



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

May 2012

Vol. 14, No. 5

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 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,

It has been so nice being home again. I'm still trying to get all my spring things done before full summer is here, temperature wise anyway. I have been working with my plants and it has brought me such joy as I have reflected on the origins of my treasured plants. Many of these have been through the Fern Society and its numerous members with their willingness to share. I look at my plants and I don't only see the beauty of nature, but I see the faces of my friends who gave the plants to me. My heart is warmed by all the palms, gingers, cycads, bromeliads, crinum, plumerias, etc., as well as our true love 'the Ferns'. It is through this association we call our society that these gifts and trades are possible and this has made for some lasting friendships. It is only through my regular attendance (except this spring, sorry about that) that it has been possible to make these lasting bonds. I am therefore sad to see that our meeting attendance has dropped off over the last couple months. I certainly understand things coming up, but we need to try to make the meetings because people count on us to be there. Refreshments are prepared and speakers go to the effort to put on a program for all of us so we need to show our appreciation and respect for their efforts by being there.

I understand that not every program suits everyone, but it is the fellowship that makes up the difference. We draw from each other's experience so by being there we learn from each other. We share our knowledge and our plants and I know I have always left with a smile on my face and warmth in my heart. We have one of the greatest societies in Houston because we have always been a family. I need to see my family at least once a month. I hope to see you all at this meeting.

I would like to share with you a little bit about the field trip last month. I know not everyone can go traipsing around the woods, but for those who are able to do so, this was a very nice trip. Joan Hudson was a gracious hostess showing us both around the Sam Houston Memorial Center and the several hundred acres just outside of Huntsville that are part of the research side of the University. We beat the rain and got in everything she had planned for us, lunch under old oak trees and collecting some native ferns. It was a wonderful day and getting to know Joan better was a great bonus.

Including Joan, there were only five of us on this trip. This was a disappointing showing considering the time and trouble Joan went to for us, but for those of us who went, we were not disappointed in the knowledge of ferns that Joan shared with us and the many ferns we were able to see and collect. Thank you Joan for arranging a wonderful day for us.

May's meeting is going to be a combined meeting. I will be concluding the information on the Osmunda fern family with the last of our three ferns including a discussion on the Genus. We will then view a PowerPoint presentation on collecting spores from the American Fern Society that Barbara Joe Hoshizaki collaborated on. This will lead us into our June meeting that will be a workshop on growing from spore in the agar mix. We will be using *Platyserium* for our project which will be lead by Larry Rucker. We will have several types of *Platyserium* spores to choose from for our project. This is one of the more popular ferns and we felt this would be a way to get some of the rarer ferns into everyone's hands. I hope you all will attend and enjoy the information that will be presented to you both this month and next.

I would also like to know if anyone needs a Fern Society T-shirt (tank top or long sleeved for next winter) and if so, please e-mail me or let me know at the meeting. I would like to have them available for our June meeting. The price is still in the \$10 to \$12 dollar range.

I have missed you guys and I'm looking forward to catching up with you in May!

Darla



A message from our Vice President:

Osmundas, Equisetums and Mystery Meeting May 2012

Get 'em while they are hot! We have the last of three in the series of Osmundas and the rest of the dwarf Equisetums, too cute for words, like puppies and kittens to us "fernies".

The Osmundas are a great addition to the landscape or outdoor pot. Darla has had extensive information in the past newsletters and NOW is the time to plant and enjoy them this summer.

And as I said, those dwarf Equisetums are too cute. The ones I planted in the terrariums died pronto so good thing I got extra to plant in my hanging pots. Teetering on the edge of my balcony railing (on the third floor up), I managed to put in a heavy duty hook and hang them from there. These little guys like the sun and until the sun swings further around on its axis, I still have too much shade.

However, they are alive, as are the Equisetums from our "dig" on the field trip. For those who missed it, we all had great fun walking in the creek, pulling, digging, and carrying our "game" back to the van. Joan was the perfect hostess of course, giving us the tour of some of the Historical Sites and the ferns growing there. A birthday party for Mrs. Sam Houston was being held at the Education Center with some Antebellum Ladies and enough desserts for, shall I say, an Army! We feasted before the hunt.

At this month's meeting, we will have a duo. First a more detailed program on the planting, care, and feeding of the Osmundas and second a Power Point program on collecting spores put together in part by Barbara Joe Hoshizaki. I am sorry to say that I will be in Philadelphia and miss out on this double program.

