



# Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

June 2010

Vol. 12, No. 6

<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:

Greetings and welcome to summer - after last winter, I'm very reluctant to complain about the heat but it has been a bit toasty with very little rain to cool us off. I'm still working on landscaping - hoping to finish before it gets so hot you have to do landscaping at night 😊. I've been building a little stream with a tiny pond at both ends and it sure feels good to stop and stick your feet in the water when it gets to about 90 degrees. I never thought I wanted a swimming pool but I can finally at least see the attraction.

The May field trip was absolutely wonderful. I'm sorry everyone couldn't make it but we had a respectable representation. Casa Flora put on a really good tour of their facility, served us a wonderful lunch and sent us home with "goodie bags" full of samples of their ferns. There was quite a crowd there including members of the Southwest Fern Society (the Dallas group) and the fern study group of the Austin Garden Club.

Jessica has a fun program lined up for us this month and I hope to have some special goodies for the raffle table.

I hope to see you all there.

Donna



## June's Program:

### Floor Wax and Ferns

When it comes to having projects to do, I have a never ending supply of ideas. Implementing them is another matter altogether. While ideas soar through my head, I can find more excuses not to do them. I don't understand how the dishes can suddenly become more important than the long anticipated project. I have spent months, even years, gathering materials, articles, organizing so when that magical moment comes, I will conduct my materials to flow together like an orchestra playing a symphony. I don't like this personality trait of mine, but I am making peace with it. So to help those of us who need a tad more structure in life to get something done (just ask Cherie what it is like to get these articles from me for the newsletter), we are having a "Workshop Weekend".

Monique Reed, Herbarium biologist for the Texas A&M University Biology Department, gave a very inspiring and informative presentation on herbariums. This is prime time to start gathering fern crosiers, fronds, and plants (if at all willing to sacrifice a plant!) to start cataloging and indentifying the ferns we have growing at home. The key ingredients are plants, paper and a plant press.

Our very own Larry Rucker will be taking us through the steps of putting together the press. There will be official herbarium paper to get you started. We will have a "gluing station" set up for you to practice the rather fine art of gluing dried ferns to paper, practice paper supplied.

That's not all: while we are exploring the process of preserving ferns for our herbarium collections, we will play with other materials and means of preserving ferns for more aesthetic endeavors. In other words, I found an article on using acrylic floor wax for, more accurately put, extending the "shelf life" of our ferns. Glycerin and paint give other effects with our affects for ferns.

We will get down and dirty. Come prepared to make a mess and save the good clothes for another time. Bring ferns, pressed or not, tissue or other paper to put under your fern when spray paint, and if you have a particular paint color you want to bring, have at it, otherwise we will have some cans of paint available ( I smell another project in the future using that paper, so hang onto it)

You need to reserve a packet of project materials as a courtesy to Larry, who as always is so gracious to saw, drill and instruct us on these special projects. **RESERVATIONS for a project package are now being taken** by calling me, Jessica, at home 281-298-4287, on my cell 713-598-5836, or email [jscooking@aol.com](mailto:jscooking@aol.com). There will be a project fee TBD.

I'm looking forward to our project plants this month, both hardy from zones 7-10. With the drought last summer, the freezes last winter and now the record heat, these should hold up through it all, not excluding acts of overwatering or irrespirable tampering by the owners. Who are these wonders? *Polypodium pseudoaureum*, Virginia Blue tm. Fern and *Pyrossia shearei*, Shearer's Felt fern.

See you at the meeting.

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



## July's Program:

We have the honor of presenting Barbara Joe Hoshizaki as our July speaker.

Barbara was a professor of Botany at Los Angeles City College, Curator of Pteridophyta at the University of California at Los Angeles, and has been the President of the Los Angeles International Fern Society as well as honorary member of countless Fern Societies and horticultural instructions around the world. She wrote the first Fern Growers Manual in 1975 with its 250 pages and expounded on this book in 2001 with the help of Robbin Moran, with over 600 pages covering hundreds of ferns on how to grow and just as important, how to identify them.

The topic of the July meeting will be Platycerium identification, those Trophy Staghorn ferns we all covet and try to grow as large and magnificent as they do in nature. We will have most of the Platycerium's that are being grown today to look at and learn how to tell one apart from another. This will be a hands-on work shop, slides and dissecting microscope to view all the information.

More details in next month's newsletter about this workshop and what you will need to bring other than your hand lens. If you do not have a lens, please get with Larry Rucker to purchase one before next month's meeting.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



### Up and Coming Attractions

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| June 20      | Workshop Weekend                                       |
| July 18      | Platycerium Identification by<br>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  |

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.



## Help Wanted:

Hi Everyone,

I need your help!!! What I need from each of you is the following information please!!

