



# Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

May 2010

Vol. 12, No. 5

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, June 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:

Wow! Hasn't this weather just been too good to be true? I think I'm going to wake up any minute to 95 degrees and find out that I've been dreaming. We've been taking advantage of the wonderful weather to get some landscaping done. I'm including some edible plants in the landscaping this year - veggies, fruit trees, and herbs. I hope you're enjoying playing in the dirt, too. This has been **the** season for plant sales starting with Mercer's March Mart and including just about every plant society and horticulture organization in the area. I hope you all got to go to at least a few of them.

We had a good turnout for our meeting last month. It was so good to see Carolyn and Walt Hesson at the meeting and we hope they'll be able to join us more often in the future. David Mahler's program was fantastic. The slides of the xerophytic ferns that we have here in Texas made me want to take field trips to see them in situ. David did a wonderful job of providing locations of the plants, scientific info, and even threw in a little history.

I hope everyone who's not working will try to make it to Dallas for our field trip to Casa Flora and the Dallas Arboretum on May 8. If you didn't sign up, it's not too late - just let Jessica or me know so we can add you to the list. Casa Flora is providing lunch and would like a head count as soon as possible. Remember the field trip is taking the place of our regular May meeting. If you need a ride or a roommate get in touch with Jessica or check out the list of folks who are planning on going in her article on the field trip. She has also included information on the La Quinta Inn & Suites where some of us plan to stay. There are maps to the La Quinta, Casa Flora, and the Dallas Arboretum at the end of the Newsletter. Depending on what time we arrive, the ones of us who go up on Friday night may get together for dinner or a late night snack - stay in touch. My cell phone number is 281-795-5986 and Monty's is 713-417-4850.

The May meeting will be the Federation's last meeting until September. They're having a pot luck luncheon and a presentation on "Designs That Communicate". The meeting is at the Garden Center on May 14th at 10:30 am with refreshments served from 9:30 to 10:30.

The Hardy Fern Foundation is having a Fern Festival and sale on June 4 and 5 and will have as their featured speaker David Schwartz whose specialty is native and xeric ferns and

fern allies of California. For more info, go to their website [www.hardyfernfoundation.org](http://www.hardyfernfoundation.org).

Walt Hesson mentioned at this past meeting that Robbin Moran and Carl Taylor will teach a course about the "identification, phylogeny and ecology of ferns and lycophytes" at the Humboldt Field Research Institute in Steuben, Maine. They will have morning lectures with afternoon field trips. For more info contact the Institute at 207-546-2821.

The Tropical Ferns and Exotic Plants society (Miami) is having its annual show and sale June 5 and 6.

The Los Angeles International Fern Society's show will take place the next weekend on June 12 and 13.

Hope to see you all in Dallas.

Donna



## May 8, 2010 Field Trip:

We're off to see the W.....

Woodwardia, ( Dryopteris) intermedia, Selaginella, Adiantum, ( Nephrolepis exaltata) 'Roosevelt, Dennstaedtia =W.I.S.A.R.D. ( No 'Z' ferns at Casa Flora so 'S' had to do) in the land of Oz.

The "Wizard" behind Casa Flora would be Naud Burnett II. In 1947 when 19 year old Naud graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in landscape architecture, there were only about nine ferns regularly available for his landscape business. He had to ask previous clients if he could divide and transplant their fern to the next client's garden. Today, we can choose from more than 100 varieties of hardy ferns, largely due to the Dallas based horticulture company Naud founded along with his son Burke, Casa Flora. Casa Flora is the largest fern producer in the U.S. and has introduced more than 70 varieties of tropical and hardy ferns to the international market.

Casa Flora pioneered tissue culture, which can produce exact replicas of the parent fern, in the 80's making it possible to mass produce varieties that were previously found only in their native lands or in a few enthusiasts' collections. Tissue culture also allows for consistent year round production of ferns, which in case I have not mentioned before, we are extremely fortunate to receive our ferns from Casa Flora for our monthly projects.

This is a rare opportunity, so, pack up your walking shoes, bring your camera, paper, pencil and head off to Dallas, the land of Oz, and see the W.I.S.A.R.D.

