



October 2009

Vol. 11, No. 10

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, October 18, 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:**

Hello, Everyone,

I hope you all have your new babies safely tucked away. Don't forget to make notes of where you planted the trial ones from Casa Flora and how they fare this winter.

I also hope you've found that perfect place for your newly framed print. I don't have mine finished yet but I'm working on it.

For those of you who were not at the meeting in August, it was decided that we would not have the October meeting at our house but at the Garden Center instead. Since we had already cancelled and the main room has been booked for a plant sale, we'll be meeting in the Rose Room. It's the smallest one but we'll make do or move outside if it gets too crowded. Sharon has a recipe that makes potting soil in trash bags so we will make up the mixture and take it home in the same bag. We'll each be making up 5 gallons of potting soil and if any of you have extra 5 gal pales bring them to the meeting. We have some left over from painting the house but maybe not enough for every table to have one.

**VERY IMPORTANT** - please email me at donnamcg@charter.net or call me at 281-376-2923 (it's OK to leave a message if no one answers) and let me know if you're going to be at the meeting. We need to know how much of the ingredients to buy.

Hope you all have a good week and that I'll see you 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



**Minutes of General Meeting, September 20, 2009  
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**

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

The meeting commenced at 2:25 PM with President, Donna McGraw calling the meeting to order.

**General Meeting:** Donna McGraw discussed upcoming meetings / activities:

October meeting will be "Mixing Potting Soil". It will be held at the Houston Garden Center. Sharon Banister has a recipe for potting soil that we will be using. This should be very educational as well as fun.

For the November meeting, Donna will be checking into getting a speaker from Austin to talk on dry land ferns.

December 20<sup>th</sup> will be our Christmas Party at Donna and Monty McGraw's home. It will be our usual potluck meal with an optional gift exchange.

Plans are being made for a Spring-2010 field trip to Casa Flora in Dallas, more to come on that.

**Program:** Donna, with help from Monty, showed pictures and discussed the culture for the four ferns that we each took home to grow and love; *Dryopteris Australis*, *Dryopteris Celsa*, *Arachnoides Davalliaeformis*, and *Dryopteris Dilatata v. Jimmy Dyce*. Don't forget to keep records on them so we can report back to Casa Flora on how they do over the winter.

**Mini-workshop:** Jessica Sheldon presented a mini-workshop on Framing Ferns. She brought frames for sale, dried ferns, copies of ferns, paints, and everything else you might need to

make a lovely wall hanging as well as some great examples. Some members brought their own frames and ferns. Thanks Jessica for an educational presentation.

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

Meeting was adjourned about 4:00 pm.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



**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 – A Comprehensive Guide to Growing Ferns for the Home Gardener" by Gillean Dunk

This book is filled with information about ferns – their history; the folklore surrounding them; the structure and life cycle of ferns; pests and diseases, and how to combat them without harsh chemicals; how to successfully propagate and grow ferns in a house, greenhouse, glasshouse, or garden; how to grow ferns in terrariums and hanging baskets; and a list of over 200 species of ferns - readily available from nurseries and growers throughout the world. It is an enjoyable reference for the home gardener, whether expert or beginner.

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



**Treasurer's Report**

**January through September 2009**

**Income:**

Membership .....	250.00
Raffle .....	505.50
Silent Auction .....	315.00
Donations .....	281.00
Bank Interest .....	2.50

**Total Income: .....1,394.00**

**Expenses:**

December Checks .....	236.01
Program Material .....	400.56
Lecturer Fee .....	100.00
Facility Fee .....	89.75
Cost of Plants .....	878.97
Miscellaneous .....	139.55

**Total Expenses: .....1,844.84**

**Balance a/o 12-31-2008 .....7,420.73**

**Income Jan. - Sept.....1,394.00**

**Expenses Jan.-Sept.....1,844.84**

**Balance a/o 9-30-2009 .....6,969.89**



**September Refreshments:**

Refreshments for September were generously provided as follows:

- Snacks: Cherie Lee
- Drinks: Cecil Strange
- Fruits: Faye Stansberry
- Desserts: Marcia Livingston and Mary McConnell
- Service ware: Jessica Sheldon

**October Refreshments:**

Due to some minor illnesses, October's volunteers are not finalized at this printing. But Jessica will be calling and organizing. If you can help, give Jessica a call.



**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 October 20, 2009

**The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.**  
[www.houstonorchid society.org](http://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 November 5, 2009.

