



February 2013

Vol. 15, No. 2

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 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,

It was great seeing so many of you at the January meeting and so nice to see some of you we haven't seen in a while. I know you were looking forward to Mike Lowery's presentation as was I, but the flu interfered with him being able to spend the afternoon with us. We had hoped to reschedule for this month but that did not work for Mike. We will keep trying. He is a gifted speaker and has a wealth of Fern knowledge.

What we will be doing this month is continuing with our theme of learning to grow our ferns better with Larry Rucker presenting part two of growing our spores in agar. Larry needs everyone that still has their plantlets in the agar to please bring them to the February meeting. We are going to discuss moving them up to the next stage. If you have already moved yours up, please bring them to show and we will also talk about what comes next. I know some of you did not have good success with your gametophytes but do not despair. We will have some little ones for everyone to try their hand at growing up to the next stage.

There's Big News about our March meeting. We will be going on our spring field trip, but this year, we will not be out in the wild going through the woods in search of our ferns. We will instead be going through the wonderfully renovated Moody Gardens Pyramid complete with the bird's eye view from the catwalk up above the rainforest. We also will have a behind-the-scenes tour of the greenhouses by curator Donnese Brandon who is kind enough to come in on her day off to escort us. We will meet at the Visitors' Center at 9:30 AM and our tour will start at 10:00 AM sharp. It should conclude around 12:00 noon. We will have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting. If you won't be able to make the meeting and would like to go, please let me know by February 17<sup>th</sup>. The group price is \$15.00 per person. Please bring cash or check payable to TGCFS. We did this a few years ago and had lunch afterwards before heading home. If you would like to join us at a local restaurant, please let us know that as well so we can make reservations. If anyone has a suggestion of a good place that can accommodate our group, please let us know.

In April, Ryan Paddock will be speaking to us on Platyceriums. He will have some different ones available if you would like to add to your collection so remember to bring your wallet.

I would like to thank everyone for the bounty of refreshments we had at the January meeting. What a great way to start the New Year. Please see Betty Mooney if you would like to sign up for a future month.

If you have not paid your dues, please do so. We hope to have the membership directory available at the April meeting and we don't want anyone left out of the book. Please see Beth Ayer or Marcia Livingston to make sure you're paid up and if not, they can take care of you.

I wish I had my crystal ball, but I hope spring has sprung. I'm ready to get my ferns back in the yard and growing again. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Take care,

*Darla*



**Up and Coming Attractions:**

- Feb 17: "Potting Up Spores, the Next Stage"  
presented by Larry Rucker
- Mar 17: Field Trip – Moody Gardens
- Apr 21: "Platyceriums"  
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 were generously furnished by:

Savory: Larry Rucker & Faye Stansberry  
Veggies: Mary McConnell  
Fruits: Betty Mooney & Lu Lu Leonard  
Desserts: Cherie Lee, Lu Lu Leonard, Malcohm  
McCorquodale, & Cecil Strange  
Service ware: Cherie Lee

Refreshments for February will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Darla Harris & Betty Mooney  
Savory: Darlene Morris  
Veggies: Mary McConnell  
Fruits: Darla Harris  
Desserts: Jessica Sheldon & Marcia Livingston  
Service ware: Betty Mooney

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



## 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



## 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.



## 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.

## February Book Review

“Ferns”  
by Brooklyn Botanic Garden

This book includes growing tips as well as growing conditions for various ferns. It also has a discussion on fern propagation including growing from spores and three other methods of propagating. There are pictures and one page descriptions with cultivation tips for various ferns. Check it out.

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.





## **Diplazium esculentum**

### **The Vegetable Fern**

**Family:** [Dryopteridaceae](#)

**Genus:** [Diplazium](#) (dy-PLAY-zee-um)

**Species:** [esculentum](#) (es-kew-LEN-tum)

Over the last couple of years, the Vegetable Fern has been on the plant raffle table a number of times so many of you already have this fern. *Diplazium esculentum* is native to Africa, southeastern Asia, and Polynesia. It gets its name from the fact that in Asia, this is the most consumed fern. The fiddleheads are edible and are used in stir fried vegetables or as a green in a salad. The fiddleheads are high in Omega 3, but also have some mild toxins that can cause cancer over time if eaten in abundance.

This fern has a rich dark green color, gets two to three feet tall, and has rhizomes that grow up like a tree fern trunk but only get to about six to eight inches tall. The fronds are broad and two-pinnate. This fern puts off pups from the creeping underground rhizomes and can fill in an area rather quickly. I'm in zone 8b and I have had trouble with this fern freezing in the winter with only plants that are up under evergreens coming back for me in the spring. Zone 9 to 11 should not have this issue in normal winters such as the one we have had so far this season.

This fern prefers moist to wet soil and works well in pots with its upright growth and it does not break easily. Set in medium to bright light, keep it watered, and you will have a beautiful full fern.

