



# Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

June 2012

Vol. 14, No. 6

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, June 17, 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,

First, I have some sad news. We have lost a great person in the fern world. Barbara Joe Hoshizaki has passed away. She was a member of our Fern Society and has spoken to our group three different times, the last being in 2010. Takashi, her husband, said she had a massive heart attack and did not suffer at all. Please see more information on Barbara and her wonderful contribution toward expanding the knowledge of ferns further in the newsletter.

I want to thank everyone for their attendance at the last meeting and also thank those who provided the refreshments. It was so great to see everyone again. This has been such a crazy year and it was really good to get back into the fern meeting swing of things.

The raffle had a wonderful variety of ferns and plants to choose from this month. Our members are truly generous with their contributions to the raffle. This really helps new members to get their collections going at nominal cost and helps put money in the Society's bank account for future speakers and projects.

Larry will be leading a hands-on program on growing spores on an agar solution this month. For those who participated in the spore growing on agar last November, please bring the handbook you were given to the meeting so you can take notes. For those who did not make the meeting last time, we do have a few books left for you. We will have several different spores, all collected from members' plants, so we will have a big selection from which to choose. This will be both fun and educational, but also give us an opportunity to get some rare ferns in everyone's hands. We can grow the extras up for a Fern Sale open to the public to make the Society some money and broaden the variety of ferns non-members come across.

We will have T-shirts at the next meeting. I will have a few extras but if you need a specific size or color we can order that next time.

At our July meeting, Roy Vail will be giving a presentation on *Platynerium*. Roy is the author of the "Platynerium for the Hobbyist" which we have a copy of in our library. He now has a CD for sale which is a replacement for his self-published book. The CD has new information and I believe we will have the opportunity to purchase this from him when he is here. We will

have more details in the next newsletter, but pass the word to those you know who have an interest in *Platynerium*. Roy has asked us to have some sample plants at the meeting so look over what you have that you could bring and we will try to have several nice specimens for show and tell. Please get with me at the June meeting so we can arrange to have the largest variety possible.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in June. Come early and visit!!

Take care,  
*Darla*



## A message from our Vice President:

Bible Stories, Science Fiction, and The Spore June, 2012

It is as ancient as time itself. Found in Bible stories and written as Science Fiction, it is the small against the mighty. The outcome for the mighty usually isn't good. Goliath gets slain with the stone from a slingshot and Godzilla gets pelted with BB sized bullets as he tumbles from the Empire State Building.

So it is as I look down at this thing, this dot, this 'small' waiting to bring me down. The Spore!!!

I have yet to grow a fern from a spore. Maybe I am too big, too clumsy in my bigness as I look down on this teeny tiny, itsy bitsy fern spore, who on its own has managed to propagate, proliferate, and adapt through climatic world changes without mans help.

As humans we cannot help it. We like to muck around in everything, mold, modify, change, create, well, as I said, anything at all. And as much as I would like to think this sets us apart from other life forms, we are not the mighty we think to be.

At the June meeting, we therefore get to muse on our mightiness, bigness, and hopes of growing a fern from a spore. I know others in our society have successfully accomplished this feat. So you faint of heart, you doubters, you who are intimidated by this, this spore of life – join me and brave others as we don the garb of knights going into battle and muck around.

A confession: I have some of this intimidating spore lurking in a desk drawer. I will be relieved to bring them to the meeting and put them in more competent hands. I gathered them from

my trip to Scotland. I hope to find the corresponding photo of the fern 'cause I haven't a clue as to what it is, except it gets big.

Spore bearers / gatherers bring forth your abundance to share with us commoners. I really must stop watching "The Tudors" PBS series of Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>, totally into the medieval thing.

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



### Up and Coming Attractions:

- June 17: "Workshop on Growing Spores on Agar"  
presented by Larry Rucker
- July 15: "Platycteriums"  
presented by Roy Vail
- Aug 19: "Summer Party"  
location to be announced later
- Sept 16: "Annual Plant Exchange"
- Oct 21: "Taxonomic Monographs"  
presented by Alejandra Vasco, assistant to  
Robinn Moran from New York Botanical Garden
- Nov 18: Open
- Dec 16: "Holiday Party"  
location to be announced later

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



### Refreshments

Refreshments for May were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cecil Strange
- Savory: Terri Dolney
- Fruits: Mary McConnell
- Veggies: Cherie Lee
- Desserts: Marcia Livingston & Beth Ayer
- Service ware: Society

Refreshments for June will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cecil Strange
- Savory: Darla Harris
- Fruits: Open
- Veggies: Patrick Hudnall
- Desserts: Cherie Lee
- Service ware: Cherie Lee

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!



