



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

December 2010

Vol. 12, No. 12

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Holiday Party: Sunday, December 19, at 1:00 p. m. – Jean and Ted Richardson's home,
28 Lana Lane, Houston, TX 77027 – Map included**

A message from our President:

Happy Holidays to all my fellow fern nuts!

Thanksgiving is such a great time of year. Getting together with the family, eating too much, watching football, eating some more. I hope you all had a good time and can still fit into your frocks to wear to the Christmas party. I'm looking forward to the Christmas party. We usually have a few members come that we haven't seen in a while - remember if you want to participate in the present exchange, bring a fern (or plant) related present costing between \$5 & \$15. Don't forget to let Jean know what food you're bringing to our pot-luck party.

As I mentioned at the meeting, Monty and I are having a New Year's Eve Party again this year and you're all invited as usual. I hope many of you will come - we had a great time last year. As usual, if you don't want to drive home in the dark so late at night (actually in the morning), we have plenty of room for overnight guests. New Year's Eve is on Friday night this year. RSVP if you can make it - 281-376-2923 or email me. Maps are attached.

See you at the Christmas Party!!

Donna



A message from our Vice President:

Santa's gone missing

December 2010

You won't see anything on the news, internet, or in those tabloids by the grocery checkout, but I know the truth. Santa is not at the North Pole.

You might not care if Santa is around or not, after all we are adults. Santa, toys, and Ho, Ho, Ho, well that's all kid stuff. But I will admit I like Santa, I like toys. Give me presents Santa! Now that I've admitted my propensity to greed, will you?

So, being an adult and knowing that Santa is muchhhhh older than I am, where would he go? My first pick would be somewhere warm, and I don't mean Houston; somewhere with blue skies, blue water, and a hunky good looking guy to do my

bidding. Oh, my wish, I guess not Santa's. But the Caribbean would be warm and we'll give Santa a cute - I guess I won't go there. I also know he is not anywhere near the Caribbean.

Let's see, Australia, or better yet, New Zealand is warm in December. Yes, I would go there, especially to see the ferns. Can you imagine actually standing there in the middle of one of those ancient tree fern forests, hugging yourself for fear you would just burst with joy if you let go? Or burst and find out it was only a dream? No one tell me you have been there, I might burst out in tears.

Santa is not there either. I really can't see him enjoying the ferns, especially in his heavy Santa suit. So there has to be someplace else. Not too hot, not too cold. Actually Houston might not be a bad place for Santa to show up. And if he were to show up, I have it on reliable authority (my authority since I am writing this article I can put Santa anywhere I want, what fun!) that he very well MAY be at the home of Ted and Jeanie Richardson on December 19th at 1 o'clock.

But Santa? Will he actually be there? Or will he just leave behind a trail of goodies? I guess you will have to come to find out!!!

We will have our 'gift exchange'. Bring a gift, get a gift - plant related, tasteful (no hanky-panky gametophytes please) within a range of \$5 to \$15. For those members who travel and need to get back home before dark, we will feast at 2pm and exchange gifts at 3pm. Maps are attached.

We've had a wonderful year as a Society, and I personally want to thank Donna for being president. Donna you expanded my view of ferns from just interesting and pretty, to ferns have botanical names, families, genera, and wow what variety! Darla, Ted, Frank, Cherie, Larry, without your help, my first year as vice president would have been, well, a not! To all the fabulous speakers who read this newsletter, you are the reason we have a Society; you keep us inspired, informed, and influenced in such a way that we share our enthusiasm with others. To Cecil, who keeps the food on the table, so to speak, and all the members who brought refreshments, to the Officers and Committee members who tidy up the behind the scenes business and functioning of the society, thank you for your participation and support of our society.

Hope to see you all at the party!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Polypodium formosanum

Pronunciation: pol-ee-POD-ee-um for-MOH-sa-num

With the coming of winter, many of our ferns are tucking themselves away to sleep the winter through, to awaken in the spring with a push of new fronds. The *Polypodium formosanum* is on an opposite time clock. This fern chooses to sleep the summer away, and with the coming of winter, awakens and puts off its lime green fronds to cover the green rhizome which is all you could see during the warmer months of the year.

