



January 2013

Vol. 15, No. 1

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 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:

Happy New Year everyone,

I hope you all will have a healthy and happy New Year and have great success growing your ferns. Getting new ferns is only half the fun. The second half is seeing them reach their full potential and thrive as they do in nature. Knowing how each fern grows in its natural habitat is the key to helping them prosper in our environment. Sometimes we think we are doing the right thing for our plant only to have it reward us by dying. That can become very discouraging and expensive too. We have some very good fern growers in our Society and I hope this year we'll be able to provide some practical growing information to help make all of us more successful with our fern growing.

We will start this year off with a fern expert, Mike Lowery. Mike is a great resource for all ferns and will be sharing his knowledge with us at our January meeting. He gives a very interactive presentation and encourages all questions from the basic to the very advanced, taking time to explain in a way that only Mike can do. For those members who joined since Mike gave his last talk to us, you're going to really enjoy this. Mike has a very busy schedule with being owner/operator of the best fern source in the Houston area "Another Place in Time" nursery, but he has set time aside for us again. I'm sure many of you have been to his nursery but if not, it is a must for our area. We have a web link to Mike's nursery on our Fern Society's website.

The end of the year party was wonderful, many thanks to Darlene and Larry Morris for hosting our event this year. Darlene further surprised us with some wonderful plant give-aways. She is an avid collector of all kinds of tropical plants, including but not limited to Cycads, Aroids, Crotons, Begonia, Orchids, and many ferns. Thank you, Darlene, for inviting us to spend the day with you. For those who were not able to join us, we missed you!

For the Board Members, we will be having a board meeting at 1 PM before our regular January meeting to help us get this year off to a good start. Anyone who would like to attend the board meeting is welcome. This first board meeting of the year is where we work to set the direction for the Society for the year and all thoughts and suggestions are welcome and solicited. Our strength is in our great members and everyone has ideas that can help us move forward as an even better Society. If you are not able to attend the meeting, please feel free to email me with your thoughts or concerns at darla@fernplantation.com.

I would like to thank Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston for accepting the membership position. If you have not already paid your 2013 dues, these ladies will be happy to assist you. I would also like to thank Betty Mooney for accepting the hospitality position for this year, so please get with her to sign up for refreshments.

Please keep in mind that this is the Martin Luther King holiday weekend so Hermann Park may be busier than normal for this time of the year. You might want to give yourself a little extra time to find a parking spot. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you at the January meeting.

Take care,

Darla



A message from our Vice President:

Another Place in -----

January 2013

Time has always fascinated me. Much like my check book (there is a moment in which I have money in my checking account, then it's gone and I have to wait until sometime in the future for more money), time is there for a moment, then it is the past, and we wait for the future which comes and goes so fast it is already the past, often times missing the moment in which it only existed.

It is a New Year, a new Time to mark our travels as a Society and a new Speaker (at least to me and other newer members) to start off this year's meetings. Mike Lowery, owner of "Another Place in Time" nursery in The Heights for 24 years, a grower of ferns and other tropical plants for over 40 years, and a notable Houston area plant expert, has generously agreed to be our first speaker of the year.

If you have never been to Mike's nursery, try to go before the meeting and you will understand why Mike chose the name for his business. Whether it is true or not, you will find yourself stepping back in a time past: plants displayed with care in a setting reminding you of a home where the owner delights in growing plants for others' appreciation as well as their own; also a place where you can browse the "grounds" of this home for other treasures hidden here and there. This is a place where you

can ask questions, find answers, and come away feeling welcomed to come back again and again. You have momentarily stepped back into "Another Place in Time".

Mike will be presenting a program on 5 different ways to plant a fern; a unique presentation from a unique person! He will also have suggestions for other plants which grow well with ferns, question and answer time and to our delight, plants to sell.

This is a wonderful way to start our New Year, don't let it slip past you for who knows the future!

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Up and Coming Attractions:

- Jan 20: "Five Ways to Grow One Fern"
presented by Mike Lowery, owner of
"Another Place in Time" nursery
- Feb 17: "Potting Up Spores, the Next Stage"
presented by Larry Rucker
- Mar 17: Field Trip
- Apr 21: "Platycteriums"
presented by Ryan Paddock
- May 19: TBD
- June 16: TBD
- July 21: TBD
- Aug 18: Summer Party
location to be announced later
- Sept 16: "Annual Plant Exchange"
- Oct 20: "Spores"
presented by Ann Herrington
- Nov 17: TBD
- Dec 15: "Holiday Party"
location to be announced later

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Refreshments

Refreshments for January will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Terri Dolney
- Savory: Larry Rucker & Faye Stansberry
- Veggies: Mary McConnell
- Fruits: Betty Mooney
- Desserts: Cherie Lee
- Service ware: Cherie Lee

