



August 2013

Vol. 15, No. 8

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Summer Party: Sunday, August 18, at 2:00 p. m. – Marcia and Jimmy Livingston's Home,
5814 Portal Drive, Houston, TX 77096– Phone: (713) 723-2957**

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone!

I'm sorry I missed the last meeting. I know everyone was disappointed we did not get our presentation on Crotons. I think they are underutilized in our Houston gardens. With all their different color combinations and leaf shapes they can sure make an area pop with interest. It is too bad they are not hardy for us here and have to be protected during the winter, but they sure handle our summers well. Darlene did say she would be willing to reschedule her presentation sometime in the future so let's hope it works out.

I have heard from several members who attended the meeting that Larry gave a very informative and fun presentation on how to mount a *Davallia trichomanoides*, the Black Rabbit's Foot Fern. Here is the correct name so you can make a tag for your plant.

Family: [Davalliaceae](#)

Genus: [Davallia](#) dav-VAL-ee-uh

Species: [trichomanoides](#) trik-oh-may-NOY-deez

This *Davallia* can take a little more cold weather than some. It is semi-hardy to semi-tender, so getting close to freezing should not kill the plant, but you should protect it from a full freeze so as not to damage the exposed rhizomes (its feet). This plant can take a wide range of growing conditions and thus can be grown either inside or outside. It can take low light to high light but no direct sun. It can take low humidity to high humidity and still be happy and not lose its fronds. The *D. trichomanoides* is a slower grower than the white rabbits foot *D. tyermannii* but both share the same growing conditions. As I know Larry told you at the meeting, the rhizomes cannot take being soggy. That will kill the plant. It can get bone dry and recover better than too wet. Growing it mounted makes it easier to not over water. With it being a slow grower, you should be able to enjoy the Texas board for a long time as the feet slowly wrap around it. Thank you Larry for taking this project on at the last minute and giving a wonderful presentation for everyone!

Party Time... we have such a great group of members and that makes the parties something to really look forward to. This is our Summer Social where we gather at a member's home and get to see what plants they grow and how they are growing them.

This is such a great way to get new ideas, just talk plants, and really get to know each other on a personal one on one basis. All members are invited to come and of course you may bring that special someone with you if you would like. Betty Mooney is organizing the refreshments to make sure we have a good combination of savory and sweet foods and drinks so please check with her either by email or phone if you have not signed up or if you need to refresh your memory on what you already signed up to bring.

I was telling everyone at the June meeting about the Taxonomy class that I'm planning on attending in Maine. Well as bad luck would have it, the day of our party is my travel day to get to Maine and the flight schedules do not make it possible for me to do both as I had originally hoped. So I'm going to miss seeing Marcia's beautiful yard and tasting all that wonderful food, but most of all, I'm going to miss visiting with each of you. So I will see you all in September.

Remember, the September meeting will be at our NEW location, the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center. I really think this is going to be a great change for us on the parking issue for sure. And what is our September meeting about? Yes, it is our Plant exchange... so get up to 5 plants or related items ready for our Swap. Remember, the first draw is random to get us started, but all other picks are based on whomever's item is chosen last. So chose your items carefully so you will get an early pick. This is always fun and I know I have always been happy with my new treasures.

I would like to welcome our newest member, Lisa Reed, to our Fern Society. Lisa, I hear you won all the raffle plants. Way to go!!! I hope you enjoy your new plants and ferns and I look forward to seeing you at future meetings. Sorry I will miss you at the party.

Well that's all folks for this time. Take care.

Darla



Please Welcome Our New Member

Lisa Reed



A message from our Vice President:

Party On, Marcia

August 2013

Summer is Hot,
but worry not.
It's Party time,
Rain or Shine!!

Unless there is a hurricane of course, then we will probably all be doing something else. In the meantime, think about having some down time at our Summer Party at Marcia's house.

We really do have a society willing to pull together. With my surgeries, inopportune health issues, and a possible upcoming move out of state, it has been wonderful to see our members step in and fill the gaps with last minute speaker cancelations, etc. There has been such a willingness to make our society the friendly place it is all while we get to learn more about ferns.

And now we have a fresh new face to host our summer party. Thanks Marcia and Jimmy, her husband, for your hospitality. Don't stress Marcia, we are all fighting the summer heat and water shortage. Your garden has always been beautiful. Marcia has a huge Live Oak in her front yard where ferns grow magically. Right across the street is where Beth lives and you can tell these two belong to the Fern Society with the hanging, potted and landscaped ferns.

Dress in your favorite party fare, shorts and a tee or summer frock, but do come dressed. See you at the party!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Up and Coming Attractions:

- Aug 18: Summer Party
at Marcia and Jimmy Livingston's home
- 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



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 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



Summer Party

Don't forget our Summer Party at Marcia and Jimmy Livingston's home August 18th. Please let Betty Mooney know what refreshments you plan to bring to add to the festivities. Also, if anyone has some inside folding chairs they can bring, that would be helpful.



Refreshments

Refreshments for July were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cecil Strange
- Savory: Cherie Lee
- Veggies: Betty Mooney
- Fruit: Betty Mooney & Larry Rucker
- Desserts: Larry Rucker & LuLu Leonard
- 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 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.



August Book Review

“A Garden Book for Houston” by River Oaks Garden Club

This book discusses the various plants that grow well in gardens in the Houston and surrounding areas. This includes chapters on everything from grasses to trees including a chapter on ferns. There is also a month by month chapter that details when to plant different seeds, plants, and bulbs and which months various plants are in bloom. General landscaping is discussed along with chapters on tropical gardens, native plant gardens, and butterfly gardens with growing tips on soil, watering, pruning and propagation. And of course, no book on Houston gardens would be complete without a discussion on diseases, insects, and weeds.

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.



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – July 21, 2013

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:05 PM with Secretary, Frank Lee calling the meeting to order.

General: Frank informed members that President Darla Harris was out of town and Vice President Jessica Sheldon was recovering from back surgery and both sent their regrets for not being able to attend. Also, Darlene Morris had a conflict and would have to reschedule her presentation on Crotons. Instead, Larry Rucker would be presenting a surprise project.

Frank reminded members that this would be the last meeting at the Garden Center. August would be our summer pot luck party at Marcia Livingston's home and September would be our annual plant swap at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center.

Hospitality: Please sign up for the August Summer Party and contact Chair Betty Mooney if you can bring refreshments in the upcoming months.

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.

Program: Larry Rucker presented an informative and fun project on mounting Rabbit's Foot Ferns on Texas shaped boards. All members got to try their hand at attaching their fern to the board without harming the feet, then take the finished product home to grow. We had a wonderful teacher and it was great fun

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

Attendance: 15 Members including new member Lisa Reed and 1 guest, Janice McGraw, were present.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Submitted by: Secretary Frank Lee



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 September Newsletter is August 30, 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.

The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

www.houstonorchidsociety.org

Regular meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at the First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd.

Next regular meeting is September 5, 2013.

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray St., Houston, TX 77019

Next regular meeting is August 20, 2013

“Surprise Project” presented by Larry Rucker



Larry with Davallia trichomanoides, the Black Rabbit's Foot Fern



Larry getting the students started



The supplies – always so organized





A little one-on-one teaching



**The Summer Party
at Marcia and Jimmy Livingston's Home
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