



May 2013

Vol. 15, No. 5

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 19, 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,

You all are the best! Always showing people both in our Society and those outside what a resilient and easy going group we are, even when things go in an unexpected direction.

This past month, we needed a last minute stand-in speaker so who did we get? One of our members stepped up and gave a wonderful presentation on the proper way to divide those hard to divide ferns. This turned out to be an educational, hands-on meeting presented by Patrick Hudnall and everyone got to take home a good start of *Pyrosia lingua*. Patrick had purchased this fern at Yucca Do on our field trip to Peckerwood Gardens several years ago. What a treat, a plant with history. Thank you Patrick!

In addition to this, a garden club was having a plant show in the auditorium and thus, we were placed in the very cozy Rose room. But how did our members handle this? With the same happy spirit that we approach everything, moving tables around to best work for this presentation and to accommodate our refreshments and our thirty or so very nice raffle plants. A big special thanks to everyone bringing raffle plants, it makes all the difference. We ended up having a very enjoyable meeting and the raffle made a nice profit to help support future speakers and projects.

I will repeat myself, "You are the Best". Thank you!

For our May meeting, we have Linda Gay coming to speak to us. I believe this will be Linda's fourth time to speak to our group. The program will include a slide show followed by time for questions and answers. This is going to be a very nice meeting and you can read more about it in the VP's note.

The upcoming speaker for June will be Joan Hudson, discussing Tissue Culture and showing us how it is done. July's meeting will be Darlene Morris speaking on Crotons. August will be the Summer Social and every year we try to have the party at a different member's home. We do have a couple of volunteers who have offered to host the party again but I do hope someone new decides they can do this for us.

What a line up! Keep your calendar marked for the 3rd Sunday of the month and plan on arriving early for parking.

Refreshments have been wonderful these past months with lots of goodies. Thank you to all of you who have participated and I would like to encourage others to join in and bring

refreshments too. If you can't do a whole category by yourself, please sign up to partner with someone else. We don't want this to be a burden, but it is nice to have a snack as we are chatting away and catching up on all our plants and friends. Remember, if you are signed up and can't make it to the meeting, please be sure to let Betty Moody, Cherie Lee, or myself know so we can find someone to fill in for you.

We have gained a couple new members over the past few months and we all want to welcome you to our family of Fern Nuts.

Take care everyone and hope to see you at the meeting this month.

Darla



A message from our Vice President:

West Side Story

May, 2013

I feel pretty, oh so Pretty, Witty and Gay!!!!

Linda Gay that is, for she is our featured speaker for June and the topic will be "Selection and Cultivation of Ferns" in keeping with our "Growing Ferns Better" theme.

Here is Linda's quotation from her Facebook Page:

"I am a horticultural expert because I have killed hundreds of plants. When you kill plants every which way you can, you end up knowing how to grow them. I look at killing plants as a learning experience; hopefully it is with small plants that don't impact your wallet."

Sounds like our kind of gal. However, she has more than just experience to add to her collection of expertise. A Louisiana native, she studied horticulture at Trident College in Charleston, South Carolina. After 25 years with Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Humble, Texas, she retired in June 2011.

I met Linda when she was director of the arboretum and her enthusiasm for plants was addictive. Now I see her when I get to The Arbor Gate in Tomball and her knowledge and passion for plants still catches me with a renewed vigor for plants.

Linda's program will discuss the diversity of growth habits and the soil and light requirements. Ferns add a dimension in the landscape no other plant can fulfill, from ferns that will grow in full sun with dry soils to ferns that grow in shady areas with wet soils.

From growing tree ferns, tropical ferns to hardy ferns, this will be a program to arm us with success in our quest to grow our ferns.

I plan on being there. I have killed lots of ferns, and while I am not in the league of fern expert by killing them, I do certainly agree with Linda that by killing them you eventually learn how to grow them, or at least keep the ones you haven't killed alive! Hope to see you all there as well.

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Up and Coming Attractions:

- May 19: "Selection and Cultivation of Ferns"
presented by Linda Gay
- June 16: "Tissue Culture"
presented by Joan Hudson
- July 21: "Crotons"
presented by Darlene Morris
- 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 were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cecil Strange
- Savory: Larry Rucker
- Veggies: Cherie Lee
- Fruits: Cherie Lee
- Desserts: Anna Belle Hicks & Pat Foreman
- Service ware: Cherie Lee

Refreshments for May will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cecil Strange
- Savory: Cherie Lee
- Chips: Marcia Livingston
- Veggies: Mary McConnell
- Desserts: Jessica Sheldon
- Service ware: Lu Lu Leonard

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



Please Welcome Our New Member

Albert Howell



2013 Dues:

2013 dues are now being accepted. If you have not done so already, please complete the membership form 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.



