



# Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

January 2010

Vol. 12, No. 1

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 17, 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 Happy New Year!

I hope everyone is recovering from the holidays and looking forward to a wonderful new year. We have some interesting new things planned for the fern society for 2010. (Does anyone but me find it hard to believe it's 2010 already?) The officers and committee chairs will be working hard to make this year another fun and educational one. Jessica's busy getting commitments for some interesting programs and field trips. We have a new Hospitality Chairperson, Cecil Strange. I'm sure you'll all give him your usual enthusiastic help just like you did for Jessica. Just remember, it's your society, if you can't serve as an officer, there are lots of other ways to help and participate. If one of the committee heads calls and asks for your help, please co-operate or go up to one of them and volunteer.

I want to thank all of you who attended the Christmas Party at our house. Thanks for all the wonderful food and fellowship. If the comments are any indication, a good time was had by all who attended. It was so good to see Richard and Elizabeth Broome (who promised to try to make it back to the meetings) at the party.

**Reminder** - We're having a board meeting before the regular meeting - at 12 o'clock. We have a lot of things to discuss so try to make it. I'd like for all committee heads to be there to talk about this coming year and all fern society members are welcome to come and sit in on the meeting if you'd like to.

Donna



## January's Program:

Fellow Ferners:

The garden outside my window looks like memories of the long, cold, dreary winters from long ago when I grew up in Chicago (minus the dirty snow). Plants wilted or gone completely from sight, leaves piled high in desperate attempt to save some, and I swear it seems colder than I remember. Burrrrr.

So to cheer up those winter blues and inspire hope that some of those outside ferns will survive, we have a Winter Windowsill Project for the January program.

Donna will start us off by talking about growing ferns indoors, their special conditions and needs.

The windowsill planter will be the inspiration for Spring with a great fern from Casa Flora-'Austral Gem' tm: *Asplenium dimorphum* x *difforme* 'Austral Gem' tm. We are able to get these ferns in a 4" pot, so the plants will be planter ready.

**Here is a list of materials YOU need to bring to plant your planter:**

1 gallon of material for the bottom layer of the planter for proper drainage. I have been using rubber mulch (recycled tires) as an economical, light weight material and I get it from Sams, but I'm pretty sure you can get small bags from any Home Center. Other choices are: broken crocks, Orchid bark, clean gravel, I've even used seashells.

8 Quarts Orchid Potting Mix (1 bag) by Miracle-Gro, or if you have any left, the potting mix we made up at our October meeting, or approx 3 lbs of any potting mix of your choice. I like the Miracle-Gro Orchid Potting Mix; it's sold in an 8 qt bag that is easy for me to handle, available, light and has a slow release fertilizer-.10-.02-.05. One suggestion is to open the bag of Orchid Mix, set the bag in a pan or bowl and pre-wet your mix. You zip the bag shut, the moisture will absorb into the mix, and the excess water drain into your pan. This will make planting your ferns easier at the meeting.

The bottom tray the planter will sit on is: 29" long x 6 1/2" wide x 1 3/4" high. The planter itself is: 25 1/2" long x 5 1/2" wide x 6" high. There will be 3 plants per planter.

**Because there will only be enough plants for 20 planters, please call Jessica at home 281-298-4287 / cell 713-598-5836 or better yet email at [jscooking@aol.com](mailto:jscooking@aol.com) to reserve a planter. There will also be a workshop fee of \$10 for this project to help cover the costs of the larger plants, etc.**

I think this will be an exciting fern specimen to have growing in the planter and can even be transplanted to the garden in the spring. We will have notebook binders to hand out to members to start a year-long diary of ferns, projects, plant profiles, speakers, and party fun.

I am looking forward to being your representative for programs. This is YOUR society: hints, helps, and info for programs will be appreciated.

Keep Green, grow a fern!

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.



#### 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  
Newsletter: Cherie Lee  
Library: Frank Lee  
Raffles: Patrick Hudnall  
Hospitality: Cecil Strange  
Welcoming at Door: Marcia Livingston



#### Board Meeting:

There will be a Boarding Meeting starting at 12 PM noon before our regular meeting on January 17 at the Houston Garden Center. All Committee Chairs please plan to attend as well.



#### New Members:

Please give a warm welcome to returning members Richard and Elizabeth Broome. Glad to have you back.

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Membership Chair



#### January Refreshments:

Refreshments for January will generously be furnished by:

Drinks: Terri Dolney  
Snacks: Darla Harris  
Fruits/Veggies: Malcolm McCorquodale  
Desserts: Larry Rucker  
Service ware: Cecil Strange

Come out and enjoy some really good and delicious food!



#### Christmas Party, December 20, 2009

##### Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

This year's Christmas party was held at the new home of Donna and Monty McGraw in Magnolia. A good time was had by all; great place, great food, and great people. We missed all of you who couldn't make it, maybe next year.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



### Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Statement of Income & Expenses January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009

#### INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 375.00
Raffle Income	596.50
Silent Auction Income	315.00
Donations	339.00
Bank Interest	<u>3.28</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,628.78</b>

#### EXPENSES

December Checks	\$ 237.01
Program Expenses	459.71
Lecturer Fees	377.70
Facility Fee	105.95
Cost of Plants	1,239.09
Miscellaneous	<u>214.83</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,264.29</b>

**Cash Balance 12-31-2008:** \$7,420.73

**Cash Balance 12-31-2009:** \$6,785.22

**2009 Net Income:** - (\$ 635.51)

Submitted by: Terri Dolney, Treasurer



#### 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.



#### January Book Review

**By: Frank Lee**

"A Field Guide to the Ferns and Their Related Families"

by Broughton Cobb

This unabridged paperback edition is a completely illustrated pocket guide to all the species of ferns, horsetails, clubmosses, spikemosses, and quillworts found in a major portion of the North American continent. The clear text and precise drawings are based on the Peterson Field Guide system of visual identification and make this a book readily understood by the beginner, yet authoritative enough to meet the demands of the professional biologist. There are over 500 illustrations showing both the full plant and details of spore cases, leaf patterns, and other diagnostic characters.

The author has included two separate sections by other botanical experts, one on the geological history of ferns and the other on the creation and care of a fernery. The many closely related species to be found in the British Isles and Western Europe are described in a brief chapter featuring a key of plant silhouettes that leads the reader instantly to proper identification.



### Editor's Comments:

We would like to thank Paul for his many years as editor of our Newsletter. He and Patsy will be missed but we hope they will make it back for a visit sometime. We wish them all the best in their retirement.

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. **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 January meeting. If I don't hear from you, you will continue to receive the Newsletter as usual. Thanks.

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.

#### 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 January 19, 2010

#### 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 January 7, 2010 & February 4, 2010



### Christmas Party 2009 – Donna & Monty McGraw's Home





Jessica Sheldon is discussing the planters that will be used in the January program. Don't miss it.