Itinerary for Casa Flora tour:

11:15 am Meet at Casa Flora's main facility at  
5543 McCommas Bluff Rd,  
Dallas, TX 75241, see maps

11:30 am Divide into two groups:  
Group One will go to the Trial  
Fern Garden  
Group Two will tour the basic  
production facilities

12:30 pm Lunch provided by Casa Flora

1:00 pm Group One and Group Two swap  
tour sites

2:00 pm Tour ends at Casa Flora

The tour to the trial gardens will go to an old green house facility that was started in 1928 with glass houses that they do not use, and the fiberglass green house that they do use. The fern garden has wonderful sandy loam soil, is shaded by large oak trees, and is in front of the house of the previous owner. The trial garden shows what plants will survive the Dallas 100 degree heat of summer to the freezing winter, with temperatures as low as 19 degrees.

The group at the production facilities will further be divided into smaller groups. One group will tour and have an explanation of the tissue culture and spore room, while the other group tours the greenhouse facility.

BUTTTTT, we are not quite done yet in the land of Oz. Naud Burnett II designed the Dallas Arboretum's showpiece, the Jonsson Color Garden AND the Palmer Fern Dell, with 90 types of ferns planted along a meandering stream and humidified with an automatic misting system developed by NASA. Hoo Yaa!

Many of us pilgrims are driving to Dallas the night before (about a 5 hour drive from Houston, not counting getting lost, asking for directions and going to the bathroom) and staying at the La Quinta Inn & Suites, 1000 Dowdy Ferry Rd, Hutchins, Texas 75141, phone # 214-269-1015, see maps.

The field trip will REPLACE our usual meeting scheduled for May 16th.

This is who is on the list so far. If you are NOT ON THIS LIST and plan on going, contact Jessica at [jscooking@aol.com](mailto:jscooking@aol.com). I need a head count for lunch at Casa Flora BEFORE May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Darla and Joe Harris  
Ted and Jeannie Richardson  
Donna and Monty McGraw  
Cherie and Frank Lee  
Martha Burg and Friend  
Mary McConnell  
Malcolm McCorquodale  
Jessica Sheldon  
Cecil Strange  
Larry Rucker  
Lu Lu Leonard  
Sharon Bannister  
Dawn Smith  
Noreen Tolman

If you are ON this list and are not going, let me know.

Whew, that's all folks!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



**Up and Coming Attractions**

May 8	Casa Flora Field Trip
June 20	Workshop Weekend
July 18	Platycterium Identification by Barbara Joe Hoshizaki
August 15	Summer Party and Plant Exchange
September 19	Ferns from A-Z by Darla Harris
October 17	Open
November 21	Open
December 19	Holiday Party

June's meeting will be a "Workshop Weekend" getting down and dirty with making a plant press. We will also have official Herbarium paper for pressing our ferns, nice. Besides pressing ferns as a means to preserving them, there will be an opportunity to dip fronds in acrylic floor wax, glycerin, and paint. There could be works of art! Bring newly pressed fronds to dip and paint. The plants for June will not be ready for pressing, but grow them up and press them (before they hibernate for the winter).

We have many other possibilities and speakers being pursued for our Society. As always, suggestions for programs are always welcome so please let me know if you have any, especially for the open dates.

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



**Dues:**

If you haven't paid your dues for 2010, this is a reminder.

**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.



**Refreshments:**

Refreshments for April were generously provided by:

Drinks:	Ted Richardson
Dips & Chips:	Mary McConnell
Fruits/Veggies:	Darla Harris
Desserts:	Jean Richardson
Service ware:	Cecil Strange

Refreshments for June will generously be furnished by:

Drinks:	?
Dips & Chips:	Cecil Strange
Fruits/Veggies:	Cherie Lee
Desserts:	Larry Rucker
Service ware:	Cecil Strange

Please let Cecil know if you can help with the refreshments. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



### 2010 Officers and Committees:

President:	Donna McGraw
Vice President:	Jessica Sheldon
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
Marketing:	Darla Harris
Newsletter:	Cherie Lee
Library:	Frank Lee
Raffles:	Patrick Hudnall
Hospitality:	Cecil Strange
Welcoming at Door:	Marcia Livingston



### 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.



### May Book Review

By: Frank Lee

“Hawai’i’s Ferns and Fern Allies” by Daniel D. Palmer

This book is the first comprehensive survey of Hawai’i’s ferns to be published in more than one hundred years. It covers endemic, indigenous, and naturalized ferns and fern allies (including rare and endangered plants). It contains more than 100 drawings along with detailed descriptions for all 222 species, varieties, and forms, and some hybrids. The author also includes information from Hawaiian folklore and mythology, describes uses of ferns by native Hawaiians, and updates Hawaiian common names.