Pyrrosia longifolia

Family: [Polypodiaceae](#)

Genus: [Pyrrosia](#) py-ROH-see-uh

Species: [longifolia](#) lon-jee-FOH-lee-uh

Pyrrosia contains about 50 species native to the Old World tropics ranging from southern China, throughout southeastern Asia, Indonesia, Micronesia, the Philippines and Australia. The majority of Pyrrosia are a simple frond, but there are a few that have lobed fronds. This Genus is primarily epiphytic and can be found mostly growing on Tree ferns or other old trees in the forest. The Genus can be recognized by its star-shaped hairs on the surface of the fronds and its scaly rhizome that can range from very short to long and creeping. The veins are netted, but can be hard to see due to the thickness and density of the frond. The sori are not consistent, ranging from round to elongated, but all are without the indusium. Pyrrosia is commonly known as the felt fern or tongue fern because of the hairy texture on the fronds of most of the species.

Pyrrosia longifolia has a simple frond that is narrow, long, and fleshy. However, it does have a crested form as well. It has the hairs like the other Pyrrosias but they are less visible making the frond shinier than some of the other varieties.

The growing habit of this fern includes bright light, very good air circulation, and very coarse growing medium. It is a tropical fern so it prefers warm conditions, however, mine has gone to 35 degrees with frost protection and been fine.

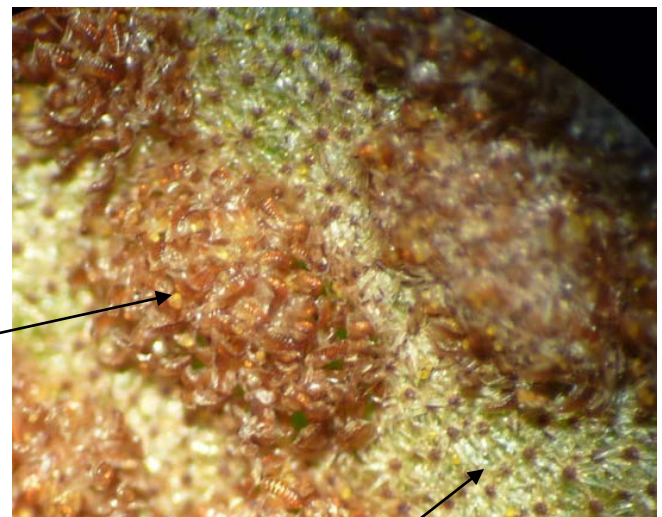
I grow this fern in a tree fern basket hanging sideways so it hangs as though from the side of a tree and also on a tree fern slab. I'm not sure if it has a symbiotic relationship with tree ferns or that it just likes the well drained conditions it provides. In nature the tree ferns that it grows on are tall so they provide light shade, good air movement and no over watering. These things seem to be the major requirements of this fern.

It can also be grown in a moss hanging basket, just be sure not to over pot. Remember keep it to just the next size larger, not the size you want it to be when it reaches its full potential. It's a slow grower so it will not need to be divided very often.

Fertilize with a fish emulsion or weak water soluble fertilizers at quarter strength, but over all they don't need too much feeding.

Folklore has it that the *P. longifolia* was in the Old World and it was pounded up and put into cold water to help ease the pain of childbirth.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



Sorus

Star-shaped hairs



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.



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting April 21, 2013

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 discussed the process of hardening off and potting up the *Dryopteris tokyoensis* plugs that members received at the February meeting. She also passed around a sample piece of *Marsilea* with hard brown bean-like sporocarps which contain the spores for everyone to see.

Hospitality: Signup sheets for refreshments for our May and June meetings were passed around and filled by our generous members. Please contact Chair Betty Mooney if you can sign up for July refreshments.

Future Programs: Darla informed members that unfortunately Ryan Paddock was not able to present his program on *Platycteriums* this month but attempts would be made to reschedule for a later month. Additional upcoming programs include "Selection and Cultivation of Ferns" by Linda Gay in June, "Crotons" by Darlene Morris in July, our summer party in August, and potentially the plant exchange in September.

Program: The program for April was a very informative discussion on the do's and don'ts of dividing ferns presented by Patrick Hudnall. Patrick brought several plants as examples and demonstrated removing pups from a *Platycterium bloomii* which were later raffled off to the members. He also started dividing a very large *Pyrrhosia lingua* and members had the opportunity to try their hand at it as well. A start of the plant was available to anyone interested.

Plant Raffle: Larry Rucker ran a very large and diverse plant raffle with many plants finding new homes.

Attendance: 18 Members, 1 guest and 1 new member were present.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Submitted by: Secretary Frank Lee



May Book Review

"Ferns for American Gardens" by John Mickel

Written by the curator of ferns at the New York Botanical Gardens, this reference describes more than 400 types of ferns and many subspecies, varieties, and cultivars. Each entry explains the habit, frond size and color, hardiness zones, ease of cultivation, and includes suggestions for the best use of the plant in the garden. Soil preparation, garden maintenance, and propagating ferns are also discussed.

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 June Newsletter is May 31, 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 May 21, 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 June 6, 2013.

“Marsilea”



“How to Divide Those Hard to Divide Ferns” presented by Patrick Hudnall





Removing a Platycerium Pup

