



November 2011

Vol. 13, No. 11

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, November 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:

Hi Everyone,

I never thought I would be looking forward to winter. This has been such a hot summer! So many of my ferns are pushing new growth right now it is going to make it rough on them for the first freeze. Let's hope for more rain!!

For those who did not get to attend last month's wreath making project, you missed a nice program. Jessica Sheldon had everything ready to go! Thank you Jessica for all your hard work preparing for the program. It always makes the projects go more smoothly.

This month we will be doing another hands-on project. This one will be growing from spore using an agar solution. All supplies will be provided and each membership household will receive one free kit. There will be a presentation and then the workshop. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

We will also be electing our officers for next year. Larry Rucker is heading up the nominating committee with Jean Kaiser and Frank Lee as the other committee members. Thank you all for taking this on!

I'm still having email issues so I have not submitted an article for this month's newsletter. I had thought I would be up and running by now, but it has not happened. Sorry...maybe next month.

Take care and hope to see you at the meeting.

Darla



A message from our Vice President:

What's that in my ?????

November 2011

I'm looking forward to the Holidays. Thanksgiving is the time our family gets together. We cook together, drink a little wine, then a little more wine, eat, talk, talk, and talk. I like to cook. Although, I must admit I like to eat, so cooking gives me choices beyond cereal, which is convenient but lacks adventure.

Even though I am now living alone, cooking is part of my creative nature. The crock pot has become my go to kitchen

friend. I'm learning to make things in the crock pot I never considered. With the fall season comes winter squash. Being a northerner and having had a garden for many, many years, I know that winter squash is one of those garden vegetables that gets better with a touch of frost; does not grow down in Dixie. So when winter squash comes in season, I am a glutton.

However, the outer flesh of the squash is as hard as a nut. I used to get out the big ax, put the squash on the outside chopping block, aim, and swing down with all my strength. I usually got two useful halves and kept all my toes. With no ax and no outdoor chopping block, I put the squash in the crock pot. Voila', that hard shell softened like butter. I could easily cut it open and reveal that gold, orange flesh, sweet enough to eat right then and there.

Baked, sautéed, or put in cakes, cookies and other baked goodies, winter squash is wonderful. So what has all this got to do with this month's meeting? Well, I can tell you we are not cooking (although there is always plenty to eat!), no axes, no winter squash (but wait until the Holiday party - you will probably see something in the pot luck line up that has winter squash in it) but we will be getting our hands in agar; a gooey glob of ... well, Darla will tell you all about it at the meeting.

So what is that in my ????? You will have to come to the meeting to see.

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Up and Coming Attractions:

November 20: Growing Spores in Agar Solution
by Darla Harris

December 18: Christmas Party with gift exchange
at the home of Malcolm McCorquodale

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Refreshments

Refreshments for October were generously furnished by:
Jean Keiser, Emma Payne, and Larry Rucker

Refreshments for November will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Malcolm McCorquodale
Savory: Funded by Lulu Leonard
Fruits: Jean Richardson
Veggies: Noreen Tolman & Ken Gardner
Desserts: Debra Norris
Service ware: Society

Please let Jean Richardson know if you can help with the refreshments for future months. [mail to:tedandjean@aol.com](mailto:tedandjean@aol.com).
Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting - October 16, 2011

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:05 PM with President, Darla Harris calling the meeting to order.

General Meeting: Darla Harris reminded members that election of officers for 2012 will take place at the November General Meeting and announced that Larry Rucker had agreed to act as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Jean Kaiser and Frank Lee volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee with Larry. Jessica Sheldon motioned that they be accepted by proclamation and Terri Dolney seconded the motion. The members present unanimously approved.

Darla opened the floor for Committee Chair updates.

Treasury: Treasurer Terri Dolney requested that all receipts be given to her by the November meeting.

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

Upcoming Programs/Meetings: VP Jessica Sheldon announced that Darla Harris would be presenting the program in November, possibly on another method of propagating by spores. The December Holiday Party and gift exchange will be held at Malcolm McCorquodale's home at our usual date and time. If you'd like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift worth a minimum of \$10, one per person please.

Hospitality: Chair Jean Richardson reminded everyone to please sign up to bring refreshments for upcoming months.

Program: Jessica Sheldon led the staghorn wreath project by demonstrating the steps to attach a staghorn, or other plant, to a wreath and decorate the wreath to make a lovely door or wall hanging. Wreath kits, including a *Platyserium veitchii* "Lemoinei", were available for purchase and additional staghorns were also available. Many lovely holiday wreaths were made.

Plant Raffle: Larry Rucker ran the plant raffle with many plants finding new homes.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



2012 Dues:

2012 dues are now being accepted. Please complete the membership form included with your Newsletter or with your email Newsletter notice and return it with your payment to our Treasurer Terri Dolney or our Membership Chair Mary McConnell at our next meeting or mail it to:

Mary McConnell
6218 Wister Lane
Houston, TX 77008

TGCFS dues amounts:

Individual: \$10.00
Family: \$15.00
Student: \$ 5.00

Please make your checks payable to Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society or simply TGCFS.



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



November Book Review

“Ferns – A Comprehensive Guide to Growing Ferns for the Home Gardener” by Gillean Dunk

This book is filled with information about ferns – their history; the folklore surrounding them; the structure and life cycle of ferns; pests and diseases, and how to combat them without harsh chemicals; how to successfully propagate and grow ferns in a house, greenhouse, glasshouse, or garden; how to grow ferns in terrariums and hanging baskets; and a list of over 200 species of ferns - readily available from nurseries and growers throughout the world. It is an enjoyable reference for the home gardener, whether expert or beginner.

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.



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 meeting is November 15, 2011.

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 January 5, 2012.

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 December Newsletter is December 2, 2011.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFs Newsletter*



Holiday Wreaths

by Jessica Sheldon

October 16, 2011