The grub fern, or caterpillar fern as it is commonly called, has a bright green long rhizome that creeps slowly around the hanging basket or plaque it is planted on. The rhizome can be crested like the one shown in the picture, or just rounded at the end. The new fronds will come out of the rhizome, not just on new growth, and the leaves can get about 9 inches long.

Best grown in bright light and well drained soil or moss, but is a slow grower so don't get impatient, and don't think it's dead when at the end of spring, just before our heat sets in, you look and it has dropped all of its fronds. It is a smart little fern and knows to skip our hot summers. Being a semi-tender fern, it will need protection during our winter months. This is a very cute and rewarding fern to grow, with habits so unlike some of our other ferns.

It "tis the season" for this *Polypodium* to look its best in all its splendor.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



Minutes of General Meeting, November 21, 2010 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.

Donna McGraw announced that the McGraws would be having a New Year's Eve party again this year and TGCFS members were invited. The party would begin around 7-8 PM. Please RSVP by phone or email to let Donna know if you plan to attend.

2011 Officers: Nominating Committee Chair Patrick Hudnall presented the following nominations for the 2011 Officers and At-Large Board Members:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Jessica Sheldon
Secretary:	Cherie Lee
Treasurer:	Terri Dolney
Board Members at Large:	Sharon Banister, Lulu Leonard, and Donna McGraw-Past President

Larry Rucker moved that the nominations be accepted by acclamation. Jean Keiser seconded and the members present voted to accept the nominations.

Membership: Chair Mary McConnell reminded members that she was collecting 2011 membership dues and had copies of the membership form if anyone needed one.

T-shirts: Darla Harris has some extra TGCFS T-shirts if anyone is interested.

Hospitality: Chair Cecil Strange reminded everyone to please sign up to bring refreshments for the new year, especially for January. Please let him know if you can help out.

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



Society Store: Larry Rucker informed members that plant tags were available for \$5 per 100 and a few copies of "The Fern Dictionary" by Wilbur W. Olson were still available for \$4 per copy.

Holiday Party: Jean and Ted Richardson are graciously hosting the party at their home inside the 610 loop. The party will begin at **1 PM** on our normal meeting day, December 19th. It will be a pot-luck dinner so please let Jean know what you plan to bring as soon as possible. We will also have a gift exchange for anyone interested in participating, fern/plant related gifts in the \$5-\$15 price range.

Program: Dr. Joan Hudson, Associated Professor of Biology at Sam Houston State University and editor of the Fiddlehead Forum, the American Fern Society newsletter, presented a very interesting program on "Fern Reproduction". She discussed the fern life cycle from the sorus on the fronds to the sporangia, to spores, to gametophytes, to prothallium, to sporophyte. There were also microscopes available to get a close up look at the various stages of fern reproduction.

Polystichum acrostichoides 'Christmas Fern' were available for purchase at cost and Ted Richardson prepared a plant data sheet for members to add to their notebooks.

Plant Raffle: Patrick Hudnall ran the plant raffle with many plants finding new homes. There was also a special raffle for two lovely plants donated by Patrick Hudnall. Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 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, 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 January Newsletter is December 30, 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

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

Next regular meeting is January 6, 2011.

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 18, 2011.

