



April 2012

Vol. 14, No. 4

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, April 15, at 1:00 p. m. – Katy and E. Don Walker Education Center, Sam Houston Memorial Museum - 1400 19<sup>th</sup> St, Huntsville, TX 77340**

**A message from our President:**

Hi Everyone,

I'm home!!! Wow, I almost missed our spring since it does not last very long for us normally. I can see the rains have really made the weeds grow, but also the terrestrial ferns are all up and growing. Let's hope the rains continue for us and that we don't have a repeat of last year's drought.

Many of our Oaks and Elms that had turned brown last fall have pushed off new spring growth, saying don't cut me down I was only conserving energy last fall to survive. We have seen a lot of our neighbors cut down their trees a little too soon and that is a shame.

The mild winter really helped by not heaping more stress on everything, but the down side is not enough cool nights for us to have plums this year. I minor trade off for me though.

I was sorry to hear so many were unable to make the last meeting. The parking was a problem as it normally is for spring break. The next two months we will be meeting elsewhere so that will take us through spring and we will see how parking in June turns out. Based on my conversations with some of our members who attended March's meeting, the program was very good and enjoyable. The Equisetum that was part of the program was very well received. We talked in January about replenishing our gardens with some hardy ferns and concentrating on those ferns this year so this program and plant fit right in.

Since we have the field trip in April, we will finish off our information on the Osmunda family in May. I hope everyone's first two plants are doing well. They are reliable growers for our area and should bring us many years of enjoyment.

I'm looking forward to going up to Huntsville and see Joan's stomping grounds at the college. This is a wonderful invitation to participate in. It will be so good to see each of you and catch up on all that I have missed.

Take care and enjoy this wonderful weather!!!

Darla



**A message from our Vice President:**

Stompin' Tail with Joan

April 2012

If that title doesn't get your attention, you need to get out in the great outdoors! And that is exactly what we are going to do in April, field trip!!!

We will be taking a short walk to the fields and streams of Equisetum arvense, or at the very least, our variety of the common horsetail. Wear long pants, bring trowel and baggies or pots to put your "Tails" in. Yes, we get to dig our very own fern from the "wild".

However, I'm ahead of myself. Here is the itinerary:

- 1:00 PM: Meet at the Katy and E. Don Walker Education Center at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum (map & directions below)
- Eat: Bring your lunch, snack, granola bars and something to drink.
- Tour of: Joan Hudson will be our guide to see Onoclea sensibilibs, sensitive fern, a hybrid Thelypteris, and resurrection ferns (should be abundant with all the rain)
- Field Station 2:30 ish we will car pool out to the Field Station (see important note below). It's a short walk to gather the Equisetum. There are (to see but not to dig) Asplenium platyneuron, ebony spleenwort, Pteridium aquilium, bracken fern, Thelypteris kunthii, southern maidenhair, and wildflowers (again courtesy of the rain)
- Longer Walk: For those wanting to see Woodsia obtusa, blunt-lobed cliff fern, Joan will take us while the others are enjoying the closer ferns.
- Leave for 3 Spoons: When we are ready to head out, we will take a refreshing break for frozen yogurt. Then back to the parking lot, to cars, and home.

Here's the important note on the Field Station; the gate is locked so if you miss the group at the Museum call Joan (cell – 936-438-0094) so we can make sure you get there and get in. There are restrooms and poison ivy at the Field Station.

So how can you resist an outing like this?

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



**Up and Coming Attractions:**

April 15: "Spring Field Trip to Huntsville"  
presented by Joan Hudson

May 20: "Osmunda - Hardy Ferns"  
presented by Darla Harris

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



**2012 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: Noreen Tolman
- 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: Jeanie Richardson
- Welcoming at Door: Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



**2012 Dues:**

2012 dues are now being accepted. Please complete the membership form and return it with your payment to our Treasurer Terri Dolney or our Membership Chair Noreen Tolman at our next meeting or mail it to:

