



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

September 2007

Vol. 9, No. 09

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 16, 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,

It was good to see those that were able to attend our annual fall social at John MacMillan's home. It is with great sadness and heavy heart I must tell you that John MacMillan passed away the 9th of September. John had volunteered for this party last year and had very much wanted all his friends from the Fern Society to come over and enjoy his newly refurbished home and yard. John's home had been almost destroyed after lighting hit it almost two years ago. The yard was spared the fire, but the workers took their toll on the plants around the house. With much tender loving care, however, John was able to restore them to full glory in time for our party.

John was a great friend to the Society. Before Cathy became ill and passed away John helped with our sales down at the George R Brown Convention Center. John had started coming back to our meetings and always helped out with any equipment we needed. He paid for all the shipping for our sale plants at this past show and sale. He even had some of his employees come and help break down the show displays.

John went to San Antonio on the field trip last fall and we enjoyed the Botanical gardens and a nice dinner that evening. Then Larry, Lulu, Joe and I had the pleasure of his company on the trip to Miami. He was a great take-charge person, but making sure everyone had a great time. I had been to Miami four other times, but with John I did and saw more things than I have had before. It was truly a trip to remember.

For those that got to attend the party you were able to enjoy John's wonderful nature and great humor one last time. I can't believe I will never hear that wonderful Scottish lilt of his ever again. He was a gracious host and a great friend and he will be dearly missed.

Services are unclear at this time, but we should know something by Wednesday if you would like to phone me for details: 281-733-5564.

Patrick has arranged for our September meeting to be a short field trip to the Cockrell Butterfly Center. More on that later in this *Newsletter*. I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday.

Darla



Officers and Committees:

President: Darla Harris
Vice President: Patrick Hudnall
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



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!



September Meeting

For the September meeting, Eddie Holik, Director of the Cockrell Butterfly Center, located in the Houston Museum of Natural Science has graciously offered to conduct us on a brief tour of the plantings in the butterfly Center and up to the growing area on the top floor of the adjacent parking garage. We did this a few years ago and found it most interesting. We plan on going there at 2:00 so don't be late. We'll return to the garden center for refreshments and chit chat, to cover any business, raffle any plants etc.

- Patrick



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!

Refreshment contributors for September are:

Malcolm McCorquodale

Mary McConnell

Sara Chumley

Janice Fleming

Jennifer Gasper

Jessica Sheldon



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.



We remember John MacMillan – a dear friend