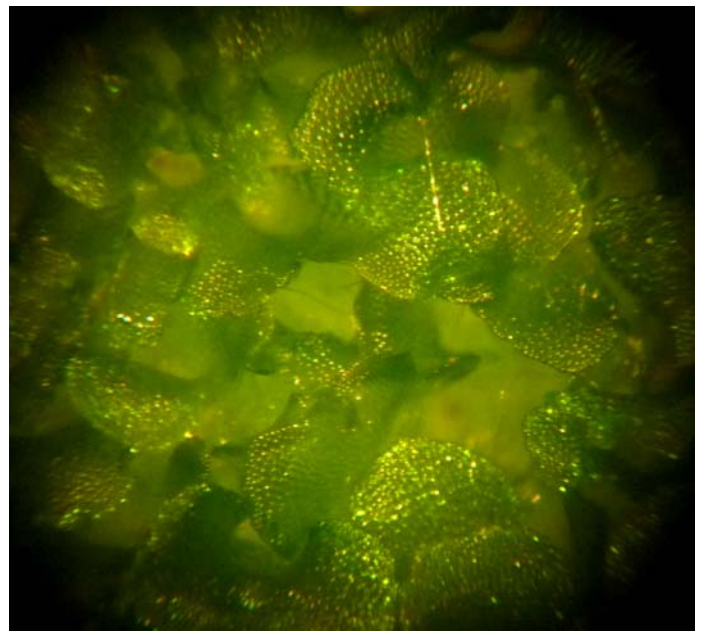
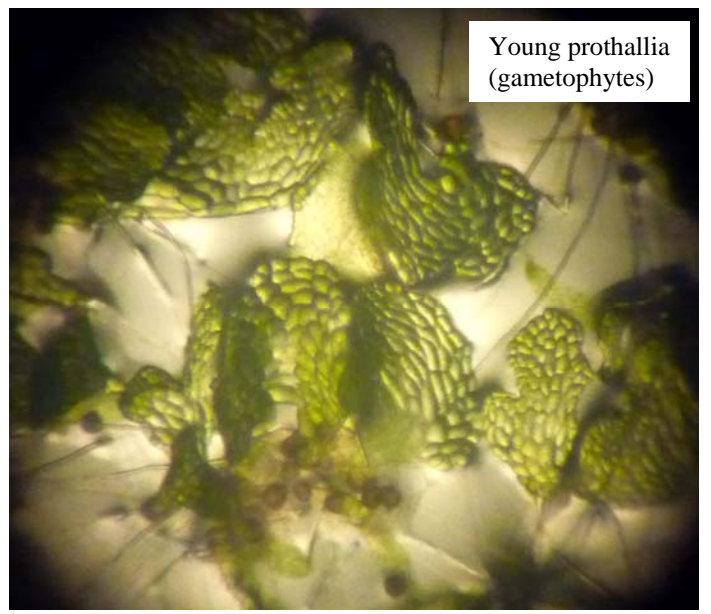
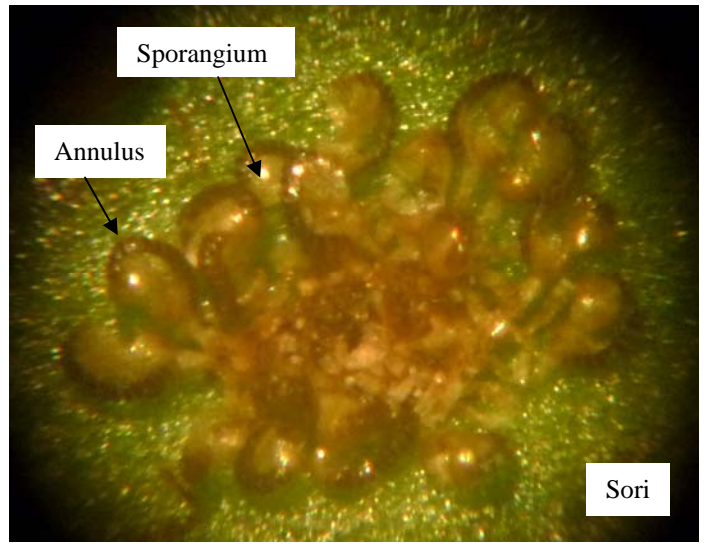
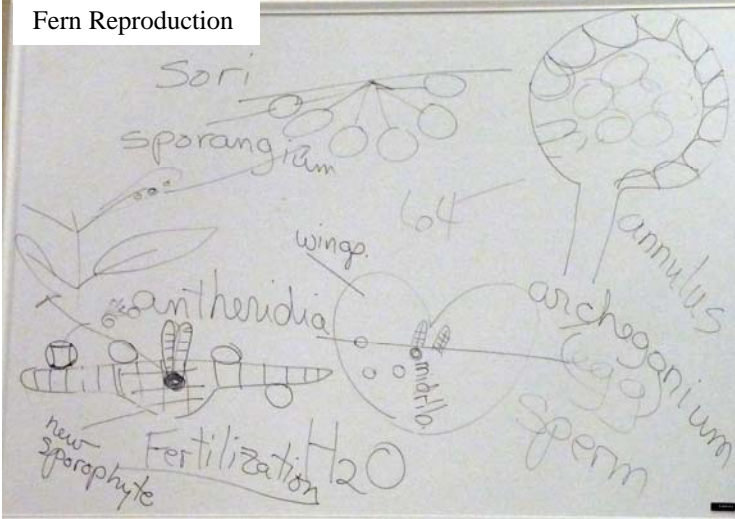
November 21, 2010 General Meeting "Fern Reproduction" by Dr. Joan Hudson

