

December 2009

Vol. 11, No. 12

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, December 20, at 2:00 p. m. – Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 22026 Glenmont Estates Blvd., Magnolia TX – Phone: See below

A message from our President:

Happy Holidays to Everyone

It's time once again for our annual Christmas party. In case there's anyone who hasn't heard, the party's being held at our house this year at the same time as our regular meeting (2:00 pm). Jessica is planning games and lots of fun and food so I hope everyone is making plans to attend.

Our address is 22026 Glenmont Estates Blvd. The Post Office says we live in Magnolia. We've included maps with the *Newsletter* but in case anyone has trouble finding us, the **home phone number is 281-376-2923 and my cell is 281-795-5986. Monty's cell is 713-417-4850.** If you have any questions don't hesitate to call.

If you use Google maps they have the name of our street incorrect - when you get down to street level, use the close-up in this *Newsletter*. It was taken from a Yahoo map.

We'll be doing the usual gift exchange, so if you want to participate in the exchange, bring a gift.

I hope to see you all Sunday.

Donna



Editor Comments:

As most of you know by now, I have retired from active work at my company in Houston and Patsy and I have moved back to Louisiana. It is with high and mixed emotion that we follow through with our planned relocation. We will continue as members of the TGCFS but the relocation does not afford me the opportunity to remain as Newsletter Editor – an appointed Chair I have dearly loved.

I know I speak for Patsy when I can say that it is not the technical information on ferns that I've gained by being a member of the TGCFS, but the people I have met that leaves the most favorable impression on me. I put all of you in this category, but I want to particularly mention three that I wish I could personally wish a good bye: Earlene Causey, Kathy and John McMillan.

Thank you all for being our friends and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Paul Geiger, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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.



2009 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: Patrick Hudnall
- Hospitality: Jessica Sheldon
- Welcoming at Door: Marcia Livingston



**Minutes of General Meeting, November 15, 2009
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**

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

The meeting commenced at 2:15 PM with President, Donna McGraw calling the meeting to order.

General Meeting: Ted Richardson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee that also included Cecil Strange and Frank Lee, recommended the following slate of candidates for 2010:

- President: Donna McGraw
- Vice President: Jessica Sheldon
- Secretary: Cherie Lee
- Treasurer: Terri Dolney

Board Members at Large Darla Harris – Immediate Past President, Sharon Banister and Lulu Leonard

Monty McGraw motioned to accept the slate of candidates by acclamation. Mary McConnell seconded. All members approved.

With her new post as Vice President, Jessica Sheldon will resign as Hospitality Chair after organizing some great snacks for our meetings. A volunteer is needed to take over this job. If interested, contact Jessica or Donna McGraw.

Paul Geiger will be resigning as Newsletter Editor after many years of service. We will miss his hard work and patience with those of us that submit articles. If anyone is interested in taking over this job, please contact Donna McGraw. There was discussion about sending the Newsletter via email, or as an email link to the website where the Newsletter is posted, to any interested members in an effort to save money and time. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. Until a new Editor is found, Donna McGraw will take over for Paul.

Ways to increase the Society membership were discussed. Donna McGraw wants to make this a priority for 2010. Suggestion was made to mail out membership renewals to current and past members that have not attended meetings recently. Another suggestion was made to post meeting programs / projects for the upcoming six months or so on the website and in the Newsletter. If you have any ideas, please contact Mary McConnell, Membership Chair. Mary is also collecting 2010 memberships at this time.

Potential programs for 2010 were discussed. Among these were: David Malder – Zerophtic Ferns; Creating Micro-climates in your Gardens; Trip to Casa Flora-April or May; Don Calder-Staghorn Ferns; Growing Ferns in Terrariums, Glass Bowls, and Off-Beat Containers; Robbin Moran; Vertical Fern Gardens. If you have any program ideas, please contact Jessica Sheldon.

December 20th will be our Christmas Party at Donna and Monty McGraw's home. It will be our usual potluck meal with an optional gift exchange. Please let Jessica Sheldon know if you plan to attend and what scrumptious treat you plan to bring.