Noreen Tolman  
15915 Pasadero  
Houston, TX 77083

**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.



**Statement of Income & Expenses  
January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012**

**INCOME**

Membership dues	\$ 275.00
Raffle Income	48.00
Plant Re-imbusement	231.00
Project Re-imbusement	124.00
Miscellaneous	27.00
Bank Interest	0.75
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 705.75</b>

**EXPENSES**

Cost of Plants	\$ 298.10
Project Supplies	29.20
Lecturer's Fees	0.00
Lecturer's Gifts	0.00
Bank Fees	0.00
Miscellaneous	158.82
Transfer to Petty Cash	178.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 664.12</b>

**Bank Balance 12-31-2011: \$5,998.84**

**Petty Cash \$ 208.19**

**Bank Balance 3-31-2012: \$6,140.15**

**Net Profit 3-31-2012: \$ 349.50**

Submitted by: Terri Dolney, Treasurer



**Refreshments**

Refreshments for March were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Patrick Hudnall
- Savory: Terry Dolney
- Fruits: Cecil Strange
- Veggies: Donna McGraw
- Desserts: Anne Hicks
- Service ware: Society

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



**Need Supplies?**

Larry Rucker will be organizing a spring order of supplies through the Society Store so take an inventory, make your shopping (wish) list, and get with Larry at the next meeting.

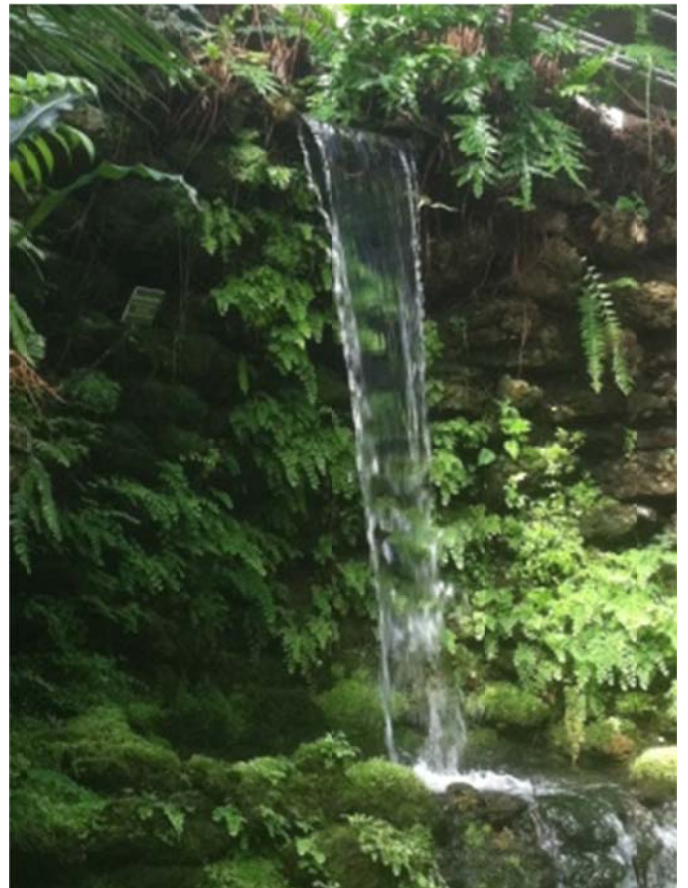
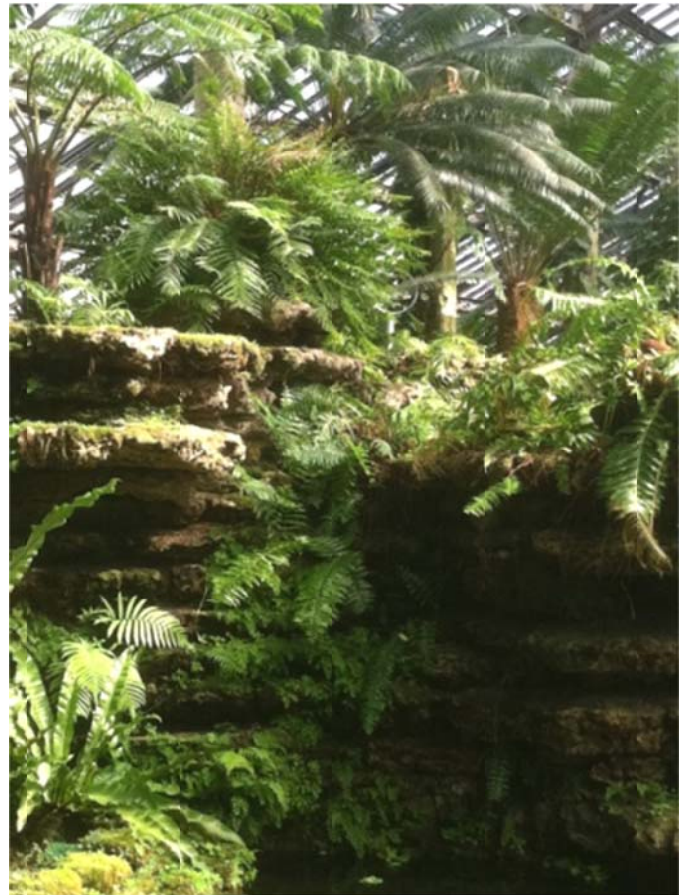