- A list of Garden Societies and clubs that you are a member of.
- A copy of your local community newspaper.
- The top five web sites you like to go to regarding plants and any others that you just like the layout, how information is accessed etc.
- The two or three nurseries you go to most often, including any local neighborhood type that others may not know about.
- Any Plant sales you go to that are private, like Jerry's Jungle.

Our goal this year is advertisement, increase membership, and preparing for our upcoming Auction next spring. I'm looking for any ideas that you have, or that you have seen, that work.

If you'd like to discuss or have any questions, please call me at 281-733-5564 or email me at [darla@fernplantation.com](mailto:darla@fernplantation.com). Thank you in advance for all your help.

Submitted by: Darla Harris, Marketing Chair



### Fern Society Tee Shirts:

Is your TGCFS Tee shirt worn out or did you never get one? Darla Harris is taking orders for a Tee shirt order. If you are interested, please email or call her ASAP and she will try to get them delivered at the upcoming meeting. Her contact information is: 281-733-5564 or [darla@fernplantation.com](mailto:darla@fernplantation.com).



### Refreshments:

Refreshments for June will generously be furnished by:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Drinks:         | Gary Woolridge |
| 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!



### 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 July Newsletter is July 1, 2010.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



**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
- Web Master: Malcolm McCorquodale
- 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.



**June Book Review  
By: Frank Lee**

“The Tropical Look” by Robert Lee Riffle

This is a comprehensive book of nearly 2000 plants that evoke landscapes of swaying palms and frangipani blossoms. The author draws a distinction between tropical plants and tropical-looking plants, some from cool climates but with foliage or flowers that would not look out of place in any tropical landscape. Each entry includes information on whether a plant can survive cold weather, whether it will spring back from its roots, its light requirements, soil preferences, and techniques for propagation. Over 400 photographs show the plants in all their glory. An A-Z encyclopedia has entries representing every kind of tropical plant, including trees, bamboos, palms, ferns, perennials, shrubs, water plants, vines, and much more. Also featured are cacti, succulents, and xeric plants that can conjure up the tropics in dry landscapes. There are also lists that put all the plants into categories: fragrant plants, shade-tolerant plants, and so forth. This book offers everything you need to know to plant and maintain a dramatic tropical looking garden.



**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 July 1, 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 July 20, 2010



**Casa Flora Field Trip, May 8, 2010  
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**

The regular May meeting was replaced with a field trip to Casa Flora in Dallas, Texas. Members attending met at Casa Flora at 9:30 AM. The tour included three 40 minute sessions: Technical, Growing, and Plant Gardens.

The Technical session consisted of a visit to the tissue culture lab and the spore facility. In the tissue culture lab, we learned how the lab worked and what the various stages of production look like. In the spore facility, we learned how to produce ferns from spore and sporophylls through a microscope.

The Growing session included a tour of the production greenhouses to see how the ferns are grown as well as how they manage the environment for the ferns including lighting, temperature, humidity, and watering.

The Plant Gardens session included a tour of the test gardens where over 260 varieties of ferns have been planted over the last two years.

A lovely lunch was then served and each member received five fern plugs to try their hand at growing. It was a very interesting and informative trip.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



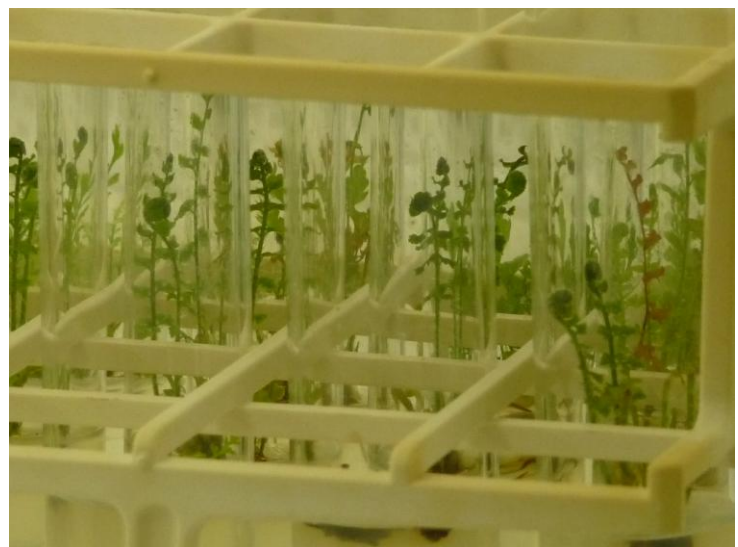
May 8, 2010 Field Trip to Casa Flora



Our Host Naud Burnett II



Tissue Culture Lab



Spore Facility



Planting



Growing



Gardens

