



June 2007

Vol. 9, No. 06

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, June 17, 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,

This month I am giving up (most of) my *Message* space in favor of Larry Rucker. Larry will be leading our program for June and what a program he has planned: a great field trip! His introduction and description follows.

Due to a family commitment, I will not be with you on June 17th, but I know you will have a good time. I am sorry to miss it and seeing all of you – it seems like a long time has passed since we were together. I do want to thank Patrick for filling in for us in May and I have heard nothing but praise for the technical content and presentation of his program. His notes from that meeting follow later in this *Newsletter*.

We had a wonderful time in Miami. Larry will provide details from his perspective and I will also when we meet again in July. Until then, take care each of you and have a good time this Sunday.

Darla



And now our Vice President:

Hello fellow fern friends! It seems so long since I've seen any of you.

The Miami show and plant sale was great. Naturally I had to buy a few plants to bring home. But that's a good thing.

Our Sunday the 17th meeting is going to be a field trip. Since that's the case please remember a few things. We will meet at our usual location: the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park. But its Father's Day and it will be packed. So leave early and wear comfortable, cool clothes. We are going to try and leave the Center no later than 2:15 so please be there on time. If you are bringing refreshments it is imperative that you have every thing set up by 1:45 (this means you must plan ahead).

We will be carpooling and I am renting the largest passenger van I can for those that don't know Houston well.

Our first stop on the trip is my garden. Over the last few years I have become more fern friendly and now have close to 50 species in the ground and another 50 species in pots or on plaques and in baskets. If you are planning on driving, my address is 8010 Arletta St, Houston TX. This is in SE Houston just a mile or so from Hobby airport.

We will leave my house and then visit a very interesting nursery called *Joshua's Native Plant and Garden Antiques*, 502 W 18th in the Heights. It is a wonderful place with good prices. I stop in every week or two and have been fortunate to find 4 or

5 species of ferns I didn't have before this year. Next we will be heading over to *Buchanan's Native Plants* which is at the corner of 11th and Oxford. It has been recently expanded and remodeled, so if you haven't been there in a while you will be surprised. After this we will go back to the Garden Center to eat some more refreshments and have our raffle.

It will be a full and busy afternoon; and for us to get it all in we must first get there early and be ready to go. Sorry it will be so hot but that's summer in Houston.

Just in case you should need to contact me, **my home phone is 713 649 3535 and my cell phone is 832 453 2992.**

I know you have been propagating up a storm so bring some plants for the raffle.

See you there;

Larry



DUES

TGCFs Dues amounts are as follows:

- 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 May meeting were generously provided by Patsy and Paul Geiger.

Refreshments for the June meeting will be provided as follows.

Drinks: Cherie Lee

Snacks: Gary Wooldridge

Fruit or Veggie tray: Karen Barber

Desserts: Jennifer Gasper

Service ware: Mary McConnell

Come out and enjoy some really good and delicious food!



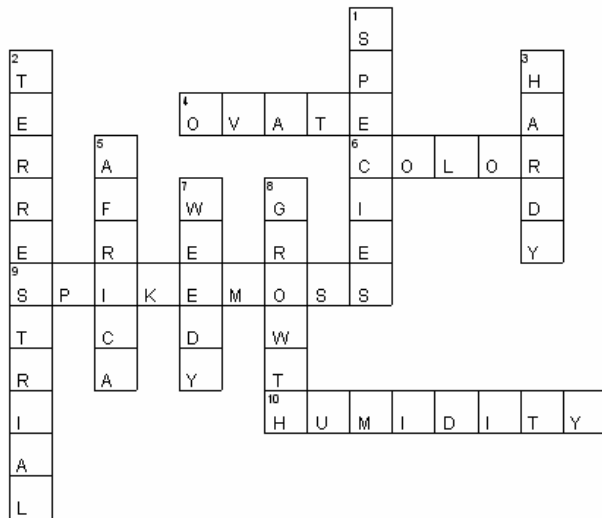
Library

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.



Theme Crossword Puzzle: Answers to the May Puzzle



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



Patrick's May Meeting Notes

By: Patrick Hudnall

One of the reasons people join a club such as the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society is to gain more detailed and advanced knowledge on how to grow specific plants. The May meeting was an opportunity for members to gain in-depth knowledge into how to grow ferns during the difficult transition from gametophyte, through sporophyte and through "hardening off". Members were shown cultures in the late gametophyte and early sporophyte stages from the previous year's workshop using spore soup, and a two year old culture of Cibotium chamissoi. A florescent light growing rack from a previous *Society* workshop was also shown.

It was recommended that only sterile water be used and a keen eye kept for fungus gnats, algae and fungus, and what to do if they show up.

Composition of substrates was discussed as was chemical nutrients, beneficial fungi and hormones that are effective during this phase of growth.

Members then had the opportunity to set up a miniature greenhouse of their own using early sporophytes *Aglamorpha heracle* that were provided for them. Bulbils of *Asplenium bulbiferum* were separated from a parent frond and set into cultures as examples of how to grow early sporophytes. Small divisions of *Sadleria cyatheoides* were also used as projects.

The fine reference *Fern Grower's Manual* by Hoshizaki & Moran was recommended reading on the subject.