

December 2011

Vol. 13, No. 12

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Holiday Party: Sunday, December 18, at 1:00 P. M. – Malcolm McCorquodale’s home, 2905 Drexel Drive, Houston, TX 77027 – Map included

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone!

It's *Party Time*!! Don't you just love a good Party? I have to admit, I really enjoy our parties. I get to talk to everyone and not have to make sure everything is ready for the meeting. I know some months I don't get to talk to each of you and that is not my intent. Every one of you is such a special person and I miss catching up, that interaction that makes our Society so warm and welcoming. For those who I have missed, help me out and come up to me to talk. *Please*!!

I want to send a **Big shout out** to all the members for making 2011 such a wonderful year with our Society. I want to thank our officers and our Committee members for the outstanding job that everyone did! Pat yourselves on the back please, you deserve it! Our attendance this year was very good. I hope this means the programs tweaked your interest. We have some new ideas for 2012 so I hope you will really like them. Always feel free to give us your feedback. It takes us all to make this a fun, enjoyable, and educational Society. And the plants have been pretty nice, too.

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for providing us with a slate of officers for the upcoming year and the membership for supporting the roll over choices proposed by the Committee. Remember, per the by-laws, next year at a minimum we will need new members to fill the positions of Treasurer and Secretary as this coming year will be the fourth year for both Terry Dolney and Cherie Lee to serve in these positions. Please be thinking about which positions or Committee Chairs might suit you and take your turn helping to move our Society forward.

For the past several years, Mary McConnell has been our membership "Go To" chairperson. She has done a great job for us, but has now requested to be replaced. I told her it was going to be hard to do but, with a *Big "Thank You"* to Mary, we will let her retire her Membership Chair hat. This opens the door for a new Membership Chair and I hope to announce our new "Go To" person in the January newsletter.

Thank you all for your support and see you at Malcolm's for our Holiday Party!

Darla



A message from our Vice President:

Parteeeee, Parteeeee, Parteeeee

December 2011

With 2011 almost at an end, it is time to party one last time this year. It's kind of my personal Christmas, lots of food, "family", and presents. The people in our Society are friends I look forward to seeing every month. The programs give me (besides nerves, anxiety, and stress) a reason to learn, get out of my comfort zone, and keep me involved with something larger than myself. I have had time to reflect on the past year and all the help I have had in getting programs to our Society. The list is so long, I hesitate to name all the people, so to all of you, my deepest gratitude and many "Thanks".

Now, down to the party which will be at Malcolm McCorquodale's home (map at the end of the newsletter) on our regular 3rd Sunday, Dec 18, but starting at **1:00 PM** to allow us to socialize, eat, and exchange gifts before sundown. If you have not done so already, please contact Jean Richardson at tedandjean@aol.com or 713-963-0118 to discuss what food or drinks you plan to bring. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, it is a "give one, get one", so if you are a couple and both wish to receive a surprise gift, bring two. Please keep to around a \$10.00 - \$20.00 limit.

What else is there to say, except "See you there"!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Up and Coming Attractions:

- December 18: Christmas Party with gift exchange
1:00 PM at the home of Malcolm McCorquodale
- January 15: "Terrariums" presented by Sharon Bannister

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



November Meeting

Welcome Guests

Fukumi Smith

and

Susie Tolman



Refreshments

Refreshments for November were generously furnished by:

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

December will be our Holiday Party. Jean Richardson is organizing the feast so please let her know what delectable dish you plan to bring.

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



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



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.



December Book Review

“The Plant Book – The World of Plants in a Single Volume”
by Geoff Bryant, Tony Rodd, Barbara Segall, R. G. Turner, Jr, and Ernie Wasson

This book consists of three sections. The first section gives full information on gardening, growing plants, and a map detailing the hardiness zones for the country. The second section is made up of the A to Z of plants consisting of over 10,000 plants organized by genus. This includes information on geographical origin, description, cultivation, propagation, and pests and diseases. The third section is made up of useful and interesting reference material including information on plant names, a detailed glossary, and a comprehensive index of synonyms and common names. The book is full of beautiful pictures of the plants and blooms.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



Aglaomorpha 'Santa Rosa'

Genus: *Aglaomorpha* (ag-lay=oh-MOR-fuh)

Aglaomorpha is a genus of large epiphytic ferns. The Santa Rosa is a hybrid fern thus does not produce spore and can only be cultivated from division or tissue culture. This fern got its name from the Santa Rosa Tropical Fern Nursery. They put it into production several years ago now.