### Minutes of General Meeting, April 18, 2010

#### 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.

**May 8<sup>th</sup> Field Trip:** Vice-President Jessica Sheldon discussed the upcoming trip on May 8th to Casa Flora in Dallas. The trip will include a tour of Casa Flora (try to be there by 11 AM) and lunch, concluding at about 2 PM. A possible trip to the Dallas Arboretum may follow but details are still being worked. Let Jessica know if you plan to attend so she can give a head count to Casa Flora for lunch. Darla Harris has found us a reasonably priced hotel close by Casa Flora, La Quinta Inn & Suites in

Hutchins, Texas for \$79 a night. Everyone needs to make their own hotel reservation.

**Upcoming Programs:** Jessica discussed the upcoming meetings for the rest of the year. June will be a workshop to make a press and learn ways to preserve ferns. July will be a presentation by Barbara Joe and August will be the pot luck summer party at Jessica’s house with the plant exchange.

**Library:** Chair Frank Lee reminded all that the Library was open for checking out books and to please return books at the next meeting.

**Newsletter:** Editor Cherie Lee reminded members that the deadline for the May Newsletter is April 24<sup>th</sup> in order to get the Newsletter out before the Field Trip.

**Hospitality:** Chair Cecil Strange reminded everyone to please sign up to bring refreshments for the June meeting.

**Program:** David Mahler, ecologist for Environmental Survey Consulting presented “Fern and Fern Allies of Texas”. David showed beautiful pictures of ferns in various habitats and provided information on growing requirements for our area. He discussed various xerophytic ferns and two such ferns were made available for purchase at cost: Cheilanthes argentea “Silver Cloak Fern” and Cheilanthes lanosa “Hairy Lip Fern”. Ted Richardson prepared plant data sheets for these two ferns for members to add to their notebooks.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



### Editor’s Comments:

As most of you are aware, the Newsletter is posted on the TGCFS website at the same time as it is mailed out to the members. In an effort to save money on mailings, it has been suggested that email notification be sent that the Newsletter has been posted on the website instead of mailing the Newsletter. Members can then visit the website to view the Newsletter and print it for themselves if they wish. **If you have not done so already, please let me know if you are willing to accept the email notification and forgo the mailed Newsletter.** You can contact me by calling 281-999-8368, emailing [cherie.d.lee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cherie.d.lee@sbcglobal.net), or let me know at the next meeting. If I don't hear from you, you will continue to receive the Newsletter as usual. Thanks.

**Deadline for the June Newsletter is June 5, 2010.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



### 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.

#### The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

[www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org)

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

Next regular meetings are May 6, 2010 and June 3, 2010.



