



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

July 2007

Vol. 9, No. 07

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 15, 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,

I regret I missed both the last two (May and June) meetings. As you know, I was in Miami in May for the Fern Show and Sale and in June I was in Oregon attending some family functions. Family is about the only thing that beats out ferns and being with my fellow Fernies.

The trip to Miami went very well and we took them some much needed rain. John, Lulu, Larry, Joe and I got there Friday morning. Reggie Whitehead needed another judge for their show and solicited my help. That took four hours. It was fun and they had some really nice ferns as well as other tropical plants. It is always a very nice show. My traveling companions were very magnanimous about the long wait. They did get to see the plants that were coming in for sale and Larry and Lulu picked up a couple prized plants that first day.

We had a wonderful meal at a Cuban Restaurant and went to bed way too full. The next morning we left for the Fern Sale. (That is, all but Joe, who laid up sick all weekend). John had a great time seeing if Larry or I would win on who would buy what first. Every time I would look up John would be smiling and shaking his head at our foolishness. He managed not to buy a single fern. I can not say the same, but I had lots of fun and when I would see something that Larry or Lulu needed I pointed it out, right after I got mine!!! But then Larry did the same "oh I think they have one left" he would tell me.

We had so much fun as a group! We left there, went to the hotel to put the plants up and headed out to downtown where we had a wonderful lunch at a seafood place overlooking the bay. We then took a 1½ hour boat ride around the islands just off Miami. Beautiful is the only word for everything we saw. But, for all the ferns we brought back with us, what I brought back that meant the most to me was the memories shared with my dear friends with whom I traveled. I thank them very much for an experience that I will never forget.

Next year!! I hope more of you get to go. It will be the same time of the year so plan your spring to include this wonderful trip.

When you get this *Newsletter* I'll be in Brussels, returning Saturday, the 14th. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you in July, though I may have a little jet lag, and to our annual Plant Swap, which is our program for that meeting – more about that follows.

Our August meeting will be our Summer Social. John MacMillan will be our host. We will have sign-up sheets this

week for you to list the food or drink items you will be bringing. Directions, with a map will be sent out with the August 2007 *Newsletter*.

Now for the bad news: Larry Rucker, our dear friend and Society Vice President, has regretfully resigned his position to tend to personal business. Larry feels that the time it will take him will not allow the devotion required of the position. Thank you, Larry for all you've done for us! We look forward to having you back next year.

Darla



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Statement of Income & Expenses: January 01, 2007 to June 30, 2007

INCOME

Membership Dues:	\$635.00
Sale of Plants:	\$3,252.75
Raffle Income:	\$183.75
Sale of Books:	\$00.00
Interest Income:	\$13.97
Outstanding Checks:	\$0.00
Total:	\$4,085.47

EXPENSES

Program Expenses -- Materials:	\$163.36
Program Expenses -- Lecturer:	\$0.00
Member Education:	\$0.00
Field Trip Expense:	\$0.00
Newsletter:	\$433.80
Cost of Plants Sold:	\$800.00
Facility Charges:	\$17.48
Total:	\$1,414.64

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Deposits:	\$3,614.50
Checks Written:	\$614.64
Bank Charges:	\$00.0
Interest Income:	\$13.97
Cash Balance, June 30, 2007:	\$7,858.96

NET INCOME

Cash Balance, June 30, 2007:	\$7,858.96
Cash Balance, January 01, 2007:	\$4,845.13
2006 Net Income:	\$3,013.83





Officers and Committees:

President: Darla Harris
 Vice President: Open
 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!



July Meeting

Our meeting on Sunday will be our annual Plant Swap. Every member is encouraged to bring no more than two plants – any kind – but, ferns are preferred. For each plant brought and presented, each member will be able to select one plant from the collection displayed. Please remember that the plants should be established pot or container plants and not something picked or repotted recently.

This has always been a lot of fun, enjoyed by all. So come on out and see what kind of new plant you can take home for your garden.



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!



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.



Plants of the Month (May 2007)

As an introduction to our Puzzle of the Month feature, I offer the following in regards to the ferns that were used by Patrick in his May presentation: *Cibotium chamissoi* and *Aglamorpha heracle*:

***Cibotium chamissoi* – Si bo ti um**

Cibotos is Greek for a small chest or casket, this comes from the shape of the indusium.

