



November 2012

Vol. 14, No. 11

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, November 18, 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:

What a wonderful meeting we had in October, getting an idea of how our ferns get their names and to realize just what a science it takes to understand the ferns we love. Alejandra was a wonderful speaker and so knowledgeable on her subject matter. I just enjoy my ferns, but I do like to know their names. How else would we know how to grow them? If you don't know who they are, you won't know if you should plant them in the ground or hang them in moss. We know nurseries do not help us much on that because many times they are planted in the wrong medium.

We explored the fact that ferns have survived the test of times and were able to show that with examples of ferns from the different levels of the historical family tree. We had a lot of good questions so we felt like this would be a good month to do a follow up presentation on the structure of ferns. So, when we do try to identify our plant with no name, we will know where to start. Our very own Joan Hudson will help us with handouts and a world of knowledge of her own. This will be a hands-on class to learn all the structure of ferns and the different terminology that is used so don't forget to bring your hand lens. This will be fun and we will learn some things we will use in the future.

We also have elections in November for our officers for 2013. Mary McConnell, chairperson of the Nominating Committee, and Cecil Strange and Patrick Hudnall, your elected committee members, will present the nominees at the meeting. I would like to have a short meeting with the current Board Members and the newly elected Board directly after the meeting to help us move forward into next year.

Darlene Morris has graciously volunteered her home to host our December Party. She has requested we move the Party date up to the 2nd Sunday, the 9th of December. We will take a vote on this at the November meeting. I do hope this works out for everyone. Darlene is an avid grower of a lot of different plants with quite a collection of the rare and unusual plants. At the November meeting, we will have a sign-up sheet for food to go along with the smoked turkey and brisket Darlene's husband will be preparing.

It's almost that time of year again to start thinking about paying your dues for next year. We have had a few members who have missed some meetings this year and we hope to see you in November, but if not, at least at the PARTY. We have missed you! It takes us all to have a successful Society and you

play a very important role. Life can take us in odd directions sometimes but we hope to see you soon.

Happy winterizing your plants for this is the month. I know I shoot for Thanksgiving to have the last of the tropical plants tucked away for winter. Just think, spring is just around the corner...

Take care,

Darla



A message from our Vice President:

What's for dinner?

November, 2012

November brings thoughts of food, feasting, Thanksgiving dinners. Big Tom turkeys, roasted to perfection, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, that traditional green bean casserole, and no matter how many different pies you have, there is always pumpkin.

Some of us have taken a different approach to this traditional food fare and have sought out to establish a new tradition of foods. Here's my list:

An appetizer of sautéed Scale on a bed of Hairs
Main dish of Pinna Pasta with a Frond green sauce
Side dishes of roasted Rhizomes and Roots with herbs
Casserole of Stipe topped with the tradition French
Fried Onions
And the dessert finale - pureed Fiddlehead pie, naturally topped with Whipping cream

Who would not want to come to our November meeting with a menu like that? However, we are not going to eat this fine fare, we are going to examine these different ingredients. It is the world of fern structure and their differences as seen through a Dissecting Microscope.

We will have our very own Joan Hudson coming down from Huntsville to lead the program. If you missed her other programs on sex, you surely don't want to miss this hands-on program. Joan is Associate Professor of Biology, in Biological Sciences in the Arts and Science Department at Sam Houston State

University and she always gives us a delectably delicious program.

At last month's program on "Electronic Monographs" by Alejandra Vasco from the New York Botanical Gardens (I now know what all those long words mean!), we touched on the topic of "keying" for fern identification. Many of us didn't know the difference between hairs and scales and without the use of a microscope, we couldn't see the difference either.

Joan to our rescue; with her knowledge, wit, and Dissecting Microscopes we will learn and see as never before, fern structure and their differences. Come see for yourself.

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Up and Coming Attractions:

Nov 18: "Fern Structure and Terminology"
by Joan Hudson
Dec 9 (tentative): "Holiday Party & Gift Exchange"
Noon at the home of Darlene Morris

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 October were generously furnished by:

Drinks: Terri Dolney
Savory: Darla Harris
Lu Lu Leonard
Fruits: Darlene Morris
Desserts: Jessica Sheldon
Service ware: Cherie Lee

Refreshments for November will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Lu Lu Leonard
Savory: Noreen Tolman
Fruits: Patrick Hudnall
Veggies: Jessica Sheldon
Desserts: Larry Rucker
Service ware: Cherie Lee

Please let Jeanie Richardson or Cherie Lee know if you can help with the refreshments for future months. Email to: tedandjean@aol.com or Cherie.d.lee@sbcglobal.net. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



Treasurer's Note:

Please turn in all receipt for reimbursement to Terri Dolney by the November meeting.

Submitted by: Terri Dolney, Treasurer



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting of the current and newly elected Board Members directly after the regular membership meeting on November 18, 2012 at the Houston Garden Center. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



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.



2013 Dues:

2013 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 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.



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting October 21, 2012

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:10 PM with President, Darla Harris calling the meeting to order.

General: Darla announced that Mary McConnell will be the Nominating Committee Chair this year. She reminded members that per the By-Laws, the Secretary and Treasurer positions were term limited. Cecil Strange and Patrick Hudnall volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. Terri Dolney moved to accept them by acclamation. Darlene Morris seconded and the membership approved.

Darla also announced that Darlene Morris had graciously offered to hold the Holiday Party at her home and reminded members that we would have our annual \$10-20 gift exchange for those interested in participating.

Treasurer: Terri Dolney reminded members to bring or send all their receipts to her by the November meeting so they can be reimbursed this year

Program: Alejandra Vasco, assistant to Robinn Moran from New York Botanical Garden, presented a very interesting and informative talk on "Electronic Monographs". She discussed the aspects of a monograph as well as how to use keys to identify ferns. She also led the members in an exercise to develop keys to be able to identify four different ferns. You can visit her *Megalastrum* Electronic Monograph at:

<http://sweetgum.nybg.org/megalastrum>

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

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



November Book Review

"Fern Growers Manual"

by Barbara Joe Hoshizaki & Robbin C. Moran

Barbara Joe Hoshizaki was a professor of Botany at Los Angeles City College, Curator of Pteridophyta at the University of California at Los Angeles, and was the President of the Los Angeles International Fern Society as well as honorary member of countless Fern Societies and horticultural instructions around the world. She wrote the first Fern Growers Manual in 1975 with its 250 pages and expounded on this book in 2001 with the help of Robbin Moran, with over 600 pages covering hundreds of ferns on how to grow and just as important, how to identify them. Our TGCFS library contains copies of both of these books. Anyone interested in growing hardy, semi hardy, or tropical ferns will find a wealth of information on this group of plants. These books provide detailed, useful advice on cultivation, identification, and landscaping for ferns in any region.

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 December Newsletter is November 23, 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 November 20, 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 3, 2013.

**“Electronic Monographs”
by Alejandra Vasco from the New York Botanical Gardens**



Guest Speaker Alejandra Vasco
and
TGCFS President Darla Harris



