



October 2008

Vol. 10, No. 09

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, October 19, 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,

IKE!!WOW!!I hope each of you is coping with the clean up!! I don't think anyone in town was not touched by this storm in one way or another. The loss of life is heart wrenching. Looking at the pictures, it is a wonder anyone at all staying on the Islands survived. I have been able to account for most of our members; the phone and power outages made making contact with some difficult. There are a few that I have not talked to yet, including our past members that lived in Galveston.

It sounds like most of our members had tree and plant damage mostly and some minor home damage, but for the most part this could have been so much worse than it turned out. Joe and I lost about 22 big trees, and several smaller ones. We were without power for 6 hours short of 14days. We did have a generator and that was a life saver. I will say my ferns did really well. I thought the plaques hanging on the trees would get blown off, but they swayed in the wind and did just fine. This goes to show that ferns aren't one of the oldest living plants for no reason. Mine really showed they were from the tropics and showed me how to ride out a storm.

Larry will be giving us a presentation on how to make a stepping stone straight from the Jurassic Park era. This will be a fun learning experience and will be something nice to enhance that prehistoric fern garden we strive for in our modern times. So come and step back in time with us as we learn to fake a little history. Larry will provide materials, including the ferns, but he asks if anyone has any ferns that they think would make a good imprint, please bring them. (The stones will be between 10 and 14 inches ((almost)) square.) Also, we may need a cordless drill – if anyone can bring one of those, please do.

We will be having a business meeting before the presentation so please come early to get your refreshments and help us get started for our walk in the past with Larry.

See you Sunday!!

Darla



Officers and Committees:

President: Darla Harris
Vice President: Laura Lee
Secretary: Terri Dolney
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



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Statement of Income & Expenses
January 01, 2008 to September 30, 2008**

INCOME

Membership Dues: \$500.00
Sale of Plants: \$0.00
Raffle Income: \$275.00
Sale of Books: \$13.00
Interest Income: \$5.43
Outstanding Checks: \$0.00
Total: \$793.43

EXPENSES

Program Expenses – Matl's.: \$767.03
Program Expenses -- Lecturer: \$0.00
Member Education: \$0.00
Field Trip Expense: \$0.00
Newsletter: \$201.58
Cost of Plants Sold: \$0.00
Facility Charges: \$24.00
Total: \$992.61

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Deposits: \$788.00
Checks Written: \$992.61
Bank Charges: \$0.00
Interest Income: \$9.08

Cash Balance, Sept. 30, 2008: \$7,436.41

NET INCOME

Cash Balance, Sept. 30, 2008: \$7,436.41
Cash Balance, January 01, 2008: \$7,631.94

2008 Net Income (Loss): (\$195.53)



TGCFS DUES

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!

October Refreshments

Refreshments for October will be provided by Jean Keiser, Emma Lee Payne and Sarah Chumley.



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.



Continuing Education 1 Submitted by Patrick Hudnall

In the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society we have shared various spores with one another and have grown many different ferns from spores. One thing you may notice is that spore cases, when first forming, can often be difficult to see. In the case of some ferns, spore may take a year to mature on the frond. In some cases it never properly matures and aborts or is simply non-viable.

I presently am growing *Cibotium Schiedam* which has produced spore cases for several years, yet the spore has failed to properly mature. I have found that, all things being equal, fronds produced in higher light levels, on the same plant, will produce more and better spores. Spores are single cells and come in a wide variety of shapes. **See the two examples below.** They can be encased in indusia or they may be found in false indusia, where the edge of a leaf rolls over to protect the spore. In several species the indusia may be absent. Spore appears in various colors from green to tan to nearly black. Fern allies may reproduce by spore. Some fern hybrids don't produce spores. Some ferns need to be fairly old to produce spore, while some will produce during their first year.



Microrum grossum

Photo by Patrick Hudnall



Dryopteris aemula (Hay-scented wood fern)
Photo by Patrick Hudnall



Continuing Education 2

Donna McGraw has submitted the picture below as follow up information. This is the "mother plant" to the spore she passed out a few months ago - *Thelypteris reticulata*. Donna adds: "I thought folks might like to see what they're growing and if there's someone who didn't get any, I can watch for more spore. Just let me know"



Photo by Donna McGraw
July 19, 2008

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