### 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.

## In Memoriam

### Barbara Joe Hoshizaki

Renown Fern expert and Botanist Barbara Joe Hoshizaki passed away suddenly 30 May 2012. She is survived by her husband Takashi Hoshizaki and their two children, Jon and Carol, her grandchildren, and a world full of friends and acquaintances.

Visiting with Barbara last year at her home, I asked her what she has enjoyed the most in her life. Her answer to me was everything. She told me she had been one of those lucky people who got everything she really wanted. She said this not in a bragging way, but in one of awe and reflection with a tone that she wished every one could have been as lucky as she. These things had not been just given to her. She has always worked hard and a better multi-tasker you'll never meet.

She was born in California in the 1920s of Chinese parents, went to college there, and met her future husband there as well. They dated I believe she said, for 8 years because they were an interracial couple. Takashi is Japanese and the families on both sides had to warm up to the idea of their courtship. They held out and eventually got married and had two children, a son and daughter. Their children followed in their footsteps, both going to college and becoming very happily married. Barbara chose well, her husband Takashi has always been her best cheerleader, always supportive, loving her, appreciating her desires, and helping her to achieve them. She was blessed.

Barbara taught botany at the local college, raised two children, wrote many papers on ferns, helped found LAIFS (Los Angeles International Fern Society), wrote her first book also entitled "Fern Growers Manual", held an office in the American Fern Society, and was an avid fern grower. She did all of these things on just a few hours of sleep at night because she would be potting away at midnight when the things that needed to be done for the day were finished and the kids were in bed. That's when she had her time to play with her ferns. She was blessed, but she did work hard for her blessings.

As she and I would walk through her yard and greenhouse, she would tell me the name of the fern, both scientific and common. She was never one of those who held only to the botanical name. She related to whoever she was talking to, always the teacher. She would then tell me about where the fern had come from. Many were from places she had visited on her trips around the world or from places she had been invited to come. She had been able to bring back plants (it was easier to import in years past than it is now) or grow them from spore that she had collected. She would tell me about the trip, how long it took, what gullies or side of a mountain it had been found on, who else had been on the trip, and what fun they had had. She would tell of the ones that someone climbed a tree to get or how they crawled on their knees to get to it, what adventures. She would tell me the story of every fern. I told her that should be her next book. I would hang on every word, such a wonderful story teller she was.

If I asked her how a Latin name was pronounced, she would tell me, and then say, but we don't know. It is a lost language so nothing is right or wrong. That is why you hear it said differently by different people. She would not get hung up on the correctness of the pronunciation, but the fern itself. Barbara was generous with her time, her knowledge, and her plants. She always wanted to get more ferns into more peoples' hands, to keep those very special, seldom seen ferns alive and well for generations to share. Some of the rare plants that Charles Alford has come from spore from Barbara, and so the ferns live on. That was her wish, to always have the ferns live on.



As she told me of all these things, I could not help but think how I wish I had gotten to know her back then, what an example of work ethic. I have only had the opportunity to know Barbara for the past 12 years and only became closer friends in the last 5 years or so, but in that time, Barbara taught me so much in such a short time. I had learned to love her as a family member. She was forever the teacher, the mentor, and instilled confidence in you every time she spoke with you.

She did live a very blessed life and we are the recipients of her wonderful life. As her bounty was there for her so it was for everyone she knew. Barbara is greatly missed, by so many worldwide, but she has left us with her writings and beloved ferns to keep alive for the next generations to love as she did. We are blessed.

*Darla Harris*

## *Onoclea*

Family: [Dryopteridaceae](#)

Genus: [Onoclea](#) (on-oh-KLEE-uh)

Species: [sensibilis](#) (sen-si-BIL-iss)

*Onoclea* is a genus of one, and is native to North America and Asia. This was one of the native ferns we were able to see on our last two field trips; growing along the creek banks in heavy shade in the Little Thicket and growing down an embankment near the water also in pretty shady conditions at Sam Houston University.

