



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

September 2011

Vol. 13, No. 9

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 18, 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:

Hi Everyone,

Can you say "HOT" and "DRY"? Wow, can you believe the August we just had with 100 degree F average temperature for the month? When did we become Arizona? I know several of you, like me, were born here in South / South East Texas and this is just wild. I hope we get out of this cycle soon. I know when Joe and I first moved to our property in Magnolia, it was during the rainy season. It rained and rained for the first 3 or 4 years. We could not catch a break. We had not put our drive down (too poor) and we literally sunk. I drove a low profile car at the time (partly why I drive an SUV now) and Joe had to pull me out on more than one occasion just trying to get to the house. Boy, to have rain again (now we have a driveway) would be wonderful!

One thing from this heat wave and drought is that we will truly learn which of our plants and 'FERNS' can take these conditions. When we had our speaker on Xerophytic ferns like Cheilanthes a couple of years ago, who knew we should have been paying really close attention? But then they need some water, too. I'm almost afraid to have Jessica pick a speaker on water ferns again, we may flood this time.

Over all, my ferns have weathered this drought pretty well. I'm not saying that my plants don't look sad because they do. Maybe when I retire and have a little more time they will do better should we have another dry spell. But for the most part, everything is still alive. We are watering everyday (luckily we are on a well) but that being said, we have a big place and most things only get water every 3rd day... not enough hours in the day. I never ever thought I would be ready for winter, but I am. I know, be careful what you wish for. After the last couple of winters, it is scary. We need a change though....for sure.

I heard the Party was wonderful. I hear you're still eating all the food that was brought. We have the best cooks! I'm so sorry I missed it. Thank you, Mary, for hosting the Party again. I know it was fun!

The only good thing about this hot weather is the parking at the Garden Center. If it continues like this, we should have open places for parking for the plant swap. I have my 5 plants ready, do you? I hope you do. I can't wait to see what I will get to bring home with me. This is always fun and I hope everyone will participate.

Stay cool and don't get over heated taking care of your plants. Take care and see you in a week or so!

Darla



A message from our Vice President:

How It Works:

Sept 2011

It's September and the heat keeps marching on and on. However, this month's meeting is our annual plant exchange! We get to have a plant party, party animals that we are. And who thought being in a fern society was boring? Not us! So bring out your most unusual, favorite, or plants which have survived this record heat and see who thinks your plant is worthy of the first pick!

To review, this is how it works: You may bring up to 5 plants for the exchange. Plants are not restricted to ferns. However, they need to be established in their pots. No cuttings or freshly potted plants, please. Also, they must be labeled, whether a plastic plant marker or a piece of paper. Give as much information about the plant as possible. If you do not know the botanical name, give the common name and include YOUR name on all of your plants. That way, if the recipient needs to ask something about the plant, they know who to ask.

Numbers, or some other mystifying means of communication, will be given to each person. At random, the identifying winner will be proclaimed. That person has the honor to make the first pick of plants. Just to make it interesting, there will be a prize, or a surprise, given to the person whose plant is the first picked. I mean this is a party isn't it? The person whose plant is picked is then the next person who gets to select a plant. Whichever plant they select then gets the next pick and on and on until all the plants are picked!

What a great way to feed our obsession for plants! And if that isn't enough, we will also be having the regular raffle! Once more, we will have a raffle! Raffle items can be anything plant related; plants, books, unusual pot, or something that is the next best thing since ??????

Plants, food, fun, and fellowship: sounds like a winning combination to beat the heat. See you at the meeting!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Up and Coming Attractions:

- Sept 18: Annual Plant Exchange – get those plants growing and potted before the Sept meeting
- October 16: Open
- November 20: Open
- December 18: Christmas Party with gift exchange

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Refreshments

Refreshments for September will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Donna McGraw
- Savory: Mary McConnell
- Fruits: Terri Dolney
- Veggies: Jean Richardson
- Desserts: Cherie Lee
- Service ware: Society

Please let Jean Richardson know if you can help with the refreshments for future months. <mailto:tedandjean@aol.com>. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



2011 Officers and Committees:

- President: Darla Harris
- Vice President: Jessica Sheldon
- Secretary: Cherie Lee
- Treasurer: Terri Dolney
- Board Members at Large: Marcia Livingston, Donna McGraw, and Lulu Leonard
- Membership Chair: Mary McConnell
- Ways and Means: Ted Richardson
- Special Projects: Larry Rucker
- Web Master: Malcolm McCorquodale
- Newsletter: Cherie Lee
- Library: Frank Lee
- Raffles: Larry Rucker
- Spore Exchange: Patrick Hudnall
- Society Store: Larry Rucker
- Hospitality: Jean Richardson
- Welcoming at Door: Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



Grand Opening Memorial Park Greenhouse & Plaza October 28, 2011 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Please join us for the grand opening of the New Memorial Park Greenhouse & Plaza, 6501 Memorial Drive 77007.

RSVP by October 19th to revpparks@houstontx.gov or 832-395-7061.



Summer Party, August 21, 2011 Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

The August meeting was our summer party. Mary McConnell graciously hosted the party at her home. All those attending had an enjoyable time eating great food and staying cool eating Mary's delicious homemade sorbet. It was great to have time to talk with everyone. Hope to see you all at next year's party. Thank you Mary for your hospitality once again.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



September Book Review

"Indoor Ferns" by Boy Altman

This book explains in great detail the correct treatment for ferns: light, water, temperature, fertilizer, repotting – all aspects of caring for the plants are discussed in simple language, and with no complicated scientific terminology. In addition, each variety (about ninety of them are available) is discussed separately in summary form. It tells you how to keep tropical and sub-tropical ferns growing in peak condition and is lavishly illustrated with over 150 color photographs.

This book is intended for every fern lover and there will no longer be any excuse for letting an indoor fern die after only a few months. Every room in the house can be home to some of the many splendid varieties of ferns.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



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, there 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.



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 October Newsletter is September 30, 2011.

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

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Houston Garden Center.

Next regular meetings are September 20, 2011.

Fall Sale – September 17, 2011

Gethsemane United Methodist Church
6856 Bellaire Blvd. (east of the SW Freeway)
9 AM to 3 PM

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 meetings are October 6, 2011.

**TGCFS Summer Party
August 21, 2011**



Our Hostess - Mary McConnell