**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 meetings are May 18, 2010

***BS/H Show and Sale***

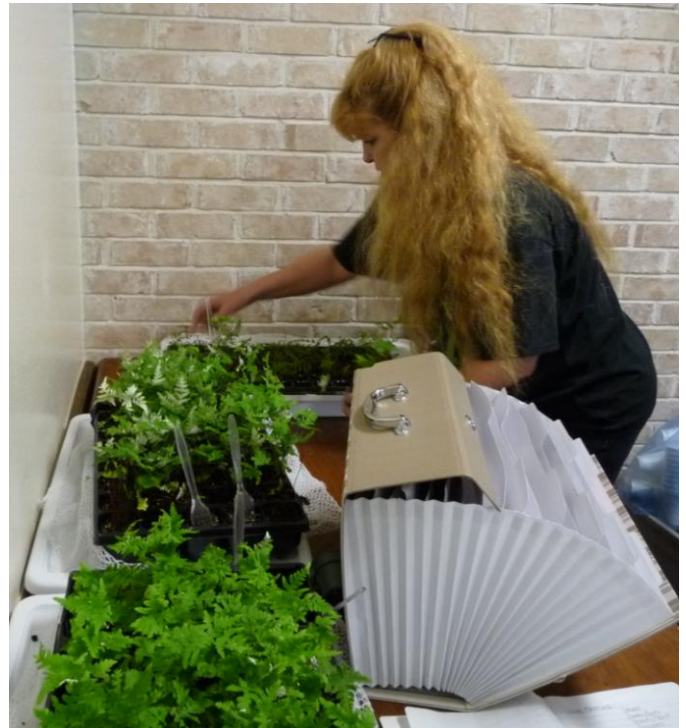
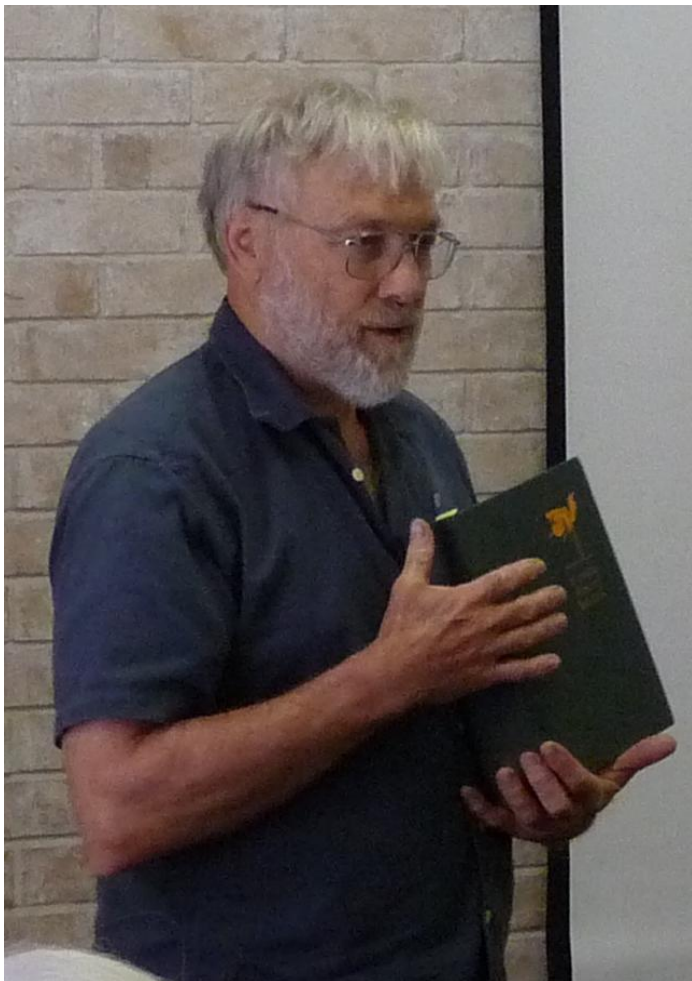
Mercer Arboretum  
May 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>

Plant Sales	Friday	noon to 5 PM
	Saturday	9 AM to 5 PM
	Sunday	11 AM to 4 PM
Show	Saturday	2 PM to 5 PM
	Sunday	11 AM to 4 PM



April 18, 2010 General Meeting

David Mahler  
Ecologist for Environmental Survey Consulting  
“Fern and Fern Allies of Texas”



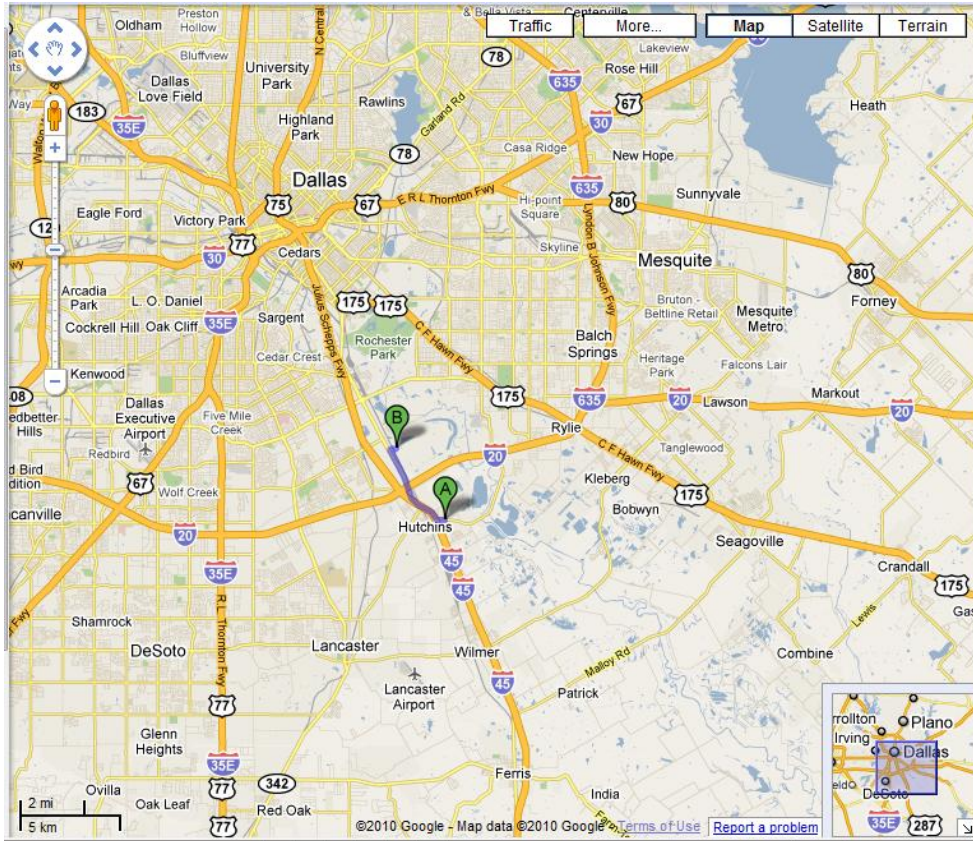
*Cheilanthes argentea* “Silver Cloak Fern”