The common name is Sensitive fern and it got its name from being so sensitive to the first frost of the winter. However, the new growth in the spring does not seem to be bothered by the late frost of spring.

This is an easy fern to grow, with its surface rhizomes creeping along making it a good ground cover. If it does grow out of bounds you can easily pull it up to maintain the look you want to achieve.

This fern is considered a wetland fern, preferring wet/damp soil in shade to bright light. The moister the conditions, the more sun it can handle. For dryer areas, it will require more shade.

The fertile frond is dimorphic and the spore looks like rows of grapes hanging on the stem. They are green spore so the germination window is about two weeks once they are ripe. The fertile frond will dry up, but stays with the fern all year and it is said will help it survive a hard winter if left on. The following spring it can be removed and used in floral arrangement.

Growing this fern in a pot with a saucer of water to keep it moist will work as well as growing it in the ground. This is a pretty fern with very distinctive fronds, and being a native, will take our growing conditions.

We will have this fern at the next meeting for members who would like to purchase a 4" pot for \$5.00 each.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



## June Book Review

The Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening “Ferns” by Philip Perl

The Encyclopedia of Gardening was the first long series about gardening by Time-Life, but it was followed up by many more. This set was published in the late 70's, but a lot of the information is still relevant today. The “Ferns” edition discusses ferns grown indoors and in the garden. It has a section on identifying ferns by their family and discusses various techniques for propagating ferns. It also has an illustrated encyclopedia of ferns which includes growing tips.

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](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 July Newsletter is June 29, 2012.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



## 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.



## Gardening Tips

Extend the life and efficiency of your garden tools by cleaning them before putting them away. Many gardeners keep a bucket filled with coarse sand and vegetable oil near their tool storage area. Vigorously shove each tool head in and out of the mixture several times to remove dirt.

Remove any rust with a wire brush and, after cleaning, spray with a tool cleaner. Remove stubborn sap and plant residue using mineral spirits and a scouring pad. With good cleaning and storage habits, your tools will give you many years of service.

From Charley's Greenhouse Web site, May 31, 2012

Submitted by: Jean Keiser



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – May 20, 2012

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:15 PM with President, Darla Harris calling the meeting to order.

**General:** Darla discussed the April field trip including the various ferns seen.

**Membership:** 2012 Membership Directories were distributed to members present.

**Program:** Darla Harris presented a two part program. First she led a discussion on the growing conditions for the three hardy Osmunda ferns that were available for purchase this year. Second she discussed spores and spore patterns. She had numerous examples for various spore patterns and also various stages of spore development from new young spores to very old spores. This presentation was in preparation for next month's workshop on growing spores led by Larry Rucker.