So, come get your ferns, \$2.00 for the Osmunda and \$5.00 for the dwarf Equisetum then plant and be happy.

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



Up and Coming Attractions:

- May 20: "Osmunda - Hardy Ferns"
presented by Darla Harris
and "Collecting Spores"
from the American Fern Society
- June 17: "Workshop on Growing Spores in Agar"
presented by Larry Rucker

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Refreshments

Refreshments for May will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Cecil Strange
Savory:	Open
Fruits:	Mary McConnell
Veggies:	Cherie Lee
Desserts:	Marcia Livingston
Service ware:	Society

Please let Jeanie Richardson know if you can help with the refreshments for future months. Email 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 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.

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.



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Spring Field Trip
April 15, 2012**

The regular April meeting was replaced with our spring field trip to Huntsville, Texas, to view ferns in the wild and “dig” our own Equisetums. We met up with our host and guide, Joan Hudson, at the Katy and E. Don Walker Education Center, Sam Houston Memorial Center, ate our picnic lunches, toured the Historical Park and ferns around the area, stepped back in time to celebrate Margaret Houston’s birthday by having a little cake with the “high society” ladies, and then headed off in search of the Equisetums.

It was a nice day, overcast which kept it cooler and no rain. We had a terrific time hiking through the woods viewing several different ferns along the way and ending up at the creek where the majestic Equisetums live. They put up a bit of resistance but we managed to convince a few to come home with us. I’m sorry more of you couldn’t have joined us. Thanks to our wonderful and knowledgeable guide, we had a terrific time. Check out the pictures in the Newsletter.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



May Book Review

“Tree Ferns”

by Mark F. Large & John E. Braggins

This book is the source of information on the living tree fern. It surveys all the families, genera, and species, including those that are suitable for the home garden. It offers up-to-date taxonomy and detailed description as well as in-depth coverage of everything from tree fern use to conservation. In recognition of the horticultural importance of tree ferns, the authors provide extensive cultivation information, including propagation and diseases and pests.

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. 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 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, 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 June Newsletter is June 1, 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

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

Next regular meeting is May 15, 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

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

Next regular meeting is June 7, 2012.