I have been growing this fern for several years. It is a little slow at first if you are only starting with a 4" pot size, but it grows up to be a beautiful fern with fronds getting to be 2 to 3 feet, at least that is as large as mine has gotten so far.

The Aglaomorpha is a footed fern (rizhome) that grows in a circular motion and can create a nest of fronds doing well if plaqued on something round or even a palm tree. Even though this is an epiphytic fern, it can be grown here in the Houston area. I have found it will take pretty bright light and can be quite drought tolerant. During our freeze a few years ago, mine did fine outside in a clay pot. However, last winter, I had not watered it before the freeze and I lost it. So it seems to need to be hydrated before a freeze in order to do well.

I have this fern planted in wire baskets, on cedar plaques, and in pots. It seems to do equally well under all these conditions. The fronds are coarsely cut and are wide at the bottom and will turn brown with age. These will turn papery and will serve to help catch leaf debris. The Aglaomorpha does well indoors until it gets too large. It does not need high humidity and can tolerate irregular watering.

All around, I give this a big thumbs-up for our growing area. Happy Growing.



Submitted by: Darla Harris

**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
General Meeting – November 20, 2011**

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:00 PM with President, Darla Harris calling the meeting to order.

2011 Officers: Nominating Committee Chair Larry Rucker presented the following nominations for the 2012 Officers and At-Large Board Members:

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

Martha Burg moved that the nominations be accepted by acclamation. Frank Lee seconded and the members present voted to accept the nominations.

Holiday Party: Malcolm McCorquodale has graciously volunteered to host the party at his home inside the 610 loop. The party will begin at **1 PM** on our normal meeting day, December 18th. It will be a pot-luck dinner so please let Jean Richardson 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 \$10.00-\$20.00 price range.

Hospitality: Chair Jean Richardson reminded everyone to please let her know if you are able to sign up to bring refreshments for upcoming months in 2012.

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

Program: Darla Harris, with the assistance of Larry Rucker, presented a program on propagating by spores on agar in a petri dish. Several drops of a spore mixture were placed and spread over the agar in the dishes (minor mix up on how to spread the spore mixture but live and learn). The dishes were then covered and each member received a couple of dishes to take home and care for by placing them in a warm 82 degree area with good light. Don't forget to bring your petri dishes and a tray with cover to the January meeting to plant up.

Additional *Platyterium veitchii* "Lemoinei" were available for purchase.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 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 27, 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 meeting is January 17, 2012.

The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

www.houstonorchidsociety.org

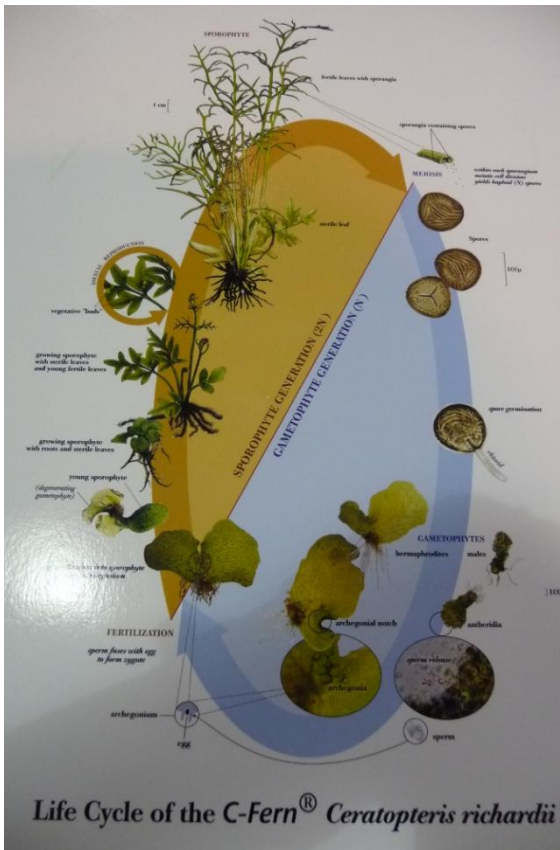
Regular meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Houston Garden Center.

Next regular meeting is January 5, 2012.

Growing Spores in Agar Solution

by Darla Harris

November 20, 2011



Holiday Party – December 18th at 1 PM
Malcolm McCorquodale's Home
2905 Drexel Drive, Houston, Texas 77027
Home phone: 713-621-6217

