



November 2005

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

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, November 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:

By the time you get this *Newsletter* Joe and I will be on vacation – well earned, I might add – but we’ll be back for next Sunday’s meeting.

I’m very pleased to announce that Paul Geiger and his fellow nominating committeemen, Walt Hesson and Malcolm McCorquodale have informally informed me that all sitting officers of the TGCFS have expressed their desire to serve again in their respective positions for 2006. The committee will make a formal recommendation to the membership at Sunday’s meeting to reelect them all. Of course, competing nominations will be accepted from the floor, from any member who chooses to do so.

I want to thank all the volunteers for assistance with our booth at *The Garden Club of Houston. Bulb and Plant Sale*. October 6, 7 & 8, 2005 at Westminster United Methodist Church. Although we had no items for sale, I was encouraged by the interest in our booth and displays that was shown by so many of the attendees and vendors.

For me, it was a thrilling experience to have Dr. Robbin Moran as our guest speaker last month and companion on the field trip the day before. He was such a gracious and entertaining guest!

Our December meeting will be a social gathering at the home of Ted and Jean Richardson. It will be on Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:00 pm. Further details will be announced and discussed at this Sunday’s meeting. Ted and Jean will have a food “sign-up” sheet, so be thinking of the wonderful dish you will be bringing and let them know. A map and directions will be furnished also.

See you Sunday,

Darla



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

**Membership dues:**

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



**2005 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  
Raffles: Jean Keiser  
Hospitality: Lulu Mae Leonard  
Welcoming at Door: Emma Lee Payne



**Minutes of Meeting – October 16, 2005**

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

The membership elected Walt Hesson and Malcolm McCorquodale to assist Paul Geiger on the Nominating Committee for officers for 2006.

Darla announced receipt of an invitation to participate in the Houston Orchid Society anniversary show at the George R. Brown Convention Center on May 6, 7 and 8, 2006. The invitation was accepted by the membership. Details of participation – show side and/or sale side are options – will be announced later.

Darla Harris introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Robbin Moran, Curator of Ferns at the New York Botanical Garden His topic was “Helpful and Harmful Ferns.”

Refreshments were provided by Jean and Ted Richardson.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Submitted by: Patsy Geiger, Secretary



**Library**

Don’t forget 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 available for immediate checkout.





### **Our Next Meeting – November 20:**

As announced in the October *Newsletter* edition, our speaker for November is Dr. Larry Brown, well known local plant taxonomist and Houston Community College instructor. He will discuss the importance and use of herbariums in the study of ferns.

He will be bringing some specimens from the herbarium that he will display and discuss.



### **Walt Hesson's report on the October 15 Field Trip:**

#### Field Tripping to "The Thicket"

A small band of fern enthusiasts set out for a day of botanizing with guest, Dr. Robbin Moran. The goal for the day was to find gametophytes of the three species of *Lycopodiella* located in E. Texas.

Trip leaders arrived at the designated meeting place an hour late with a rather weak excuse of being detained in traffic. We traveled on to the first site along the road to Smith Point. Walking the roadside shoulders we searched to no avail.

Moving on, we skirted the western edge of the ravages of Hurricane Rita through the metropolis of Nome and downtown Kountze. Finally, the group reached the Turkey Creek Unit of *The Big Thicket Preserve*. Following lunch, the group headed into the woods. With devastation on all sides and a rough ride, the Pitcher Plant Trail was found, at last.

Walking a short distance down a boardwalk, several fern species were found. They consisted of *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Thelypteris kunthii*, *Osmunda regalis*, and *Osmunda cinnomomea*. At last, a small community of *Lycopodiella appressa* was spotted, but unfortunately, no gametophytes could be found.

With sundown approaching, a weary group made their way back to the city with no snakes or chiggers to report.

