



# Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

July 2012

Vol. 14, No. 7

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 15, 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 would first like to thank Larry Rucker for a very educational meeting and the project went very smoothly. I hope everyone is remembering to water their dish to keep it moist so you will get new little ferns. We had a nice variety of spores to choose from and I think everyone who wanted to participate was able to try three different types of ferns. Keep in mind all ferns will progress at a different speed so do not despair if one takes off before the others. Nature does everything in its own time.

This month we are going to have a wonderful speaker on Platyceriums (staghorn ferns). Roy Vail has spoken to our group two other times over the years, but it has been awhile since the last time so I'm sure all will be excited to listen to Roy's information. In the past, he has shared a lot of tips that I have always found very useful. We have also let other societies know about this meeting so we should have a full house.

What a difference a week makes. Nature is truly a marvel with 102 degrees in the shade one week dropping down into the 80's the next. It has been crazy weather. When it gets really hot and we have a sudden drop in humidity levels, it can play havoc with your ferns, so do keep an eye on them. They get used to the 80-90 percent humidity and then when it drops to 35 percent, it can really shock them and crinkle their leaves. They do like this cooler weather with the rain the best (me too).

I would like to thank everyone for the refreshments at the last meeting and also thank those who have volunteered to have a little extra for our anticipated larger crowd this month. I need a volunteer to arrive early and help me set up cones for our meeting. If you can help, please call me so we can make arrangements to meet up. The last two months I have gotten there between 12:00 and 12:30 to set out the cones and it has worked out well. Lately we have not had the problem with parking we had last year and earlier this year. Keep your fingers crossed this continues.

Larry Rucker has volunteered to host our August Summer Party at his house. For those who have not been to Larry's before, you're in for a treat. He grows a large number of different ferns and has a very lovely home. We will have a food sign up list at the July meeting so please think about what you would like to bring to share. Our parties are always a great way

to get to know each other better and get ideas on how others are growing their ferns.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.

Take care,  
*Darla*



## A message from our Vice President:

Hobbyist, Author, and Fern Conservator: Roy Vail July 2012

Try as I might, I could not come up with a humorous title for this month's article. When I read the bio's of our guest speakers, I am bewildered by the dedication of these knowledgeable people to ferns while I just try to keep mine alive! So here is a brief window into Roy Vail's story.

"My interest in Platycerium started when I saw one in a K-Mart in Las Cruces, N.M. I bought it and gave it to my wife (my first wife). She didn't like it, so it became mine. As I learned about Platycerium, I developed a collection, and traveled, by bus or in my 1965 Ford Van, to see people and plants in Texas, Florida, and California.



I got the idea for the book ("Platycerium Hobbyist's Handbook") while on a bus trip to Florida and started writing while I traveled. It took me two years to put the book together.

Back in New Mexico; my greenhouse: there was a pad and fan sunk into the ground 4 feet, on the desert. While on a camping trip with my father, it burned. I have had many Platycerium since then, and built a similar greenhouse here in Mena, Arkansas. In the long run, that was not practical. I gave most of my collection to friends in California. Presently we live in a very small home and I only have a few Platys. I will be 75 in December."

And the story continues:

"I've been to Australia twice, once on a family trip, with many Platycerium visits. The second was a Platycerium field trip with Keith Rogers. My first trip to Peru was with Lee Moore of Miami, who rediscovered Platycerium andinum. I was with a group and the only one interested in only Platycerium. That was

over Christmas 1995-96. He and I became concerned about conservation of *Platycerium andinum*. That is a LONG story, recently printed in the LAIFS (Los Angeles International Fern Society) Journal. The very most recent development is that, at my request, The Nature Conservancy visited the conservation group in Pucacaca, San Martin, Peru, and intends to help them.”

Did I tell you Roy’s teaching career was in Las Cruces, N.M.? He was named Outstanding Biology Teacher for the State of New Mexico by the National Association of Biology Teachers. Roy retired from teaching in the spring for 1990.

