



September 2013

Vol. 15, No. 9

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 15, at 2:00 p. m. – Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center,  
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004 - Phone: (713) 284-1994 – Map included**

### In Memoriam

#### Betty Mooney

I'm sure most of you have heard the news of Betty Mooney's passing. This came as a shock to us as well as to her family. Everyone had hoped she had turned the corner in her grief for her late husband, having just lost him this past spring. Sometimes time heals us and sometimes it only makes things more unbearable and for Betty it was just her time to let go too.



Betty was known throughout the Houston area as an avid gardener. She loved all plants and ferns were just one part of her zest for plants. Betty had been a member of our Society some years back and for her own reasons had dropped out. As luck would have it, I gave a Fern Presentation to a Garden Club last year and there was Betty. She was as happy to see me as I was to see her again. That chance meeting resulted in her rejoining our Society.

Earlier this year, Betty found out we were short a Hospitality Chair and volunteered to take on that responsibly. She told me, "I can't hold an office, but this I can do!" And so she did. We greatly appreciated her taking the reins and working with everyone to have refreshments covered.

More than just a great gardener, Betty was one of those people you never forget. She had a ready smile and friendly personality that was always happy and upbeat. I know I always looked forward to seeing her at the meetings. Even when parking was bad and she had to park several blocks away and carry the service ware or plastic glasses for us to use during the meeting, she never let it show that it bothered her in the least. She just carried on happily like she had just parked a few feet away. An example we could all learn from.

Betty will truly be missed by so many....

*Darla Harris*

### A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

I'm sorry I missed the Summer Social, but I hear it was a smashingly good party. With the customary good food and good company we have come to enjoy amidst our group. Thank you to Marcia and Jimmy for opening their home up to us all and letting us enjoy their beautiful yard and home. I still want to come over sometime to see your yard Marcia!!

Summer is just about out the window, and not a moment too soon. The ferns are ready for some cool down time. The humidity level has been up and down and the poor plants are showing the brown edging of unhappiness on their leaves. Mine are all ready to push that last good growth before the end of the year, the last hurrah before winter sets in and most of them get their much needed dormant stage while the evergreen ones set some pretty new leaves to take them through the drab winter that is getting closer.

September is coming fast, with the meeting early in the month. The 15th is the 3rd Sunday so please don't get caught off guard and miss it. We will be meeting at our new location at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center. We will be having our plant swap and it is always fun to get something new to grow. Remember, there is a five plant (or plant related item) limit per member and please bring well rooted plants. As we have done in years past, all participants will receive a number and the person with the number drawn will have the first pick. From then on, the person that brought the item selected will pick next and so on.

There has been a change in our October meeting. We were looking forward to Ann Herrington's lecture on "Spores" but due to a health issue, she is going to have to reschedule to a later date. We will instead have a meeting on the bog fern Marsilea. There are several types and they have a very unique way of bearing and releasing their spores. We will be using a microscope and projection system so we can see nature doing its thing. I will be presenting this meeting for you with some new information I obtained from the Taxonomy class I attended in Maine. And did I learn a lot? My head is still spinning. I can't wait to share what I have learned with you over the next few months.

We have some great programs lined up for next year already, so this will help out the incoming new vice president. At our October meeting we will be selecting our nominating committee

and in November we vote on the officers for 2014. Start thinking about what office you might like to hold to help move our Society forward in the years to come.

Hope to see you at the swap.

Take care,  
*Darla*



### Up and Coming Attractions:

Sept 15: "Annual Plant Exchange"

Oct 20: "Marsilea"

presented by Darla Harris

Nov 17: TBD

Dec 15: "Holiday Party"

location to be announced later

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



### 2013 Officers and Committees:

President: Darla Harris  
Vice President: Jessica Sheldon  
Secretary: Frank Lee  
Treasurer: Mary McConnell  
Board Members-at-Large: Malcolm McCorquodale  
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: Open  
Welcoming at Door: Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



### 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.



### September and Future Meeting Location

Due to the construction of the new Garden Center building, our new meeting location will be at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Please see the maps at the end of the newsletter.



### Refreshments

Refreshments for September will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: ?  
Savory: Larry Rucker  
Veggies: ?  
Fruit: ?  
Desserts: Mary McConnell  
Service ware: Cherie Lee

As you can see, we have several categories open for refreshments this month. Please let Cherie Lee know if you can help fill the gaps this month or help with the refreshments for future months. Email to: [cherie.d.lee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cherie.d.lee@sbcglobal.net) or call 281-999-8368. 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.



*Asplenium x 'Austral Gem'*

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

**Genus:** [Asplenium](#) ass-PLÉE-nee-um

**Cultivar:** Austral Gem

Austral Gem comes from Australia and it is a fern that we received from Casa Flora a few years back. It is a beautiful fern with its waxy leaves and dark green fronds with two very distinct leaf patterns due to it being a hybrid fern. It is a cross between *Asplenium dimorphum* and *Asplenium difforme*. Its name shows us it is a hybrid by the X which tells us it is a cross between two other ferns and it has been rendered sterile.

It has a smallish growing habit, only getting about 12" tall, and works well outside in our Zone 9 areas but is also a great choice for a house plant. This fern is also very forgiving. It can take drying out, but then it can take a little too much water as well. It can take our hot humid summers, but it can also take our air conditioner with its drying effects just as well. It can take bright light to low light conditions.

Being a hybrid, it does not produce viable spore so you don't get that mess in the house when the spore dehiscent. It does have the sori, however they are aborted.

If you like to grow in terrariums, again this is a good choice with its smallish size. And if you do have critters in the terrarium like a gecko or a frog, the fronds are very stout so they stand up well to a little climber.

This is really a no fuss fern and would be a great choice for a gift to someone new to ferns.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



### September Book Review

#### “The Plant Book – The World of Plants in a Single Volume”

by Geoff Bryant, Tony Rodd, Barbara Segall, R. G. Turner, Jr, and Ernie Wasson

This book consists of three sections. The first section gives full information on gardening, growing plants, and a map detailing the hardiness zones for the country. The second section is made up of the A to Z of plants consisting of over 10,000 plants organized by genus. This includes information on geographical origin, description, cultivation, propagation, and pests and diseases. The third section is made up of useful and interesting reference material including information on plant names, a detailed glossary, and a comprehensive index of synonyms and common names. The book is full of beautiful pictures of the plants and blooms.

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.



### Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

#### Summer Party

August 18, 2013

The August meeting was our summer party. Marcia and Jimmy Livingston graciously hosted the party at their lovely home and “award winning” garden. All those attending had an enjoyable time eating great food, visiting with other members, and exploring Marcia’s wonderful garden. It was great to have time to talk with everyone. Hope to see you all at next year’s party. Thank you Marcia and Jimmy for your hospitality and a wonderful time.

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](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 October Newsletter is October 4, 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](http://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 October 3, 2013.

#### 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 West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray St., Houston, TX 77019

Next regular meeting is September 17, 2013

**“Summer Party”  
At Marcia and Jimmy Livingston’s Home**



**Our host and hostess and their lovely garden**





**Good friends,**



**Good food of course!**



**Good conversation,**



**And don't forget the sweets.**



**And plants, what more could we want?**





**Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center**  
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas 77004  
Home phone: 713-284-1997



**Judson Robinson Jr.  
Community Center**