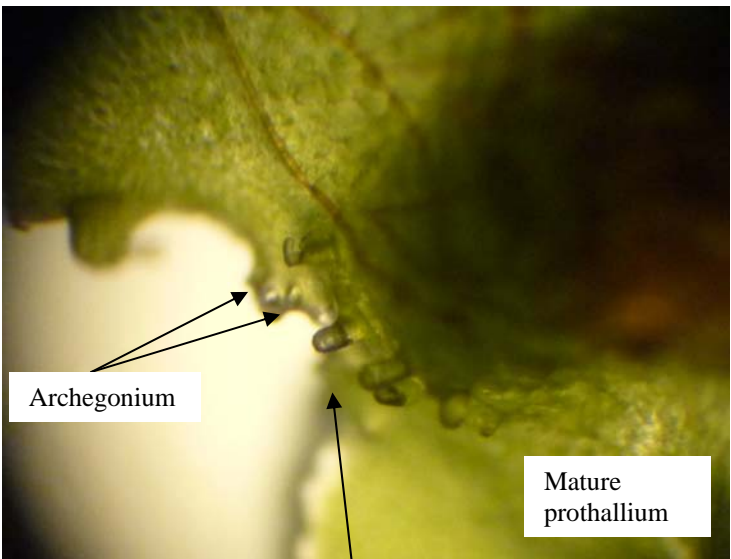
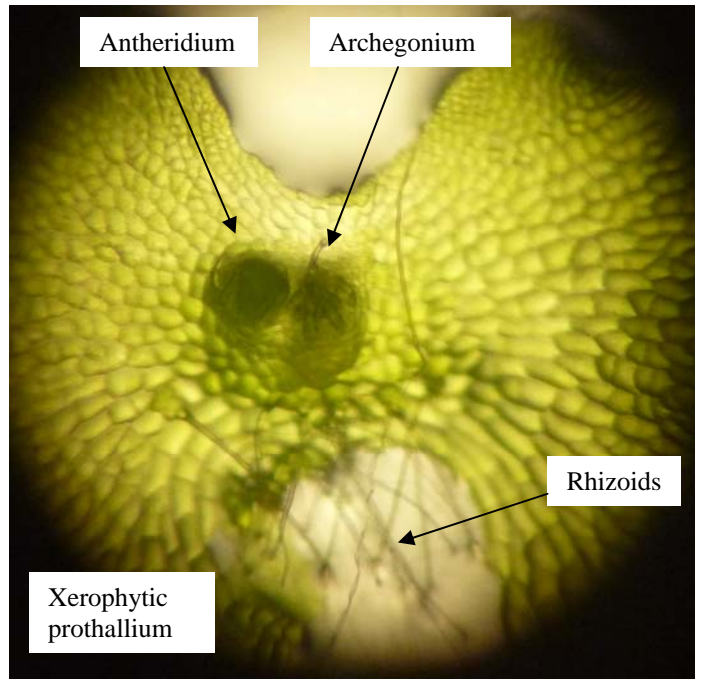
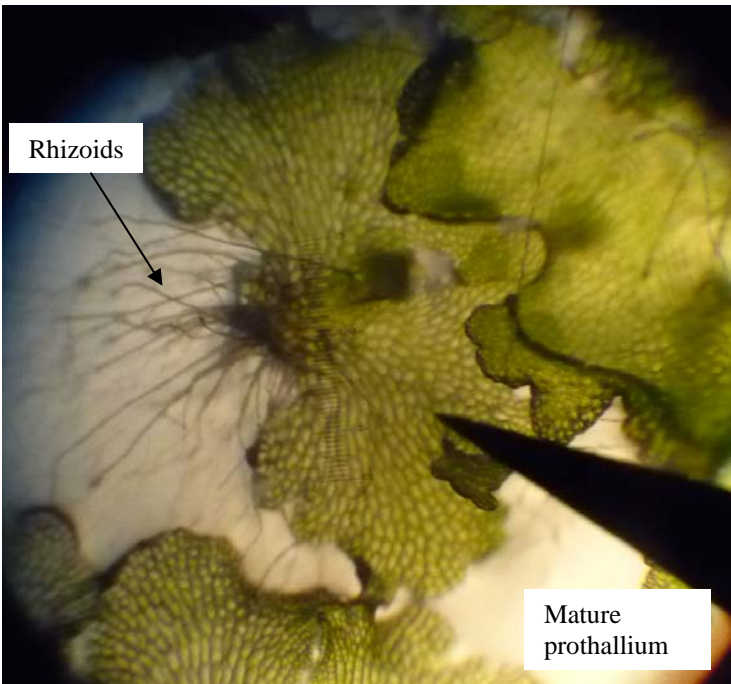