Jessica's  
Gardens



## Maps for May Field Trip to Dallas



**A** Ferry Rd, Hutchins, Dallas, Texas 75141

**B** Casa Flora Sales, Dallas, TX

[Add Destination - Show options](#)

By car Get Directions

**Also available:** [Public Transit](#) [Bicycling](#)

**Driving directions to Casa Flora Sales**  
3.2 mi – about 6 mins

- A** 1000 Dowdy Ferry Rd  
Hutchins, TX 75141
- 1. Head west on Dowdy Ferry Rd toward Meadow Brook Dr 0.2 mi
- 2. Take the 3rd right onto I-45 Frontage Rd N 0.3 mi
- 3. Take the ramp on the left onto I-45 N 0.5 mi
- 4. Take exit 275 to merge onto Central Expy/I-45 Frontage Rd/TX-310 N  
Continue to follow Central Expy/TX-310 N 1.9 mi
- 5. Turn right at Mc Commas Bluff Rd 0.3 mi  
Destination will be on the left

**B** Casa Flora Sales  
5543 McCommas Bluff Road  
Dallas, TX 75241

[Save to My Maps](#)

**Sponsored Links**

[Hutchins TX Hotels](#)  
The Texas Hotel Site.  
Discount Hutchins TX Hotels.

[la quinta Hutchins tx](#)



[Add Destination](#) - [Show options](#)

