



# Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

September 2010

Vol. 12, No. 9

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 19, 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 to all.

We need to get together to have a rain dance. This time of year I'm very thankful that we have a well and don't have to pay for our water by the gallon. I hope your plants are thriving in spite of the heat.

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs meetings start up again this month after a summer hiatus. They meet on the second Friday of the month at the Houston Garden Center at 10:30 AM. September's meeting is on the 10th. The speaker will be Dr. Jim Johnson from Texas A&M. His program's title is "Designs That Say More".

Some other interesting goings-on include a fall trip to the countryside to Visit Painted Churches sponsored by the Federation - Wednesday, October 13. This is an all day event leaving from the Garden Center at 7:45 AM. The four German and Czech churches that will be visited are on the National Registry of Historic Places and the trip promised to be one you won't soon forget.

"There are 18 distinct color classifications for roses that include various shades of white, pink, red, orange, yellow, mauve and russet. However, a rose petal with stripes is a rare find", according to Deanna Krause, a master rosarian. She's going to share her favorite varieties of striped roses in a program at the Garden Center on September 9th at 7:30 PM. This should be fascinating for the rose lovers among us.

The Native Plant Society of Texas is sponsoring a "Wildscapes Workshop and Native Plant Sale". It will take place Saturday, Sept. 11, 8:45 AM to 3:30 PM at the Houston Community College West Loop Campus. There is a fee for the lecture but the sale is open to the public at 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM - for more info go to [www.npsot.org/houston](http://www.npsot.org/houston).

Longwood Gardens, in Kennett Square, PA has launched its Plant Explorer website for gardeners. The website allows you to look up any plant by name and provides unprecedented access to Longwood's plant records, plant images, garden information and interactive maps – for more info go to <http://plantexplorer.longwoodgardens.org/>.

Election of officers for the coming year is fast approaching - please remember that this is your society and do your part to

make it the organization you want to have. Volunteer your time, your ideas.

I hope to see you all at the September meeting.

Donna



## A message from our Vice President:

There's Something about Darla

Sept. 2010

You know that feeling you get when you've made a connection? That this connection will be with you for a long time; a force that won't let you go? That there is something special, drawing you in? I know that feeling all too well.

I was at Teas Nursery, a well respected nursery in Bellaire, as was my usual habit on Saturday mornings. But something in particular had my attention that day. There was a lecture, no, more like a demonstration, no, how to describe it? Well, there was Darla! And there were ferns! And Darla knew about ferns and how to pronounce those baffling names!!!! And the ferns were all green and alive and oh so beautiful!!!

I was hooked, drawn in by that force of personality and knowledge; I became a member of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society, that day, right then and there. My experience thus far was continued failure to grow a Boston fern in New Mexico. Well, the odds were against me. But armed with the Houston humidity and my new found connection to a fern society (who would have thought such luck?); I was ready to begin the journey.

But Darla's journey started much earlier in her life, with her mother, who as you guessed, loved plants. Again that connection: mother, daughter, plants. That something special drew them in, that force forging a lifelong relationship with each other and plants. Darla's interest in plants focused on ferns with greenhouses to house, collect, and grow ferns.

With her knowledge and experience growing over 300 different types of ferns, I for one do not want to miss her presentation on "Ferns from A to Z" covering classification and identification as well as lots of other useful information. She will have around 50 ferns on display and these will be for sale after the presentation.

Yes, there is something special about Darla. I owe her many thanks for being at Teas Nursery that day, for being a founding member of our society, and for learning those tongue twisting Latin names!

Come join me and listen and learn from our own Darla Harris.

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



### Up and Coming Attractions

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



### Local Newspapers / Society Newsletters:

Thank you all for bringing your local newspapers and various garden club newsletters. If you have not brought me yours, please bring them to the September meeting.

Remember, our goals this year are advertising and increasing membership. I'm looking for any ideas that you have, or that you have seen, that work.

If you'd like to discuss your ideas 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



### 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.



### Fern Society Tee Shirts:

If you ordered a TGCFS Tee shirt, they have arrived and Darla Harris will be bringing them to the September meeting.



### Refreshments – Help Wanted:

Refreshments for September will generously be furnished by:

Drinks:	Open
Snacks:	Cherie Lee
Fruits/Veggies:	Open
Desserts:	Open
Service ware:	Cecil Strange

**We need volunteers for Drinks, Fruits / Veggies, and Desserts. If you can help, please call Cecil.**

Please let Cecil know if you can help with the refreshments for the September meeting: [c2strange@comcast.net](mailto:c2strange@comcast.net) or 281-481-3884. If you can't help with September, please consider helping out for October or November. 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
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.



### September Book Review

By: Frank Lee

"The Fern Dictionary" by Wilbur W. Olson

This book has been designed to be of value to everyone interested in ferns. The two concerns of this book are names of ferns and definitions of words as they apply to the study of ferns. The book is divided into three sections. One section is devoted to a listing of common names of ferns and their associated botanical names. The second section lists the genera that are being used and that have been used. The third section is a glossary giving the botanical definition of words, particularly as they are applied to ferns. And of course, as in any dictionary, pronunciations are included.



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

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



## Summer Party and Plant Exchange, August 15, 2010 Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

The August meeting was our summer party and plant exchange. Jessica Sheldon graciously hosted the party at her home in The Woodlands. All those attending had an enjoyable time talking about ferns and eating great food including delicious homemade ice cream (thanks Darla, Jessica, and Mary).

The annual plant exchange was a great success with many plants finding new homes. It was so much fun watching everyone that I totally forgot to take any pictures. Those of you who missed out will have to come next year to see for yourself. Thank you Jessica for your hospitality once again.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



### 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 meeting is October 7, 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 meeting is September 21, 2010

#### Fall Sale – September 25, 2010

Gethsemane United Methodist Church  
6856 Bellaire Blvd. (east of the SW Freeway)



Summer Party and Plant Exchange



Our Host Jessica - taking a well deserved break



The ice cream makers – Darla, Mary and Jessica