"Spring Field Trip to Huntsville"
led by Joan Hudson



Sam Houston's House



Joan Hudson – Our Hostess and Guide



Liverwort

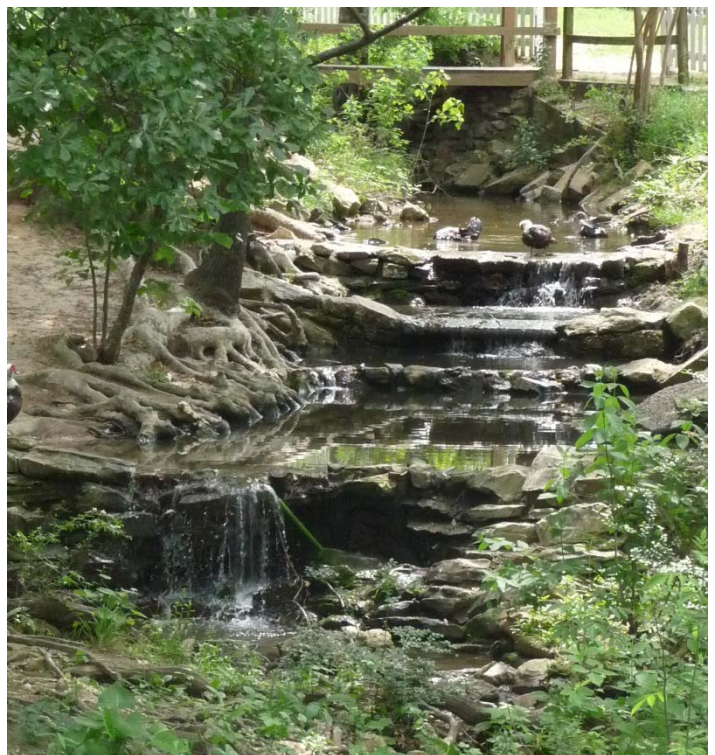


Thelypteris





Onoclea sensibilis - Sensitive Fern





Asplenium platyneuron – Ebony spleenwort



Thelypteris kunthii – Southern Shield Fern





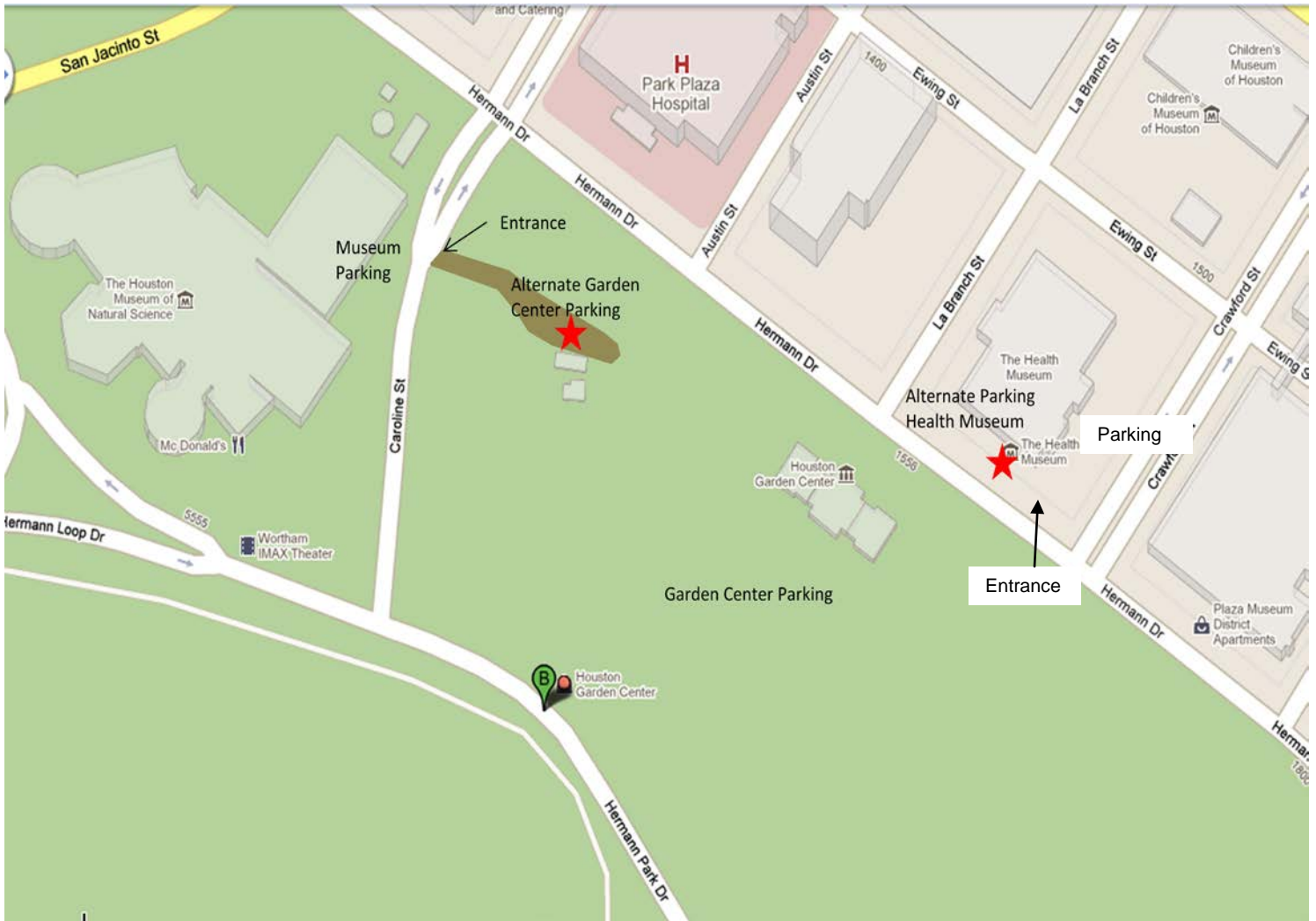
Equisetum - Horsetails



Pteridium aquilinum – Bracken fern



Alternate Parking for the Garden Center



If parking is not available in front of the Garden Center, you can park in the Health Museum’s surface lot on the east side of the building off of Hermann Drive just behind the Garden Center for \$3 (please park toward the back of the lot and go inside the museum to pay). Or you can park in the Garden Center’s employee parking area west of the building. Entrance to this parking area is opposite the Museum of Natural History’s garage entrance. If you park here, make sure you are not on the grass and that you have your 2012 parking pass displayed.

The Health Museum



Parking entrance off of Hermann Drive