**Garfield Park Conservatory – Chicago, Illinois**  
**by Darla Harris**

I was lucky enough to get to visit this wonderful Conservatory while I was in Chicago and would highly recommend anyone going to the area to take the time to stop in. It is right off one of the train stops so you don't even have to have a car to get there, but if you do drive, parking is free and so is the admission. It is 4.5 acres under glass with one third of the entire area just for ferns and cycads, set in a scene straight out of a Tropical Rain Forest complete with waterfalls and Koi ponds. I was pleasantly surprised by the impressive list of ferns on display, mostly the collectors' ferns.

The Conservatory had a setback in June of last year when the area had a major hail storm and half of the panes of glass in the historic fern room were broken, causing severe damage as the broken shards of glass rained down onto the fragile ferns below. The fern house is now reopened but not fully recovered. They have had to replant and redo a lot of the ferns. The staghorns that had been mounted to the tall tree ferns took a big hit and they have still not gotten them back to their pre-storm splendor. However, it was still beautiful.

We need this type of Conservatory here in Houston. Let's hope it happens one day. In the meantime, we will have our own mini-Conservatories at our own homes...





### April Book Review

“Native Ferns, Moss & Grasses” by William Cullina

Native Ferns, Moss and Grasses contains a thorough discussion, with several maps, of what plant hardiness means in the light of global warming. Cullina stresses the importance of each native plant’s genetic makeup as he guides readers to an understanding of hardiness factors from coast to coast. For each species, he gives the natural range, type of soil, and habitat in which the plant thrives. For the keen gardener or nursery professional, the book should prove an invaluable and authoritatively selective resource, with listings that provide common names, natural habitats, and cultural requirements as well as plant descriptions. In the back, he provides complete information on where to buy these plants and lists of the best species for various uses.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society  
General Meeting – March 18, 2012**

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:45 PM with Vice-President, Jessica Sheldon calling the meeting to order.

**General:** Jessica Sheldon led the discussion.

**Parking –** Due to Spring Break and the Rodeo, the police had blocked off access to Herman Park including the Garden Center parking lot. If have this problem in the future, try showing them your Garden Center parking pass or call the Urban Park Ranger at 281-419-7405. If this fails or there are no spaces available, you can park in the employee area across Caroline Street from the Museum of Natural Science garage (don't park on the grass or sidewalk and display your parking pass) or at the Health Museum across Herman Drive from the Garden Center for \$3 (go inside to pay). Maps will be republished in the June Newsletter. We will consider planning a field trip for March next year.

**Library:** Chair Frank Lee reminded all that the Library was open for checking out books and to please return books at the next meeting. Also, if there is a specific book you are interested in checking out, please let him know prior to the meeting so he can make sure to bring the book. Check the website for a listing of books. Not all library books are brought to every meeting.