Dr. Joan Hudson



Fern Reproduction



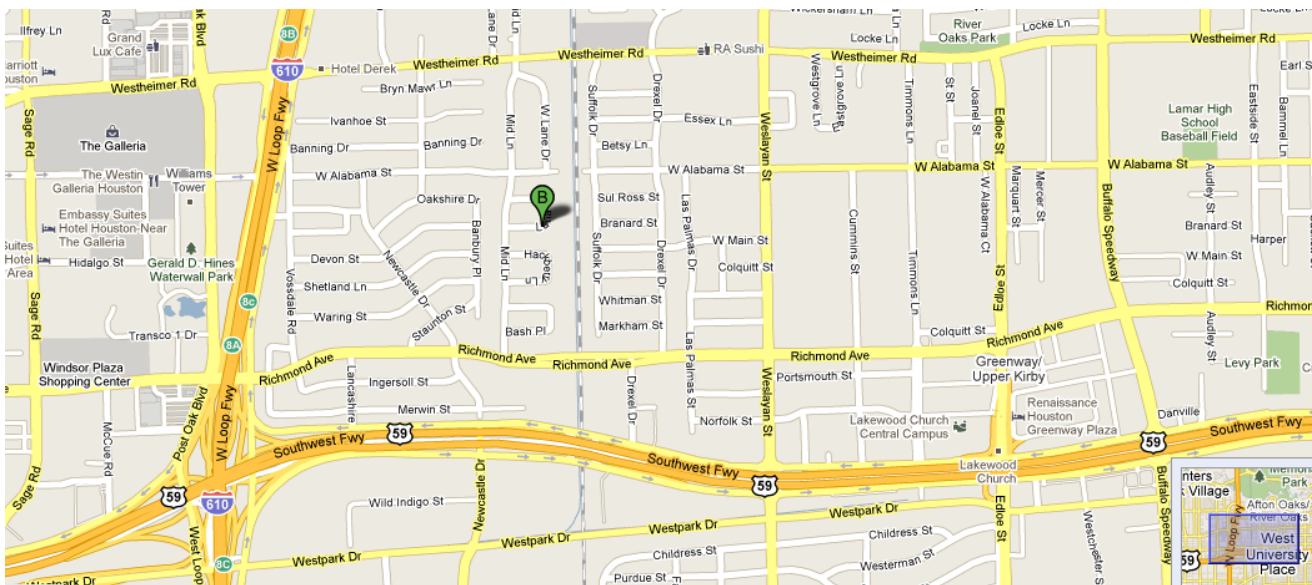
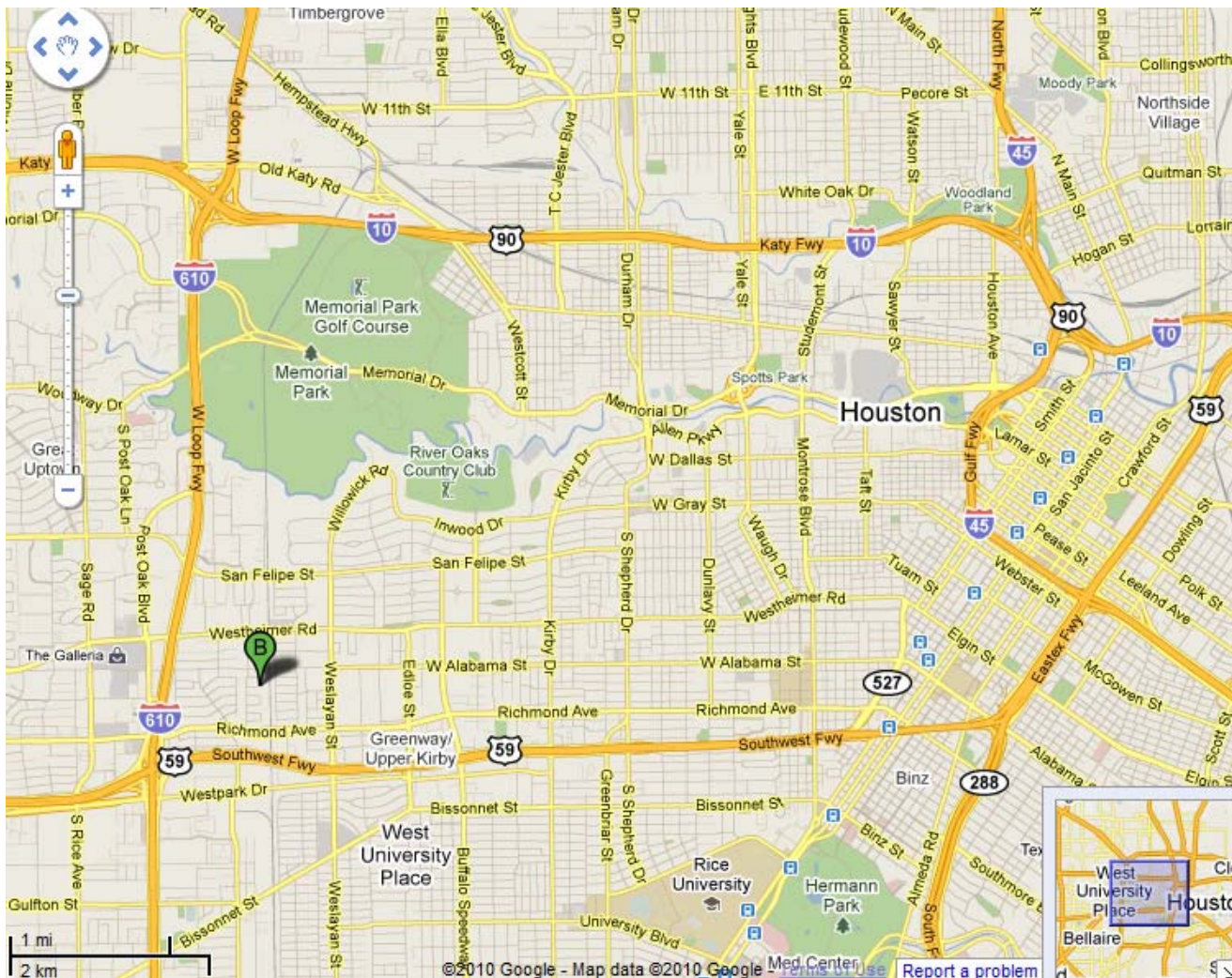


Fern of the Month
Polystichum acrostichoides
 "Christmas Fern"



Great selection on the raffle table

Holiday Party – December 19th at 1 PM
Jean and Ted Richardson's Home
28 Lana Lane, Houston, Texas 77027
Home phone: 713-963-0118



New Year's Eve Party – December 31st at 7-8 PM
Donna and Monty McGraw's Home
22026 Glenmont Estate Blvd, Magnolia, Texas 77355
Phone Numbers: 281-376-2923