Honestly, how can you not come to hear this wonderful talk! Roy simply calls his presentation “Platycerium”. He will be showing “Platys” in their native habitat and discussing the biology of *Platycerium*. So come on down and come on in!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



**Up and Coming Attractions:**

- July 15: “Platycerium”  
presented by Roy Vail
- Aug 19: “Summer Party”  
hosted by Larry Rucker
- 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 Lu Lu 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



**Statement of Income & Expenses  
January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012**

**INCOME**

Membership dues	\$ 305.00
Raffle Income	184.00
Plant Re-imbursement	341.00
Project Re-imbursement	129.00
Miscellaneous	27.00
Bank Interest	<u>1.60</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 987.68</b>

**EXPENSES**

Cost of Plants	\$ 375.10
Project Supplies	29.20
Lecturer’s Fees	0.00
Lecturer’s Gifts	0.00
Bank Fees	0.00
Miscellaneous	380.65
Transfer to Petty Cash	<u>378.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1163.64</b>

<b>Bank Balance 12-31-2011:</b>	<b>\$5,998.84</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$ 398.04</b>
<b>Bank Balance 6-30-2012:</b>	<b>\$6,010.21</b>
<b>Net Profit 6-30-2012:</b>	<b>\$ 409.41</b>

Submitted by: Terri Dolney, Treasurer



**Refreshments**

Refreshments for June were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cecil Strange
- Savory: Darla Harris
- Veggies: Lu Lu Leonard
- Desserts: Cherie Lee
- Service ware: Cherie Lee

Refreshments for July will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Betty Mooney
- Savory: Beth Ayer
- Deviled Eggs: Faye Stansberry
- Sandwiches: Lu Lu Leonard
- Fruits: Cherie Lee
- Veggies: Marcia Livingston
- Desserts: Jessica Sheldon
- Service ware: Society (Thanks to Larry Rucker for the donation of service ware)

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!



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – June 17, 2012

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:** Darla discussed the upcoming July meeting with Roy Vail as our guest speaker. She thanked everyone who brought refreshments and asked members to consider signing up to bring extra food and drinks in July since we may have a larger group and more guests.

**Membership:** 2012 Membership Directories were distributed to members who were not present last month.

**Program:** Larry Rucker presented a program on growing spores in agar. He first reviewed the reproductive process from spores to gametophyte to sporophyte. Then everyone received three petri dishes with agar on which to apply their choice of spores. The selection of spores to choose from included *Platycerium*, *Microsorium*, and *Pyrrosia* among others.

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

**Attendance:** 15 Members  
1 Returning member – Darlene Morris  
(welcome back)  
2 Guest – Katherine Hicks  
Evelyn Ware

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



### July Book Review

“*Platycerium Hobbyist’s Handbook*” by Roy Vail

This book contains nearly 200 pages of clear, understandable information on staghorn ferns by the world’s leading expert on them. He has grown these ferns for over 40 years and explored areas where they grow where no other hobbyist has ever been. The book has how-to instructions on spore propagation, division, buying staghorn ferns, as well as photos and discussions of each species and distribution maps of where they occur in nature.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



### Need Supplies?

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



### 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.



### 2012 Dues:

If you have not renewed your 2012 membership or wish to join, please request a membership form from our Membership Chair Noreen Tolman and return it with your payment to her or our Treasurer Terri Dolney 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.



### 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 August Newsletter is August 3, 2012.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*

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**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 August 2, 2012.

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**A Celebrity is Among Us  
"Marcia Livingston"**