**Hospitality:** Chair Jeanie Richardson reminded everyone to please sign up to bring refreshments for upcoming months. Members were reminded that each member should be prepared to bring refreshments at least 2-3 times per year. A place to keep supplies (paper goods) in 60qt container is now available at the Garden Center and the Society's supplies will now be kept there.

**Upcoming Programs:** April will be our Spring Field Trip to Huntsville where Joan Hudson will lead us around the Sam Houston University field station hunting for horsetails and other ferns. The May meeting will be held at Cornelius Nursery on Dairy Ashford (map and more information in the May Newsletter). A volunteer is still needed to host the Summer Party in August. Please let Jessica know if you are willing to help out.

**Program:** Jessica Sheldon presented a program on building a Bog Dish Garden including a hands-on project. She displayed several options for containers and design. Potting media, Equisetum scirpoides (Dwarf scouring rush), and other accessories were available for sale. Members who brought containers constructed their bog dish gardens.

**Plant Raffle:** Cecil Strange ran the plant raffle with many plants finding new homes.

**Attendance:** 12 Members  
Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



**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. If there is a particular book you would like to check out at the meeting, please contact Frank Lee at [f.a.lee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:f.a.lee@sbcglobal.net) or 281-999-8368 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



**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 May Newsletter is May 3, 2012.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



**Upcoming Events in the Houston Area:**

If you have the time and would like to expand your horticultural activities, take note of the following announcements.

**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 April 17, 2012

*Show and Sale – May 19-20, 2012*

**Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens  
22306 Aldine Westfield Rd., Humble 77338**

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 April 5, 2012 and May 3, 2012.



*The Houston Orchid Society  
2012 Show and Sale*

Houston Museum of Natural Science Main lobby  
5555 Hermann Park Drive  
Houston, Texas 77030

April 21-22, 2012  
Saturday 9AM to 5PM      Sunday 9AM to 4PM

Callie's  
*Garden Notes*  
News and notes for Calloway's & Cornelius Garden Club Members  
Specials | Ask Us | Tell Us | Update Profile | Refer a Friend | Gift Cards

## Swap and Share Plants!

Join us for our  
**Annual Spring  
Perennial Swap  
on April 14 in**  
North Arlington,  
Plano, and Houston!  
Bring your extra plants  
for exchanging and meet  
local gardeners.

**Here's how it works:**  
1) Visit the Perennial Swap chat.  
2) Post what you have and what you want.  
3) Browse the Perennial Swap posts and create your shopping list.  
4) Arrange to meet and swap on April 14 (locations listed below).  
5) Save money, go home, plant and enjoy!

**Mark your calendar:**  
**Calloway's and Cornelius Perennial Plant Swap**  
Saturday, April 14, 2012 • 10 am to 12 Noon  
April 14th swaps take place at the following locations:  
• Arlington - Calloway's: 1424 N. Center St., Arlington, TX 76011. 817-861-1195  
• Plano - Calloway's: 1621 Custer Road, Plano, TX 75075. 972-596-5211  
• Houston - Cornelius: 2233 S. Voss Road, Houston, TX 77057. 713-292-0898  
We look forward to helping create your gardens of 2013!

