



March 2009

Vol. 11, No. 03

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, March 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:**

Greetings everyone,

I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful weather and getting to do a little gardening.

We have a special program this month that I hope everyone will be able to attend. I've been trying for some time to find someone to do a program explaining how to identify and grow the 19 different species of Platycerium. I'm happy to report that I've talked an expert, Don Callard, into coming out for the program. He'll be bringing a few plants to "show and tell" as well as some to sell. Since he'll be coming from San Diego he'll be limited in the number of plants he can bring on the plane but, never fear, I'll have some babies for you to take home and raise.

We won't be having a mini-workshop this month because of the special program and the Platycerium display Larry's helping to set up.

I've placed the order for the loupes and hope they arrive before the meeting. I ordered a few extra ones so if you weren't here to get your name on the list, you may still be able to get one. We're going to be putting any extras into the newly formed "store" that Larry Rucker volunteered to manage.

If all goes as planned, next month's program will be about how to grow Maidenhairs someplace besides right next to the foundation of your house.

See you Sunday!

Donna



**DUES ARE DUE**

If you haven't paid your dues for 2009 yet, this is a reminder – **please don't forget!** The March meeting is the deadline for being included in the 2009 membership book. Dues must be paid this month to be included!

Dues amounts:

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: Donna McGraw
- Vice President: Sara Chumley
- Secretary: Cherie Lee
- Treasurer: Terri Dolney
- Board Members at Large: Sharon Banister, Darla Harris and Lulu Leonard
- Membership Chair: Mary McConnell
- Ways and Means: Ted Richardson
- Special Projects: Larry Rucker
- Newsletter: Paul Geiger
- Library: Frank Lee
- Raffles: Jean Keiser
- Hospitality: Jessica Sheldon
- Welcoming at Door: Emma Lee Payne



**Minutes of General Meeting, January 18, 2009  
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas.

The meeting commenced at 2:10 PM with President, Donna McGraw presiding.

Meeting called to order by Larry Rucker.

**Mini-workshop:** Larry Rucker presented a hands-on workshop showing how to mount *Nephrolepis pendula*. All attendees received ferns to mount and take home. Don't forget to bring your ferns to the 2009 August party for comparison.

**Program:** Donna McGraw presented a program "Fern Identification: *Dryopteris* and *Thelypteris*". A slide presentation showing several varieties of each type of garden fern was shown. Each attendee received three different varieties of *Dryopteris* and two varieties of *Thelypteris* to take home and plant.

**General Meeting:** Led by Donna McGraw. Starting a Society store to order supplies in bulk was discussed. Larry Rucker volunteered to run the store. Donna McGraw is looking for volunteers to grow and report small ferns. Lists were circulated for anyone interested in purchasing a 30 power loupe for \$12 or 5 kilo block of sphagnum for ~\$35.

**Plant Raffle:** Jean Keiser ran the plant raffle with the member plants going to the lucky winners Patrick Hudnall and Patsy Geiger.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



### Meeting Refreshments

Jessica Sheldon, our Hospitality Chairperson wants to remind everyone of the several categories of refreshments that are usually offered each month. The categories are: **Drinks** (sodas, ice tea, water); **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 **February meeting** were generously furnished by Jessica, Cecil Strange, Susan Peacock, Marcia Livingston, Jean Richardson and Lulu Leonard. Thanks to all of you.

### March Refreshments:

Refreshments for our next meeting will be furnished as follows:

Drinks: Gary Wooldridge  
Snacks: Patsy and Paul Geiger  
Veggies/Fruit: Patsy and Paul Geiger  
Desserts: Mary McConnell  
Service Ware: Angie Casas

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.



### March Book Review

By: Frank Lee

#### “Platyserium Hobbyist’s Handbook” by Roy Vail

This book contains nearly 200 pages of clear, understandable information on staghorn ferns by the world's leading expert on them. He has grown these ferns for over 20 years and explored areas where they grow where no other hobbyist has ever been. The book has how-to instructions on spore propagation, division, buying staghorn ferns, as well as photos and discussions of each species and distribution maps of where they occur in nature.

If you don't have your own copy you can check it out of our library. Just see Frank for the sign-out sheet.



### Upcoming Events – Other Societies in Houston Area:

If you have the time and would like to expand your horticultural activities, take note of the following announcements by the Houston Bromeliad and Orchid Societies.

#### Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.:

[www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at: The Houston Garden Center.

Next regular meeting is 17 March 2009

#### Upcoming Special Events:

##### BS/H Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 4, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Houston Arboretum and Nature Center

##### BSHI Annual Show and Sale

May 15, 16 & 17  
Mercer Arboretum

#### The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

[www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org)

Regular meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at: The Houston Garden Center.

Next regular meeting is 2 April 2009. The speaker will be Melba Butler – “Getting Ready for our AOSA Show”

#### Upcoming Special Events:

##### 2009 AOS Spring Show: “ORCHIDS, TEXAS STYLE” April 22-26, 2009 at the HILTON HOUSTON NORTH

(Formerly the Wyndham Greenspoint)  
12400 Greenspoint Drive  
Houston, TX 77060  
Tel. 281.875.2222

Visit the following web site for details:

<http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org/show/show09/show09.html>