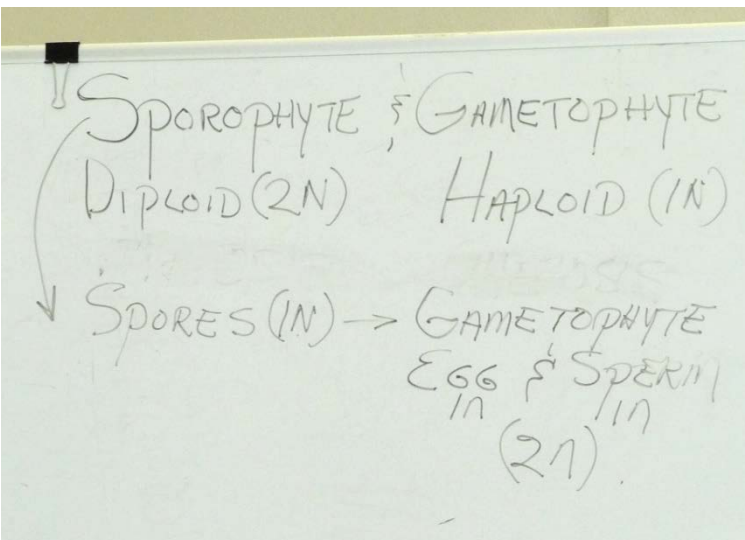


Before

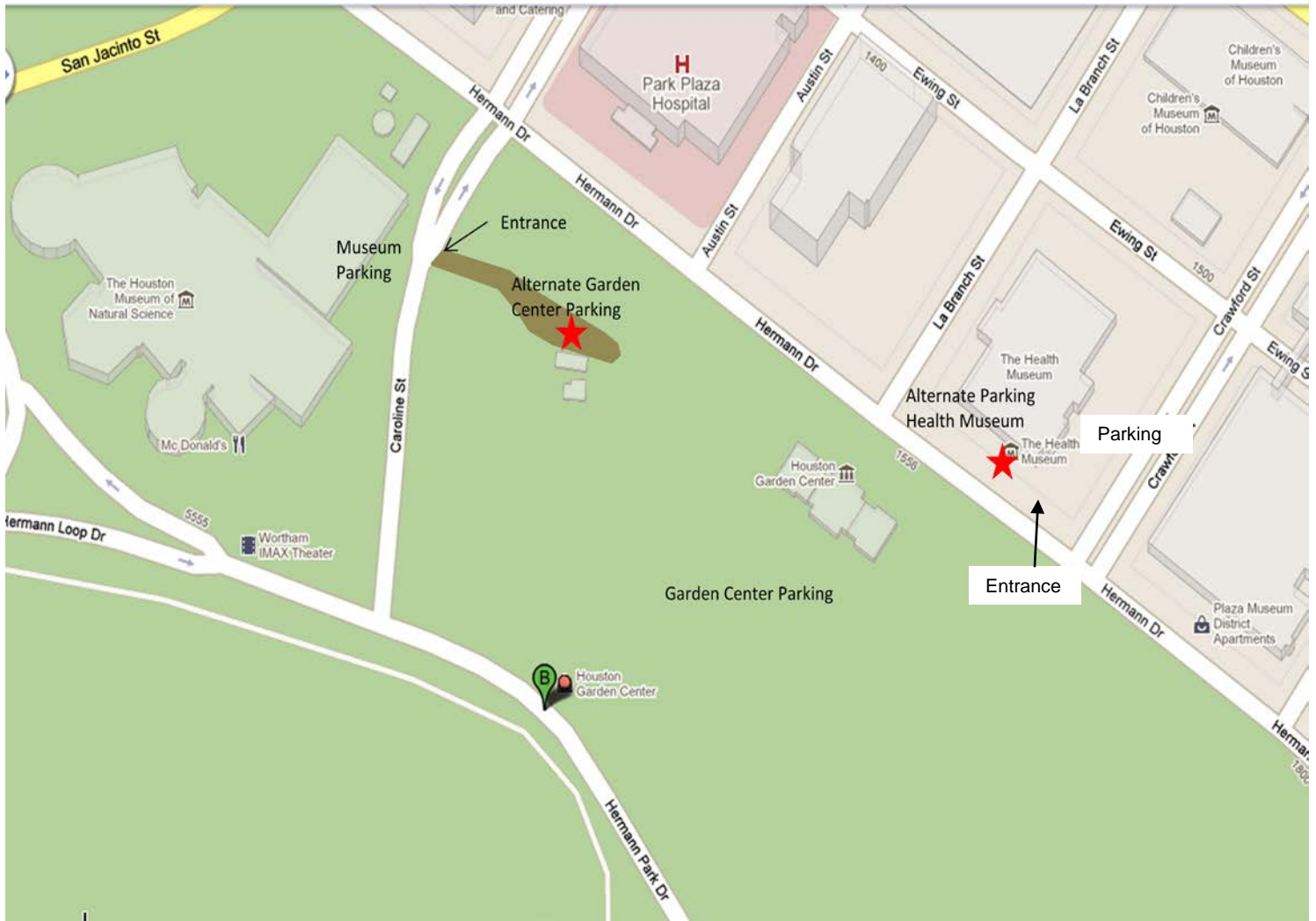


After

Workshop on Growing Spores on Agar  
Presented by Larry Rucker



## 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