Members received two plants, Adiantum Hispidulum (Rosey Maidenhair Fern) and Matteuccia Struthiopteris (Ostrich 'The King' Fern), to take home. Don't forget to keep records on the Ostrich Fern to report back to Casa Flora on how it does in our area.

Mini-workshop: Larry Rucker organized and led a hands-on workshop to build mini-vertical tubes. Each member built two tubes, one filled with sphagnum and the other with polyester fiberfill. Davallia Trichomanoides (Black Rabbit Foot Ferns) were planted in each. This is a test to see if ferns will grow in the polyester fiberfill that does not breakdown like the sphagnum. We'll have a report back in the future from members on how their tubes are doing.

Plant Raffle: Frank Lee ran the plant raffle with many plants finding new homes.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



November Refreshments

Refreshments for November were generously furnished by:
Cherie Lee: Drinks
Jessica Sheldon: Snacks

Jessica Sheldon: Fruits/Veggies

Mary McConnell: Desserts

Jessica Sheldon: Service ware



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.



December Book Review

By: Frank Lee

"A Natural History of Ferns" by Robbin C. Moran

From the curator of ferns at the New York Botanical Garden, this book is a meticulously researched, soundly organized, and entertainingly written treatise on the biology of ferns. For all their cool beauty and exotic allure, ferns are anomalies of the plant world because of their distinctive form of reproduction, by spore rather than seed. Moran examines this and other essential processes in a scholarly manual that sets forth in a single volume the wealth of material usually accessible only through intricate research. As opposed to field guides focusing primarily on identification, this history explains the unique life cycle and explores the evolutionary adaptations that have occurred throughout the species' 340-million-year history. Exhibiting a storyteller's flair, Moran opens each chapter with an engaging vignette or anecdote to instantly engage the reader, thus elevating what could be a pedantic discourse into an enjoyable discussion.

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 January 19, 2009

The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

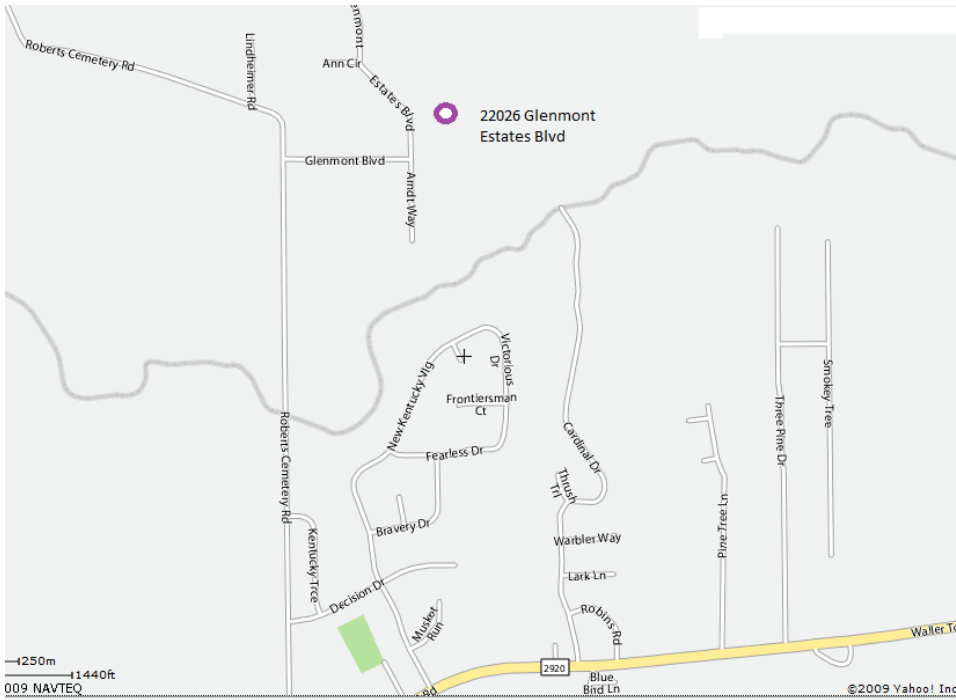
www.houstonorchid society.org

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

Next regular meeting is January 7, 2009.



The McGraw Home – Local Map:



The McGraw Home – Expanded Map:

