

April 2013

Vol. 15, No. 4

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, April 21, 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,

Moody Gardens was well worth the drive to Galveston. The Rainforest plants were really beautiful with Donnese Brandon guiding us throughout the pyramid as well as the greenhouses. Her plant knowledge is impressive and her easy way of talking makes it such a pleasure to listen to her. The birds were breath taking and the monkeys entertaining as we walked through plants from around the world. We even saw a few ferns. Donnese would like our Fern Society to help her expand the fern collection and I think we are up to that challenge. If you would like to be on this committee, please let me know.

At our April meeting, we have the pleasure of having one of our newer members from the Dallas area presenting *Staghorn Ferns*. He began collecting Platyceriums back in 1995 and has amassed a collection of 100 or so species, cultivars, and hybrid staghorn ferns so the love is definitely there. And to make it even better if that is possible, he will be bringing plants to sell to help you in your quest to have more variety in your garden. So come early, you know how the parking has been, and don't forget your wallet.

For a heads up on our May meeting, Linda Gay, formerly of Mercer Arboretum, will be presenting *Fern Cultivation and Care*. This will provide very timely information for closing out spring and preparing for summer.

On a sad note, Betty Mooney lost her husband just days before our field trip, Donna McGraw lost her mother the end of March, Beth Ayer lost her sister, and Roy Vail, our platycerium speaker who came this past July, lost his wife. Our hearts and prayers go out to each of them in their time of sorrow.

Now is the time to be repotting our ferns you should be seeing all the new fiddleheads popping up. I want to share one thing with you that I recently learned. The potting soils that have the wetting agent in them to help retain the moisture, only last about three months and then they start breaking down and are less effective. That means, if we repot now in April, three months from now in our very HOT July and August when we need the extra moisture, the wetting agent may not be helping us like we think. By then, you might be ready to pot up to a larger container and add some new fresh soil. The article I read stated that the soil will break down in the bag as well, not just after you start using it.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting this month.

Take care,

Darla



Up and Coming Attractions:

- Apr 21: "Platyceriums"
presented by Ryan Paddock
- May 19: "Fern Cultivation and Care"
presented by Linda Gay
- 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 April will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cecil Strange
- Savory: Larry Rucker
- Veggies: Diane Montagna
- Fruits: Cherie Lee
- Desserts: Anna Belle Hicks
- 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!



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

Statement of Income & Expenses January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013

INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 300.00
Raffle Income	87.00
Field Trip	180.00
Club Store	23.00
Bank Interest	0.66
Total:	\$ 590.66

EXPENSES

Field Trip	180.00
Website	143.88
Texas Garden Clubs' dues	25.00
Total:	\$ 348.88

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

Bank Balance 3-31-2013: \$5,908.08

Net Gain Loss for 2013: \$ 241.78

Submitted by: Mar y McConnell, 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.

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Spring Field Trip March 17, 2013

The regular March meeting was replaced with our spring field trip to Moody Gardens in Galveston to tour the Rainforest Pyramid with our guide Donnese Brandon and view the ferns, other plants, and many critters. This was followed by a behind-the-scene tour of the greenhouses. It was very interesting and informative as well as beautiful. Ten members and two guests were lucky enough to attend. I'm sorry more of you couldn't have joined us, including my husband. Thanks to our wonderful and knowledgeable guide, we had a terrific time. Check out the pictures in the Newsletter.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, wife of Secretary Frank Lee

April Book Review

"Platynerium Fern Facts"
by Wendy Franks

This is a straight forward book containing general information on platyneriums including watering, fertilizing, pest control, and propagating. It discusses 18 species describing the fronds, spore patterns, and specific growing needs such as temperature and humidity requirements. It is an older book but still has some interesting and beneficial information.

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 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 May Newsletter is May 1, 2013.

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 April 16, 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)

Show and Sale - April 26-28, 2013

Friday Noon - 4 PM

Saturday 9 AM - 4 PM

Sunday 11 AM - 3 PM

**Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens
22306 Aldine Westfield Rd., Humble 77338**

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 May 2, 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

