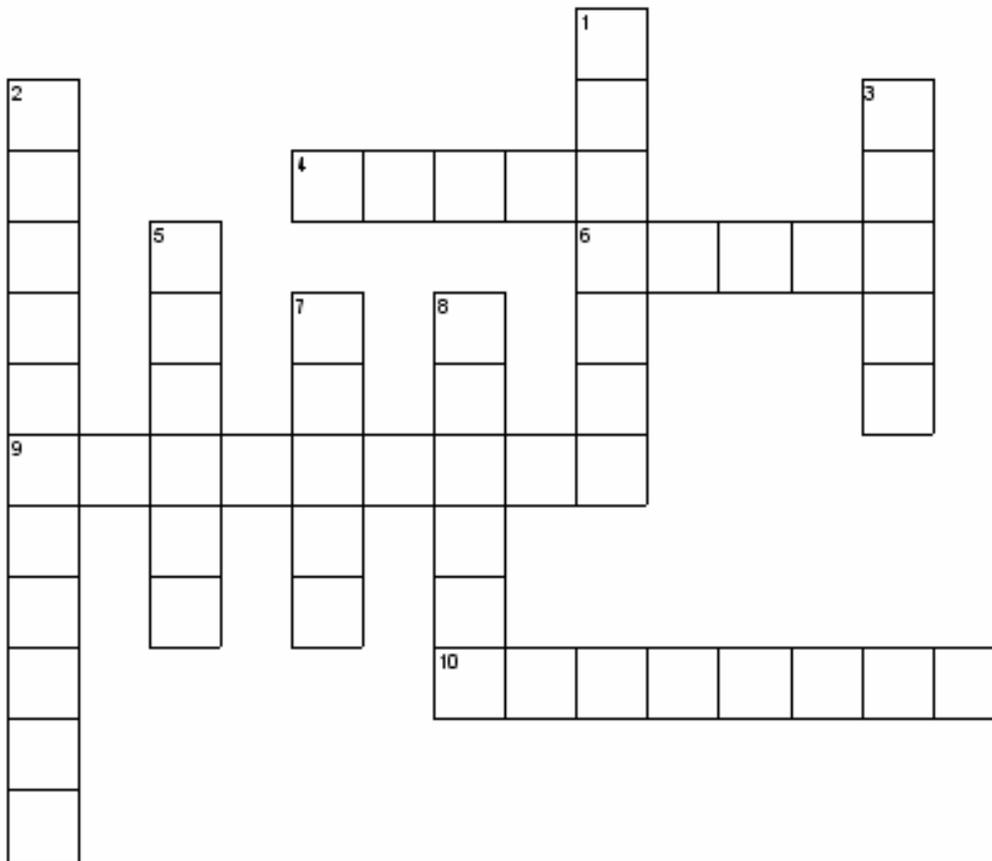
This species (kraussiana) is native to Africa and grows well in the southern United States. It is both cold and heat hardy for our area. It grows so well here it can become weedy in the garden. This is a small to medium terrestrial plant in the clubmoss family.

Lateral leaves are ovate and finely dentate-serrated and acute. These plants do well in moist soil and humid areas. Selaginella has about 750 species.



### Theme Crossword Puzzle

You should be able to solve this month's puzzle with your acquired knowledge or with some research – e.g., Barbara H's book. The answers will appear in next month's *Newsletter*.



#### Across:

- 4 Type of leaves
- 6 Leaf \_\_\_\_\_ is light green
- 9 Common name for Selaginella
- 10 Moisture in air

#### Down:

- 1 Kraussiana
- 2 Grows in ground
- 3 It is cold and heat \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Origin of kraussiana
- 7 May be invasive or \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ : spreads mat-like