



September 2009

Vol. 11, No. 09

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 20, 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 from soggy Magnolia.

We've had a wonderful, drizzly, showery day today and I'm sure the plants are loving it.

Eight members of TGCFS drove over Friday night, August 28, to Austin for their Fern Festival. We were joined on Saturday morning by several more who had made the trip over earlier in the week to attend the Southwest Begonia Society Convention. I would encourage those of you who didn't make it to consider going next year. We had a great time. Wonderful speakers, good food, interesting plants to buy, and new friends to meet - what a way to spend a weekend.

At our meeting this month, we'll be learning about a couple of hardy ferns that should do great in our landscapes. I've ordered plants of both for you to take home and try out.

As mentioned in last month's *Newsletter*, our mini workshop will be lead by Jessica Sheldon. In a previous life Jessica was a picture framer and she's going to teach us some tricks of the trade. You'll need to bring a few supplies with you to the meeting - copies of fern leaves (black and white or color), a frame suitable for the area in your home that needs sprucing up, a mat board if you want to use one and maybe Windex and paper towels - Jessica will provide Windex and paper towels but it wouldn't hurt to have some extra. We'll have a mat cutter available for you to use if your mat isn't already cut but you'll probably need scissors, a pencil and a ruler. Jessica will have some frames that you can buy from her as well as some extra prints. I'm planning on framing a copy of a tree fern leaf - maybe 18" by 3' ish - if anyone else would like me to make them a copy while I'm making mine, give me a call, 281-795-5986.

Hope to see you all at the meeting.

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



New Members

We have two new members. Please give a warm welcome to Ms. Noreen Tolman and (First name unidentified) Klein.



**Minutes of Summer Social, August 16, 2009
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**

The August meeting was our summer party. Mary McConnell graciously hosted the party at her home in northwest Houston inside the loop. All those attending had an enjoyable time, eating good food and talking about plants. Thank you Mary for your hospitality once again.

Upcoming Meetings:

September mini-workshop will be Framing Ferns presented by Jessica Sheldon. Don't forget to press your ferns for several days and then copy them on to nice paper. Purchase your preferred frames and bring it all to the meeting.

October meeting will be "Mixing Potting Soil" at Donna and Monty McGraw's home. Sharon Banister has a recipe for potting soil that we will be using. This should be very educational as well as fun.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



**September Refreshments:
Help! Help Wanted!**

Thus far, the following refreshments for September have been volunteered:

Desserts: Marcia Livingston and Mary McConnell
Service ware: Jessica Sheldon

We need volunteers for Drinks, Snacks, Fruits and Veggies. If you can help, please call Jessica.



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.



**July Book Review
By: Frank Lee**

"Ferns to Know and Grow" by F. Gordon Foster

This book includes information detailing fern identification, culture, and propagation presented in easily understood language for both the new and experienced fern growers. Among the book's useful features are its splendid drawings and tracings of fronds, spores, and crosiers for each species, which reveal small identifying features that are often overlooked. This book includes chapters with the following headings:

- ✚ Getting Acquainted with Ferns
- ✚ Ferns, Then and Now
- ✚ The Plant and its Components
- ✚ Easy Steps to Identification
- ✚ The Culture of Hardy Ferns
- ✚ Growing Ferns in the Home Garden
- ✚ Woodland Plantings that Feature Ferns
- ✚ Growing Ferns Indoors
- ✚ How to Propagate Ferns
- ✚ Native and Exotic Ferns to Know and Grow (illustrated with line drawings of each species)
- ✚ Composite Descriptive Summary (giving characteristics and cultural requirements of species)
- ✚ Also: a glossary, a fern selector (recommending species for particular situations in the home and garden), and a nomenclatural update.

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



**This month we have a "Help Wanted Ad"
WEEKEND PERSON NEEDED**

I need to hire someone who would like to get out of Houston for the weekends. I would have them stay at Blisswood B&B and provide their meals in exchange for them working in the greenhouses and gardens (keeping up with fertilizing, weeding, general care of plants / potted plants, orchids, ferns, bromeliads, etc.). This has to be someone who can commit their weekends to my place, someone who does not have a lot of other responsibilities, and would just love to get out of Houston to the country, to a peaceful relaxing atmosphere.

If you or someone you know is interested, contact Carol Davis at: 713-301-3235 or by email at carol@blisswood.net



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 September 15, 2009

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 October 1, 2009.