Submitted by: Darla Harris





**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 20, 2013**

Meeting held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas with President Darla Harris presiding and calling the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

**Members Present:** Darla Harris - President  
 Jessica Sheldon-Vice President  
 Frank Lee - Secretary  
 Malcolm McCorquodale - Board  
 Donna McGraw - Board  
 Larry Rucker - Board  
 Beth Ayer  
 Terri Dolney  
 Cherie Lee  
 Marcia Livingston  
 Ted Richardson

**Meeting Location:** Darla Harris discussed the status of the Garden Center. No bookings for meetings will be made after July. With our Summer Party in August and the Holiday Party in December, we will need to find locations for our September, October, and November meetings if the Garden Center does not provide an alternative location. Jessica Sheldon suggested that Arbor Gate might be a possibility since they have an indoor room. She will check into this option.

**Garden Expo:** Darla Harris discussed the possibility of the society participating in February 2014. It will be at Reliant and the booth is free. One benefit would be the potential to sign up new members. If society wants to sell, we would need to buy plants and grow them up ahead of time. If members are going to sell their personal plants, should the society receive a portion of the sales and if so, what amount is reasonable? As a tax-exempt organization, we are allowed to have two sales per year without paying sales tax. This may not apply if personal plants are sold.

**Budget:** Reviewed 2012, \$26 net loss. Society pays dues to Texas Garden Club of \$15, Federation of \$5, and District 4 of \$5. In 2012, paid Garden Center \$86 for 10% of raffle and plants. Society has State tax number and Federal tax number. Terri Dolney, as past Treasurer, has been e-Filing the taxes.

**Newsletter:** Darla Harris stated she hopes to be able to pick up the printing of the newsletter when it becomes necessary and mail them out.

**Speaker Fees:** Budget for 2012 was \$500 and spent approximately \$700. For 2013, budget \$500 for out of town speakers and mileage for local speakers. Ann Herrington committed for October for \$200.

**Membership Directory and Name Tags:** Request Membership Chairs Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston obtain temporary name tags for members to use if their tags have been lost until a decision is made on what to do about permanent name tags. Cherie Lee will work with Membership Chairs to develop Membership Directory for April distribution.

**Logo:** Current logo being used by the society is not the official logo. If want to continue using it, board needs to make it official.

Jessica Sheldon motioned to accept the current logo as the official TGCFS logo. Teri Dolney seconded and the Board approved.

**Show Lattice Work:** The Richardsons have been storing the lattice work used at the orchid society shows for many years. Ted Richardson offered to purchase it from the society. Mary McConnell motioned to give the lattice work to the Richardsons in lieu of storage charges. Frank Lee seconded and the Board approved.

**Web Page:** Malcolm McCorquodale will continue to handle and ensure payment of annual fee.

**VP in Training:** Jessica Sheldon made suggestion to have a VP in training in 2013 to prepare them to potentially assume the VP position in a future year. Darla Harris suggested discussion be tabled until the next Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Submitted by: Frank Lee, Secretary



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society  
General Meeting  
January 20, 2013**

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 announced that Mike Lowery, scheduled presenter, was ill and would not be able to make the meeting. Instead, Darla would be presenting a program on "Growing Your Ferns Better".

Darla informed the members that the Houston Garden Center will not be booking meetings beyond July 2013. Thus, new locations will have to be found for September, October, and November 2013 and for 2014. Not sure what will be available after the new building is built. Mary from the Garden Center is looking into other meeting location options but nothing is confirmed at this time. Mercer Arboretum is open on the third Saturday of the month so that is a possibility.

Garden Expo has contacted the society about participating in February 2014. Preparing for a sale would require a lot of work. We will have more discussions on this in the further

**Library:** Chair Frank Lee reminded all that the Library was open for checking out books and to please return books at the next meeting. Also, if there is a specific book you are interested in checking out, please let him know prior to the meeting so he can make sure to bring the book. Not all library books are brought to every meeting.

**Hospitality:** Chair Betty Mooney reminded everyone to please consider signing up for February refreshments.

**Future Programs:** VP Jessica Sheldon announced that the March meeting will be a field trip to Moody Garden. In April, Ryan Paddock will be speaking on Platyceriums and will be bringing plants to sell.

**Program:** Darla Harris presented a very informative program on "Growing Your Ferns Better". She discussed various mediums and additives, potting alternatives, water/moisture requirements, and transplanting dos and don'ts. She showed examples of all



and discussed the requirements of various ferns including maidenhairs, Royal ferns, birdnests, and more.

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

**Attendance:** 24 Members

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Submitted by: Frank Lee, Secretary



### 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 March Newsletter is March 1, 2013.**

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 February 19, 2013

*Spring Sale - April 13, 2013*

9 AM - 3 PM

**Gethsemane First United Methodist Church**  
6856 Bellaire Blvd., Houston 77074  
(east of the SW Freeway)

**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 March 7, 2013.

*Orchids on the Bayou*  
The Houston Orchid Society  
**2013 Show and Sale**  
April 20 - 21  
Saturday 9AM - 5PM  
Sunday 9AM - 4PM  
Houston Museum of Natural Science, Main Lobby  
5555 Hermann Park Drive  
Houston, Texas 77030  
Details at:  
[www.HoustonOrchidSociety.org](http://www.HoustonOrchidSociety.org)

**“Growing Your Ferns Better”  
by Darla Harris**