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

**Attendance:** 16 Members  
1 Guest – La Vonne Reichle

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



**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 July 17, 2012

**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 meeting is July 5, 2012.

**"Collecting Spores"  
presented by Darla Harris**



Hemionitis





Phyllitis scolopendrium  
Hart's Tongue Fern

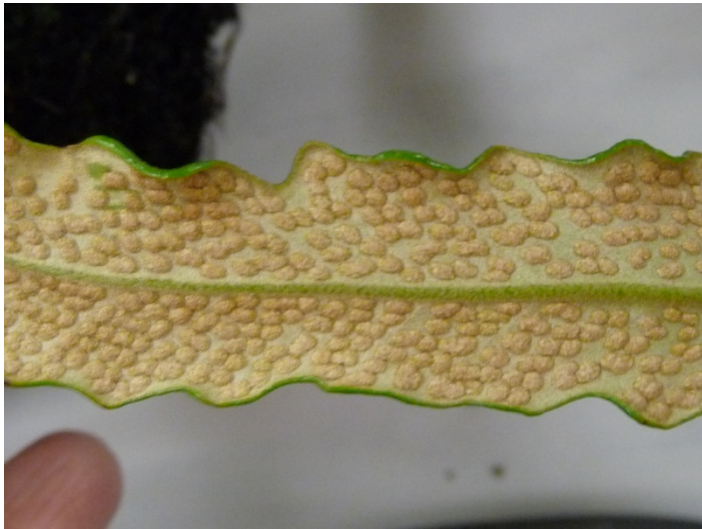


Microsorium





Pyrrhosia lingua  
Noko Girl

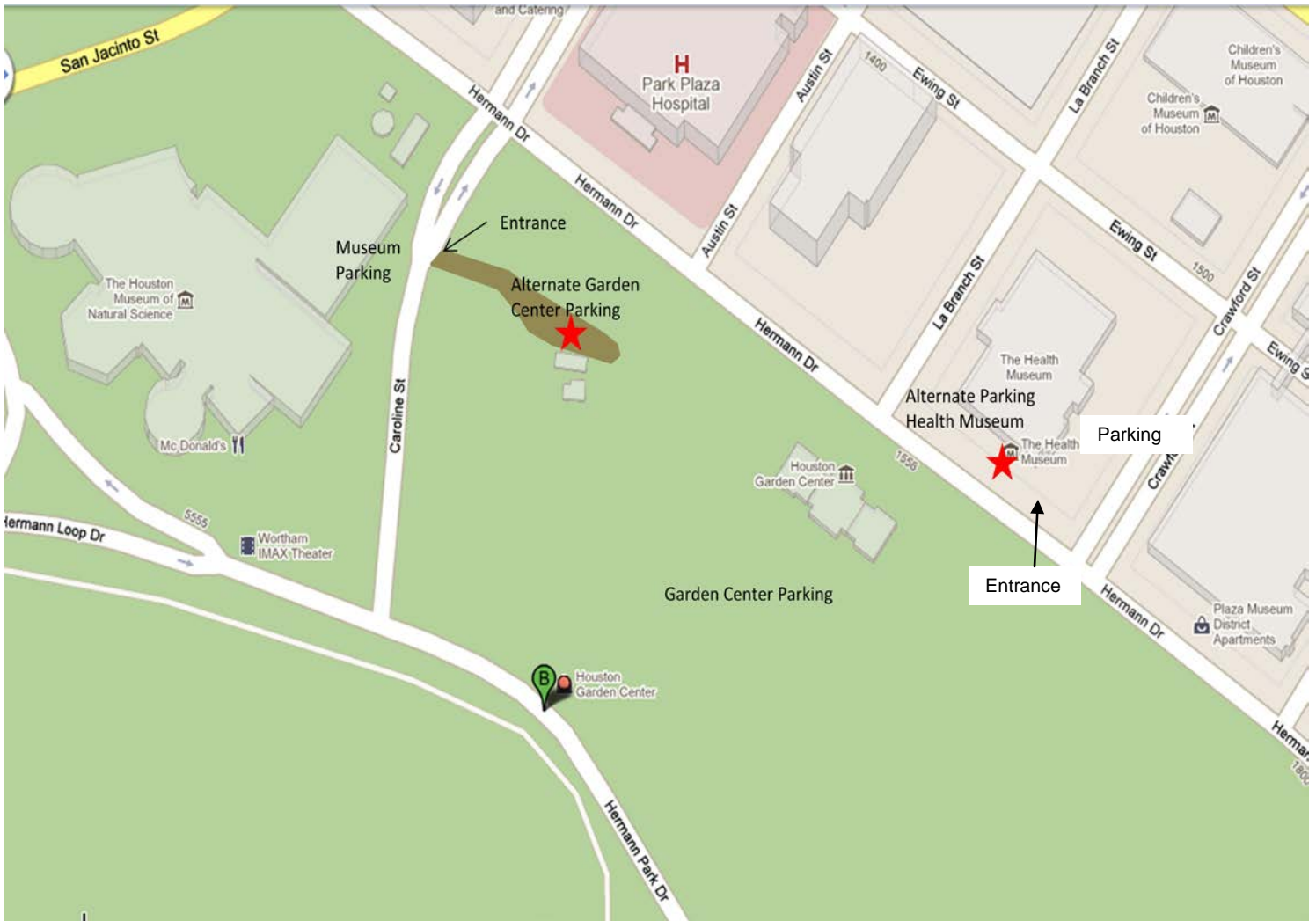


Blechnum





## 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

