



February 2005

Vol. 7, No. 2

<http://www.rwsarchitects.com/fern.htm>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 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:

Hello, everyone:

I don't know about you, but I'm ready for Spring. I'm ready to get those plants in the ground and put this dreary weather behind us. Of course I'm like everyone else; come August I'm going to say just the opposite.

Big reminders:

Dues! We need everyone to get their dues in. Donna has been working on the membership booklet and I think everyone is going to be very happy with the results. We want everyone's name in the book. This is for contacting each other so if you have a new or better phone number, please get it to Donna or Cecil or me. If there is anything you don't want in the book phone, such as your address, let us know that too. We will be mailing these out in March and March 1 is the cut off date.

March field trip! On Saturday, March 19th – the day before our normal meeting date, we are going on a fern foray to "Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary". More details on this exciting event can be found later in this *Newsletter* and will be discussed at the upcoming February meeting, but **please note we need to make a headcount**. If you are not going to make the next meeting on February 20th, but plan on making the field trip please let Walt Hesson, Martha Burg, or me know. It is a bring-your-own-lunch, picnic style outing, so it is recommended you make it light.

Great News! We are going to have the privilege of having Robbin Moran come and speak to us in October, so clear your calendar. For those who did not hear him last time you are in for a treat; and those that did hear him last time, it is going to be a different talk. His new book is "A Natural History of Ferns". Martha and I both have an extra copy if anyone needs to buy one. He is currently off to Latin America teaching all about ferns.

We're off to a good start and have so many things to look forward to this year. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you Sunday,

Darla

Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Martha Burg
Secretary:	Patsy Geiger
Treasurer:	Al and Susan Peacock
Board Members at Large:	Ted Richardson, Cecil Strange, Jr. and Larry Rucker
Membership Chair:	Cecil Strange, Jr.
Newsletter:	Paul Geiger
Library:	Patrick Hudnall



DUES, DUES, DUES!

As Darla mentioned earlier in this Newsletter, our dues are due. We're sure many members have paid their dues for 2005, but just in case you haven't – please don't forget.

Membership dues:

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

Members may pay their dues at the next meeting or you may mail your payment to:

Cecil Strange, Jr.
12002 Palmtown
Houston, TX 77034

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



**Minutes of Meeting
January 16, 2005**

The regular monthly meeting of the TEXAS GULF COAST FERN SOCIETY was held at 2:00 p.m., January 16, 2005, at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Dr., Houston, TX 77044. President Darla Harris presided.

Lulu Mae Leonard and Helen Spiers provided delicious refreshments – greatly enjoyed and appreciated, as always.



Cecil Strange, Jr., our outgoing Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report.

Darla congratulated all officers elected for this year and announced committee chairpersons. In addition to committee chairs listed on the previous page, others that have graciously agreed to serve the Society this year are:

Jean Keiser – Raffles
Lulu Mae Leonard – Hospitality
Emma Lee Payne – Welcoming at Door

We had one guest for the meeting, Ronda Catoe. She was warmly welcomed and we hope to see her again, regularly.

Martha Burg introduced our speaker, Angela Chandler, an outstanding contributor to horticultural education. Her talk on Rain Gardens was enthusiastically received by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m., however, many remained to enjoy the delicious refreshments and fellowship.

Submitted by Patsy Geiger, Secretary



OUR NEXT GUEST SPEAKER – February 20, 2005

Martha Burg and Patrick Hudnall announce that our guest speaker for this month is Grant Stephenson, owner of Horticultural Consultants. Mr. Grant will speak on growing palms, cycads and bamboo. He direct-ships most of his stock, serving mainly institutions such as Moody Gardens, various zoos and botanical gardens, but keeps some stock on hand at his facility just south of the Astrodome on Bellfort at Hwy 288.

Check out his web site at:

<http://www.horticulturalconsultants.com/about/bio.html>



FEBRUARY REFRESHMENTS:

Refreshments for our next meeting will be generously furnished by Nancy and Jim Ruppel and Donna McGraw. Come out and enjoy!



UPCOMING EVENT:

As noted earlier, on Saturday, March 19, 2005 we will go on a field trip to "Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary." We will discuss details at the upcoming meeting, but for those planning ahead you will find information regarding this trip attached to this *Newsletter*.



The following is taken from "Fiddle Forum," Bulletin of the American Fern Society, John T. Mickel, Editor, July/August September/October 1991. It is the creation of Edgar M. Paulton whose artwork and creative spirit were vital to the development of *Fiddlehead Forum*.

It is quite humorous and in keeping with our upcoming foray, although ours promises a more fulfilling adventure.

Quote:

Foray Forlorn

(With profuse apologies to Edgar Allan Poe from Edgar M. Paulton)

Once upon a foray dreary,
while I wandered weak and weary,
Over many a rock and crevice
there upon the forest floor,
Suddenly I saw before me
fiddleheads that didn't bore me
Fiddleheads that did restore me
to the state I'd been before:
Only this and nothing more.

How it was I got excited,
so astonished and delighted,
On a foray so benighted
is a mystery I abhor.
But these fiddleheads uncurling,
verdant banners now unfurling,
Left my very senses whirling
as they'd never done before –
as they'd never done of yore.

This excitement so astounding
set my heart to fiercely pounding
And my every fibre trembled
in a manner I deplore.
And my knees in genuflexion,
bending for a close inspection,
Let me make a swift detection
of these fiddleheads galore –
circinating on the floor.

Like a thunderbolt it hit me,
this disclosure did submit me
To a shock that all my system
never had endured before.
Did my ardor waver? – slacken?
did my outlook darken? Blacken?
Yes! 'Twas nothing more than bracken –
bric-a-bracken – nothing more!
Bracken? – What a crashing bore!

Unquote