This is a tree fern that comes from Asia, Hawaii, and Central America and can grow up to 15 feet. It grows well in most soils but does best if planted in well drained humus. This is a tender plant that is good in zones 10 and 11 so, for us in the Houston area, this fern needs to be protected from freezing temperatures.

***Aglamorpha heraclea* – Ag la o mor' fa**

Aglaio is Greek for splendid and *morphe* is Greek for shape.

This is a tender plant that is also good in climate zones 10 and 11 and we must also protect it from freezing temperatures.

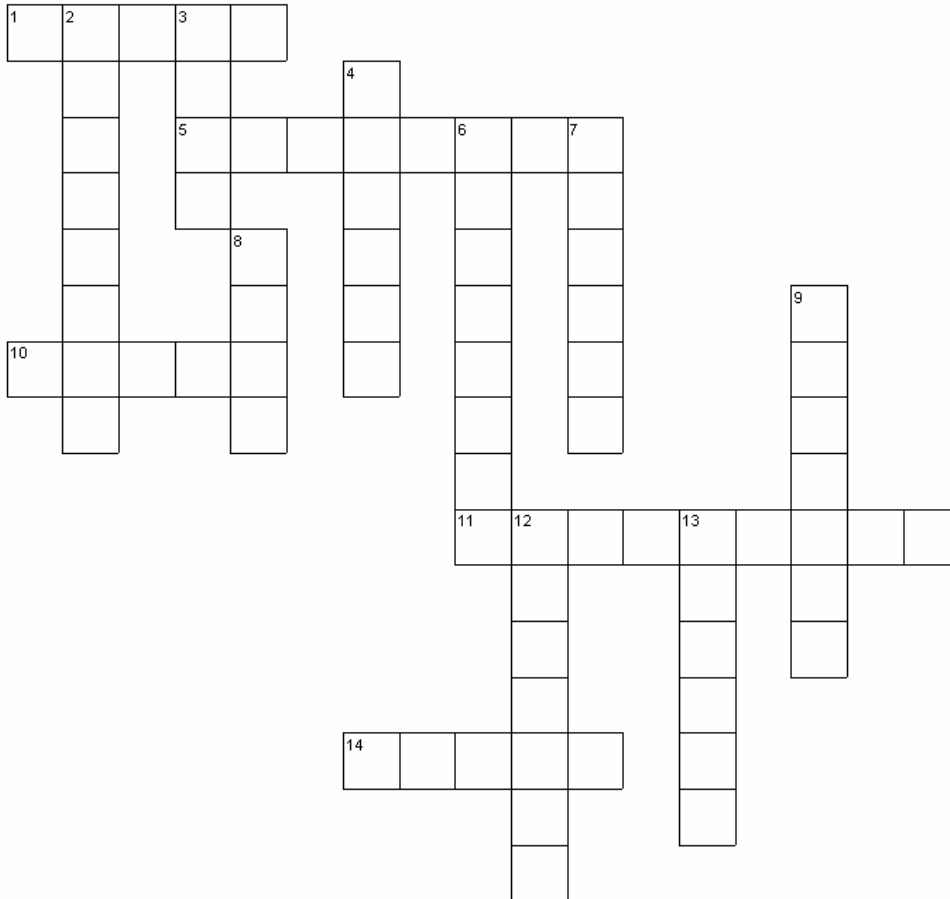
This is a large plant with fronds reaching 6½ feet. It is epiphytic and often host smaller epiphytic plants such as orchids or other ferns. The fronds overlap each other forming a nest like appearance that collects debris. The debris turns into its own soil and food. The sori form in two regular rows between the main cross veins. The frond bases are wide and turn to a papery look and feel with age. These mount well on either cedar or cork.

So good luck with your new plants and try out the puzzle below. Answers will be published in the August *Newsletter*.

Darla

Puzzle of the Month
(Answers will be published next month)

Aglamorpha heraclea
 AERIS □



Across

1. Aglamorpha grows in bright to medium _____

5. Greek meaning for Aglaios

10. Cibotium chamissoi grows best in this soil

11. grows on trees

14. morphe is _____ for shape

Down

2. the membrane surrounding or covering the sorus and where the name kibotos came from

3. allows other plants to grow on its base

4. will freeze if gets to cold

6. needs soil that has good _____

7. collected by the nest like fronds

8. overlapping fronds give this appearance

9. epiphytic plants grow best if _____ on a board

12. old fronds takes on this look

13. Cibotium is native to what US state