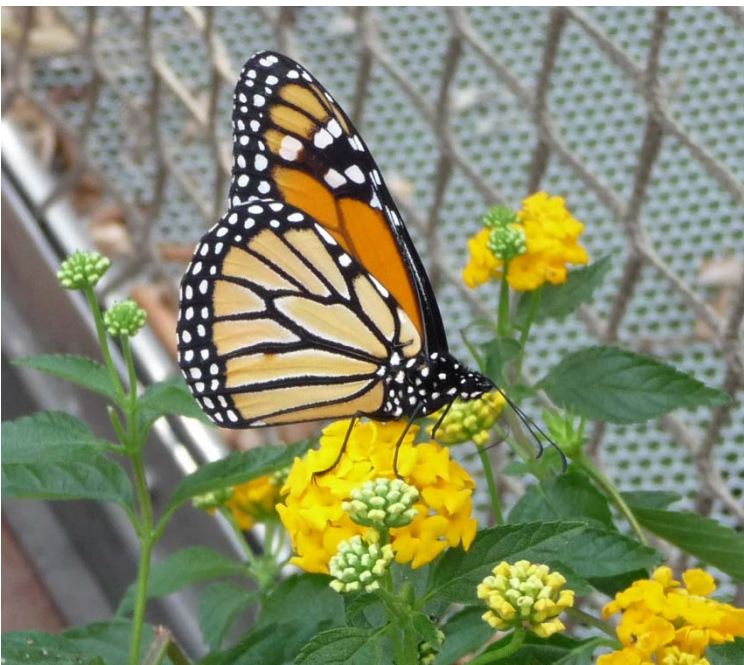
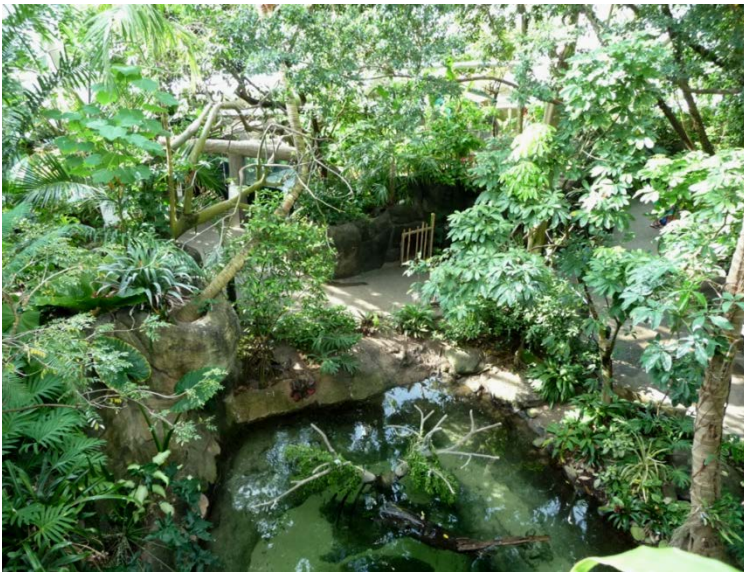
The advertisement features a background image of a bayou with a path leading through water and trees. In the foreground, there are several large, white orchid flowers.

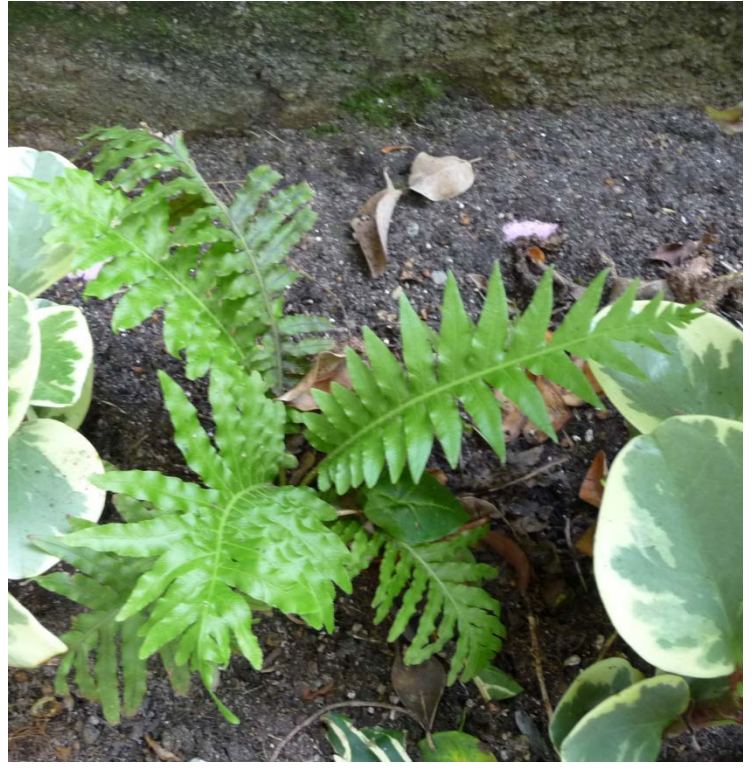
**Moody Gardens
Galveston**

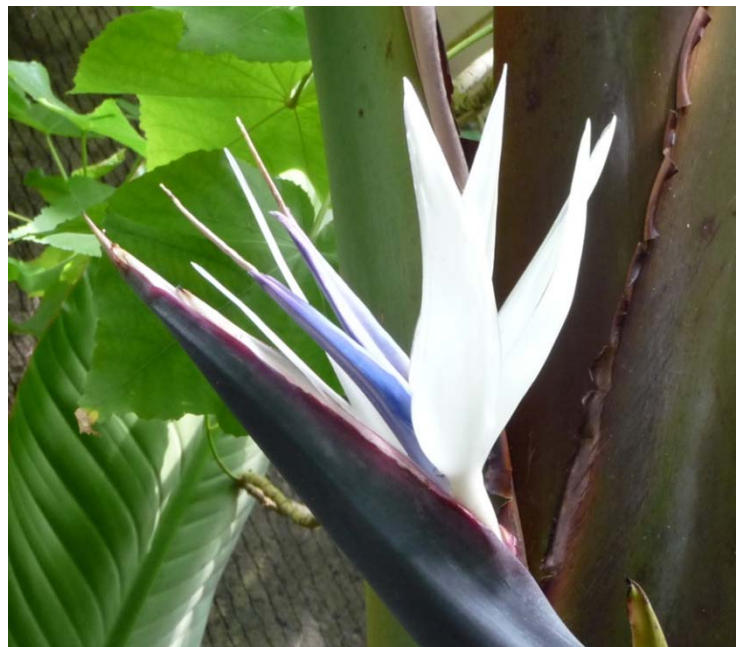


Darla Harris and our guide Donnese Brandon












AFRICAN NUTMEG
Monodora myristica