By car

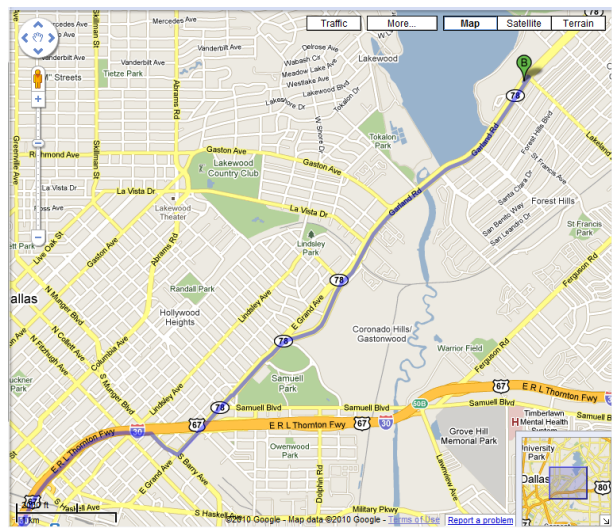
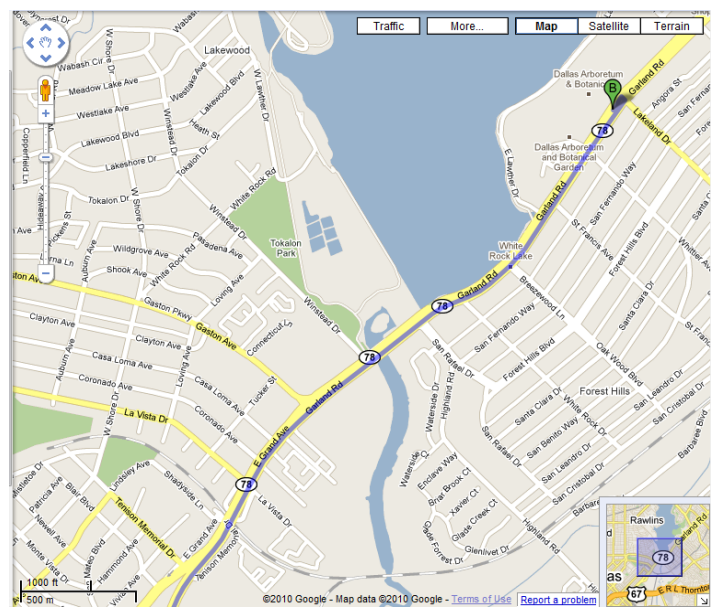
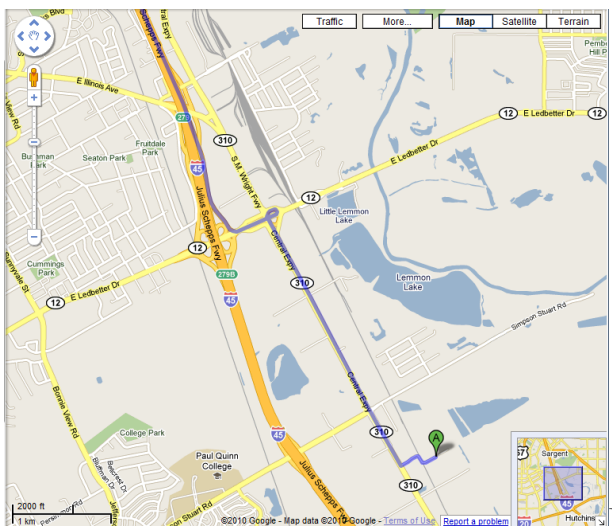
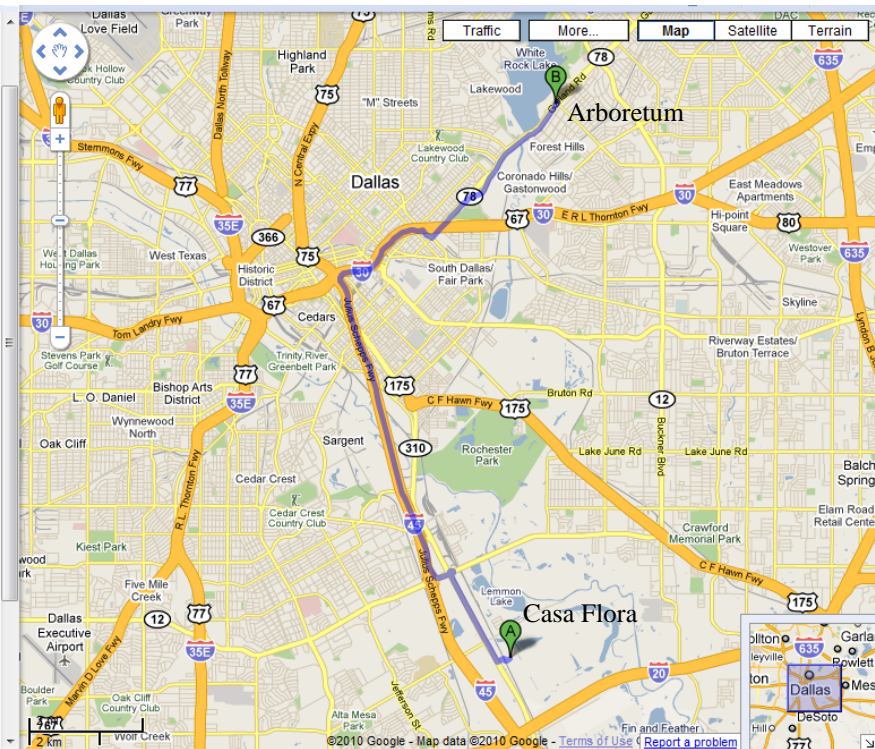
Also available: [Public Transit](#) [Bicycling](#)

**Driving directions to Dallas Arboretum & Botanical**  
 13.4 mi – about 20 mins

**A** Casa Flora Sales  
 5543 McCommas Bluff Road  
 Dallas, TX 75241

- Head southwest on Mc Commas Bluff Rd toward Central Expy 0.3 mi
- Take the 1st right onto Central Expy 1.8 mi
- Slight right onto the TX-12 W ramp 0.1 mi
- Turn right at E Ledbetter Dr 0.3 mi
- Merge onto I-45 N via the ramp to Dallas/Mc Kinney 5.4 mi
- Take exit 284A to merge onto I-30 E 1.8 mi
- Take exit 48B for Barry Ave toward Munger Blvd/E Grand Ave/TX-78 0.2 mi
- Turn right at S Barry Ave 0.2 mi
- Turn left at E Grand Ave 2.3 mi
- Continue onto Garland Rd 1.0 mi
- Make a U-turn at Lakeland Dr Destination will be on the right 295 ft

**B** Dallas Arboretum & Botanical  
 8525 Garland Road  
 Dallas, TX 75218-4335



Hope to see you there!