



May 2009

Vol. 11, No. 05

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 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:

Greetings, everyone,

This month's meeting is one you don't want to miss. Duane Peterson is coming back down to talk to us about growing Adiantums. He grows 20 different varieties of Maidenhairs and is bringing a van load with him that will be available at the meeting. He also promised to throw in some unusual Nephrolepis (think very fancy "Boston" ferns) and a few surprises. If you have any Maidenhairs that need identifying or just don't look well, bring them to the meeting (in a plastic bag, please) and Duane will be happy to help.

Because of the nature of the meeting there will be no Mini workshop this month but Larry has some surprises up his sleeves for the next couple of months. If you missed out on the jeweler's loupes last month, Larry has some extras in the society store. If anyone is having trouble using their loupe, bring it to the meeting (I never leave home without mine) and we'll be happy to help you with it.

We're in the process of planning a fall field trip to Clark Creek Nature Preserve on the border between Louisiana and Mississippi. The trip will be led by a friend of mine who's a botany professor at the University of Louisiana (and a long time fern nut). We're tentatively planning on staying at a haunted B & B in the beautiful, historic town of St. Francisville, LA and need to begin getting an idea of how many people will be attending so we can make reservations. Transportation and accommodations will depend on how many people want to go. Possibilities are that we leave on Friday night, get up Saturday and head out for a day of hiking, come back to the B & B, spend the night again and head back on Sunday morning. You can "Google" St. Francisville for more information about the things to do there alone. We're thinking that the weather will cool down enough in October to be pleasant or we could do it in September if the group prefers. Think about it and let me know, please. All feedback will be welcome - this is your society.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday!

Donna



DUES

TGCFS 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.



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, April 19, 2009
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**

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

The meeting commenced at 2:20 PM with President, Donna McGraw calling the meeting to order.

Mini-workshop: Due to Malcolm McCorquodale being unexpectedly called out of town, his Mini-workshop on making a unique hanging basket will be held at a future meeting.

General Meeting: Donna McGraw began the meeting by discussing the upcoming fern display at the Houston Orchid Society Show, April 23-26. Ted Richardson is designing and building the display which will cover a 10ft by 10ft space. Set-up will be on April 22 and include plants from Ted, Larry Rucker, Cecil Strange, Patrick Hudnall, Donna McGraw, and Darla Harris. The display will also include several orchids and we will be competing in the 5 or less orchid category in the show.

May Meeting: Duane Peterson, a fern grower from Kansas, will be presenting a program on growing Maidenhair ferns. He

will be bringing plants to sell including Adiantum and Boston Ferns so don't miss it.

Store: Chair Larry Rucker handled the sale of the loupes and the sphagnum that had arrived. Some may still be available so contact Larry if you are interested. Donna McGraw has cork for mounting plants that should be available for sale at the May meeting for those interested.

Program: A round table discussion was held with each member sharing the types of plants they specialize in growing and some growing tips. Larry Rucker then presented a photo tour of his beautiful yard and plants with many growing tips included. Each attendee then received three ferns to take home, Cyathea Cooperi, Blechnum Brasiliense, and Dicksonia Antarctica.

Plant Raffle: Patrick Hudnall ran the plant raffle with many plants finding new home.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary

Meeting Refreshments

Refreshments for the **April meeting** were generously furnished by Cecil Strange, Mary McConnell, Jessica Sheldon, Darla Harris, Pat Hudnall and Marcia Livingston. Thanks to all of you.

May Refreshments:

Come out and enjoy some really good and delicious food to be provided by some of your fellow fernies!

1st Quarter 2009 Treasurer's Report

Income:

Membership:	\$250.00
Raffle:	243.00
Silent Auction:	315.00
Store Sales:	13.00
Bank Interest:	<u>0.67</u>
Total Income:	\$821.67

Expenses:

Program Materials:	\$339.25
Lecturer Fee:	100.00
Facility Charge:	14.80
Cost of Plants:	736.49
Miscellaneous:	<u>77.32</u>
Total Expenses:	\$1,327.86

Balance on Dec. 31, 2008: \$7,420.73

Income First Quarter: 821.67

Expenses First Quarter: 1,327.86

Balance on Mar. 31, 2009: \$6,914.54

Submitted by Terri Dolney

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

"Tree Ferns" by Mark F. Large & John E. Braggins

This book is the source of information on the living tree fern. It surveys all the families, genera, and species, including those that are suitable for the home garden. It offers up-to-date taxonomy and detailed description as well as in-depth coverage of everything from tree fern use to conservation. In recognition of the horticultural importance of tree ferns, the authors provide extensive cultivation information, including propagation and diseases and pests.

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

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

Next regular meeting is May 19, 2009

Upcoming Special Events:

BSHI Annual Show and Sale

May 15, 16 & 17

Mercer Arboretum

The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

www.houstonorchid society.org

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

Next regular meeting is June 4, 2009.

Cute Pest (Birds Nest in a Staghorn):



Photo submitted by Patrick Hudnall