



September 2006

Vol. 8, No. 09

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Meeting: Saturday, September 9 – Field Trip to San Antonio Botanical Garden
Details Below**

A message from our President:

Hi Y'all!

I want to give a special thanks to Mary McConnell for the warmth and hospitality she demonstrated by hosting our Summer Social on Sunday, August the 20th. It was a lovely afternoon and enjoyed by everyone. Thanks again, Mary!

Instead of a regular meeting in September we've planned a field trip to the San Antonio Botanical Garden. At our party last Sunday we provided a signup sheet for those planning on going on this trip but we need confirmation from everyone. So, whether you previously signed up or intend to do so, please call me at (281) 733-5564 to confirm. Also, if anyone would like to go but will need to car pool please let me know so we can make arrangements.

If any of you wish to stay overnight - Friday night, Saturday night or both, please let us know that also. Susan Peacock has arranged for us to stay as a group at the Marriott Courtyard San Antonio/Medical Center, 8585 Marriott Dr., SA, 78229. Each person or family must reserve their room personally by calling reservations (toll free) at: (800) 706-8869. Don't forget to ask for the special discount rate by mentioning you are with the TGCFS – **but, most important: you must reserve your room no later than Wednesday, August 30, to get our discount and guarantee your room.** If you have any questions regarding the hotel please call Susan Peacock, event coordinator, at (713) 819-1964.

In any case, we'll meet at the Garden site at 9:30 am on Saturday, September 9, 2006. A map and directions to the Garden are found later in this *Newsletter*.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you that can make the trip to San Antonio. It will be very interesting and fun!

Darla



Membership dues:

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

Our Treasurer is available to collect dues and membership applications at our meetings or you may mail your payments to our membership chairman:

Cecil Strange, Jr.
12002 Palmtown, Houston, TX 77034

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! And don't forget: Memberships effective from October 2006 will count as year 2007 dues.



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



NEW!! – Our TGCFS has a YAHOO Group Site

Laura Lee has created a YAHOO group for us and writes: "I found that there are times I wished I could send out an email to the club asking for help about a subject matter pertaining to the fern club or ferns in general.

I believe having everyone join in on the yahoo group will keep conversations open and available to all. It will help facilitate both camaraderie as well as keeping the group close and up-to-date on the latest greatest happenings at the touch of a single send button. I hate having to go to just one person to keep asking questions to (poor Pat!)

I am hoping all will sign up at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/texasgulfoastfernsociety/>



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.

Malcolm McCorquodale, our web master, has begun a list of our library items and posted it on line. You can visit our

web site: <http://www.tgcFernSoc.org/>, and click on **Library** to see the start of the listing. It is a work-in-progress and soon it will have more pictures of the books we have and possible links to reviews at Amazon or elsewhere.



In October and November we'll get back to regular meetings at Hermann Park Houston Garden Center. Refreshments for October will be provided by Patsy and Paul Geiger. Come out and enjoy.



Members Talk about Ferns

The following has been prepared and offered by Gary Wooldridge, member TGCFS

Macho Fern (*Nephrolepis Biserrata*)

I have only been a TGCFS member for about six months but I started gardening about two years ago. This was one of the first ferns I bought. I left it in its original 3 gallon container, which is the plant on the left, and set it inside the much larger clay pot that you can see on the right. The plant on the left is root bound and, though healthy, it hasn't grown at all in two years. The longest frond is 36 inches. The fern in the clay pot grew from the original fern. Since there was a lot of good garden soil in the container, the new fern grew quickly and now the longest frond is 52 inches. The macho fronds will get to 8 feet long and the macho is hardy in zone 9. Mine has taken temperatures of 28 degrees with no damage. I grow it in good light with no direct sun.



Photo by Gary Wooldridge



Directions to San Antonio Botanical Garden

The Garden is located at street address: 555 Funston Place, San Antonio 78209. The telephone number is: (210) 207-3250.

When traveling from Houston, take I-10 toward SA – go about 175 miles.

Take exit #581 onto I-410 North – go 1.5 miles.

Take left exit #31 onto I-35 South toward San Antonio-Englemann Rd. – go 3.7 miles.

Take exit #159A onto N Panam Expy towards New Braunfels Ave. – go 0.2 miles.

Turn right on New Braunfels Ave. – go 1.3 miles.

Turn right on Funston Pl – go 0.1 miles.

Arrive at the Garden.