Let us help you Spring into Spring

# Jimbo's Nursery

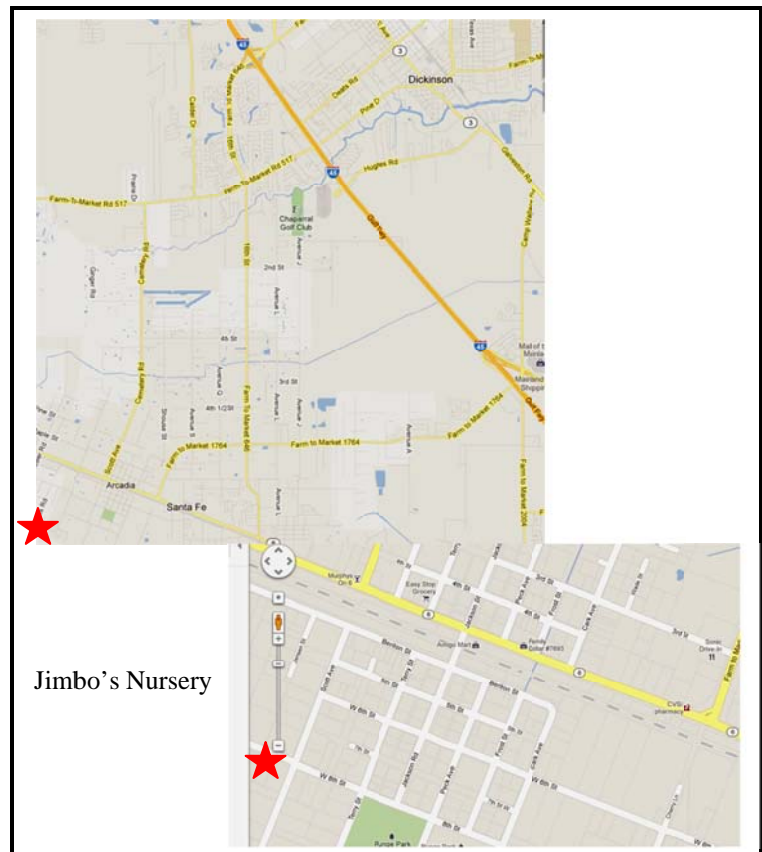
Plant Sale  
Saturday, April 14, 2012  
From 9 a.m. 'til 4 p.m.

Jimbo's Nursery is hosting a Plant Sale along with the Houston Bromeliad Society at Jimbo's Nursery.

We will have 10 or more vendors selling bromeliads, cactus, aloe, succulents and plumerias.

You will find a large variety of plants with great prices. You will also find plants that you probably haven't seen before and can't get elsewhere! Come visit with the vendors that grow these specialty plants. The GROWERS will be ON HAND to answer all of your garden questions.

**JIMBO'S NURSERY**  
15019 8th St. • Santa Fe  
409-925-6933

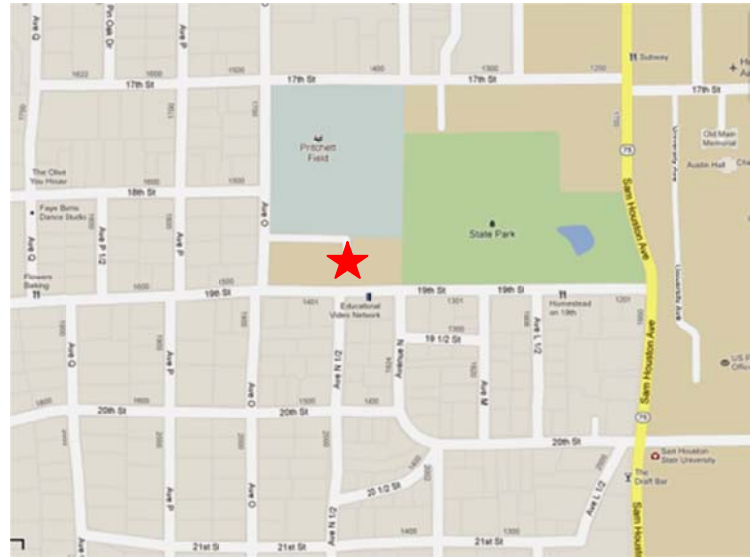
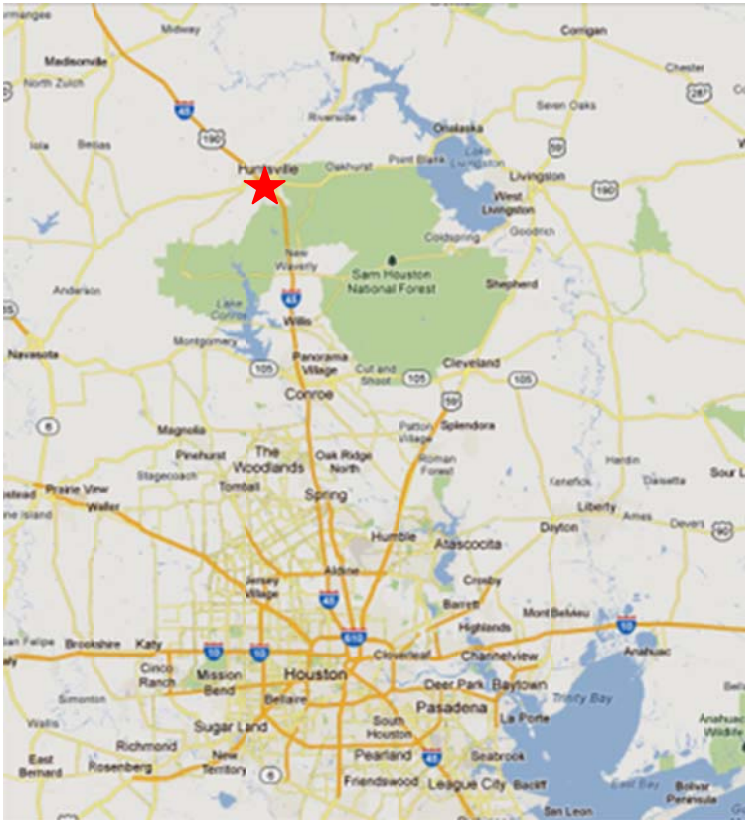