Please let Betty Mooney know if you can help with the refreshments for future months. Email to: jcmbzm@att.net or call 713-468-3834. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



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

INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 580.00
Raffle Income	518.00
Plant Re-imbusement	341.00
Project Re-imbusement	129.00
Miscellaneous	27.00
Bank Interest	<u>2.93</u>
Total:	\$1,597.93

EXPENSES

Cost of Plants	\$ 375.10
Project Supplies	29.20
Lecturer's Fees	719.60
Lecturer's Gifts	40.53
Bank Fees	0.00
Miscellaneous	452.39
Transfer to Petty Cash	<u>378.00</u>
Total:	\$1,994.82

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

Petty Cash \$ 306.30

Bank Balance 12-31-2012: \$5,666.30

Net Loss for 2012: \$ 26.24

Submitted by: Terri Dolney, Treasurer



2013 Dues:

2013 dues are now being accepted. If you have not done so already, please complete the membership form included with your Newsletter or with your email Newsletter notice and return it with your payment to our Treasurer Mary McConnell or our Membership Chair Beth Ayer at our next meeting or mail it to:

Beth Ayer
5815 Portal Drive
Houston, TX 77096

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.



2013 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Jessica Sheldon
Secretary:	Frank Lee
Treasurer:	Mary McConnell
Board Members-at-Large:	Malcolm McCorquodale Donna McGraw Larry Rucker
Membership Chair:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston
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:	Betty Mooney
Welcoming at Door:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting at 1 PM prior to the regular membership meeting on January 20, 2013 at the Houston Garden Center. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



January Book Review

“Encyclopedia of Ferns”
by David L. Jones

This book contains seven sections: an introduction to the structure and botany of ferns; cultural requirements; pests, diseases and other problems; propagation and hybridization; specialized culture, repotting, containers and housing; species to grow; and lists of ferns for various purposes. Line drawings, black-and-white and color photographs enhance the text and there is a comprehensive glossary of terms. The book is aimed at amateur and professional growers.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



Fertilizing Ferns

In nature, ferns get their fertilizer from the matter rich environment they grow in. When we take them out of that rich environment we may from time to time need to supplement our ferns with fertilizers.

If your fern is growing well and has good color, than most likely it is happy with the richness of the medium you have it planted in. However, if their growth is slow, their leaves are not forming correctly, or the color of the foliage is not correct, you might need to fertilize them.

Ferns as a whole are very sensitive to too much fertilizer, so proceed with caution. There are a lot of choices out there in the way of products so let's discuss some of the details of fertilizers. For ferns you need to select a low burn fertilizer. This means a fertilizer with a low percentage of highly soluble salts, salts that dissolve in water rapidly.

Liquid vs Dry fertilizers: Normally the liquid is a safer and easier fertilizer for beginners. The down side to liquid is that it washes out of the medium sooner and the root system may not get all it needs without a second application.

A balanced fertilizer or a complete or incomplete: You see the numbers 13-13-13, this is a balanced or complete fertilizer where as a 5-0-0 would not be because it has only one element that the plant needs. The three numbers represent nitrogen- N, phosphorus-P, and potassium-K. Nitrogen is needed for a plant to form its root system and leaves. Phosphorus also helps young plants to grow, but then moves over to help produce flowers. Potassium helps the plant utilize its water on the cell level and is necessary for crops, fruit, etc. Ferns need more nitrogen since they do not produce flowers or fruit, but need all three in some degree to produce an overall healthy plant. A number 5-2-2 would be balanced and give your fern the stronger nitrogen level it needs.

I like to give my ferns a dose of Fish Emulsion in the spring. This is a liquid, low burning, and is a 5-2-2 which works really well with our ferns. If your plant is struggling you can use an additional application as needed. You might try 'Watch Us Grow' an 8-8-8, 'Hasta to Gro' a 6-12-6 or 'Miracle Gro Liquid houseplant food' an 8-7-6. Use a weak dose until you see how your fern is responding. Too little is better than too much. If you do think you have over fertilized your plant flush with fresh water and then give the plant a chance to dry out some before you start watering it again.

Keep those ferns growing and healthy!!!

Submitted by: Darla Harris



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.



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 February Newsletter is February 1, 2013.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Holiday Party December 9, 2012

This year's Holiday party was graciously hosted by Darlene and Larry Morris at their beautiful home in Tomball. Twenty-two members attended and everyone had an enjoyable time: great place, great food, and great people. The gift exchange was full of surprises with a wide range of gifts including live plants, pots, and many other ferny items. Thank you Darlene for a wonderful time.

We missed those of you who couldn't make it, maybe next year.

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 or 281-999-8368 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



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 January 15, 2013

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 February 7, 2013.

Holiday Party – December 9th

Darlene Morris' Home