**"Bog Dish Garden"**  
presented by Jessica Sheldon



## April 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### Directions to Katy and E. Don Walker Education Center at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum

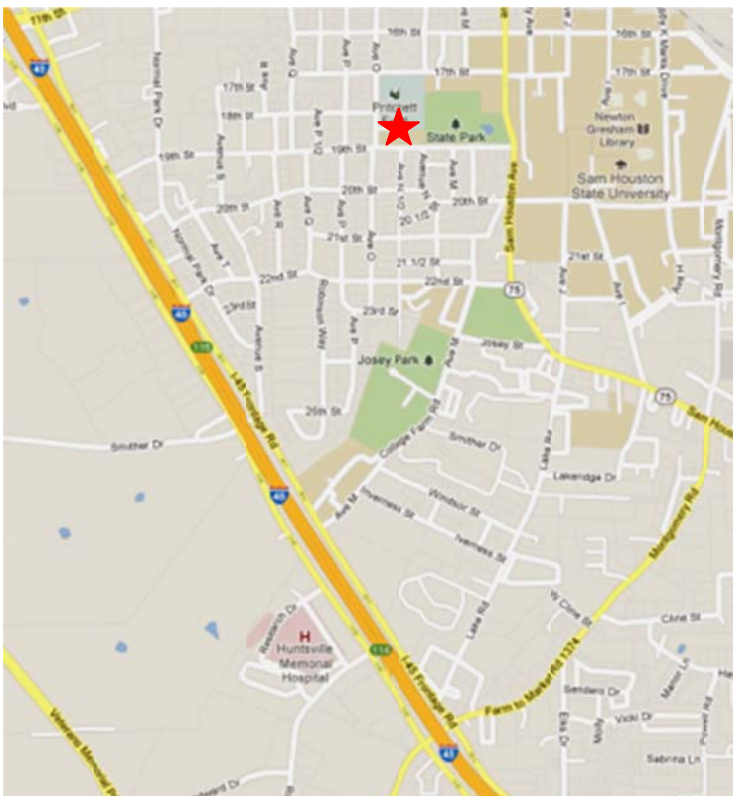


Exit 115 from I 45 – be in the right hand lane on the frontage road. At the first light (on the frontage road, at the Dairy Queen), turn right on Montgomery road – now be in the inside lane since you will be turning to the left at the next light, this road winds around a little.

At the next light, turn left on Sam Houston Ave – also known as Highway 75. Stay in the inside lane since you will be turning left again.

Proceed on Sam Houston Ave through several lights (should be 3) until you see the university on the right and eating establishments on the left.

You will want to turn left at the light just past Wendy’s, this is 19<sup>th</sup> street. Now the museum grounds are on the right. The Walker Education Center is on the right, about two blocks from Sam Houston Ave. Parking is in front and on the west side.



**Katy and E. Don Walker Education Center**