



October 2013

Vol. 15, No. 10

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, October 20, at 2:00 p. m. – Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center,
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004 - Phone: (713) 284-1994 – Map included**

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

The plant swap last month went very well with lots of nice plants from which to choose. We had examples of many different kinds of plants in addition to ferns. The one thing I don't like about the swap is I can only choose five plants out of all those beautiful plants. It is so hard. I want to take them all home with me. I did manage to make my selections and I went home very happy with my new plants. The only thing that would have made it better would have been to have all our members present to enjoy the swap with us. We missed you!!!

In October, we will be having a board meeting prior to our regular 2 PM meeting at 12:45 PM. The main discussion topic will be concerning having a sale next year or not. One possibility would be to have a sale at the Texas Home and Garden Show. We have several out of town speakers scheduled for 2014 and possibly two more in 2015 if all works out. We need to make sure we have the funds to continue having these great speakers come and talk to us. The other benefit of having a sale is that we have had good success in the past bringing in new members. We always need new members. Our numbers have declined a little so we need to think about recruiting.

The program for our October meeting has changed several times over the course of the year. We had originally planned a meeting on spores with Ann Harrington, but health issues have caused her to postpone her presentation. Then to fill-in, I was going to talk on the bog fern *Marsilea* but I quickly put my presentation on hold when Dr. Blanca Leon from the University of Texas Austin (UT) agreed to speak to us! The following is Dr. Leon's biography from UT's website:

Dr. Blanca Leon is a plant taxonomist by training. Her main research interests are plant diversity, Neotropical plant conservation, and biogeography. She is interested in the fern Andean flora, particularly in the family Polypodiaceae. She continues her work on compiling records on plant endemism in Peru for future evaluation of their conservation status. Together with Kenneth R. Young (University of Texas) and several colleagues and students in Peru, she is working on field evaluation of populations of some highly restricted species, like *Orthopterigium huaucui*.

Blanca, as a co-author, and Dr. John H. Wiersema (USDA-ARS-PSI) are working on a second edition of "World Economic plants". The initial work and all updates are searchable on-line (<http://www.ars-grin.gov/~sbmljw/cgi-bin/taxecon.pl>) and provide information for over 9500 plant species used worldwide.

Dr. Leon just returned from several weeks in Peru and she will be speaking to our group on the ornamental ferns in Peru. I looked up some information on the ferns of Peru and found the largest genus is *Polypodium* which includes the species of *Polystichum*, *Dryopteris*, *Cystopteris*, and *Cyathea* just to name a few. So this presentation should be very enlightening. I can't wait.

October is our month to select our nominating committee. As President, I will choose a Chairperson and the membership will elect two members to assist the Chairperson in selecting our slate of officers for 2014. Per the by-laws, a member cannot serve more than four consecutive years in any office. Jessica Sheldon has served faithfully as our VP for four years and thus is not eligible to serve as VP this coming year. The remaining Officers are still eligible to serve in 2014 if they are willing to do so, are selected by the nominating committee, and elected by the membership in attendance at the November meeting.

The good thing about becoming the VP this year is that we already have a lot of programs lined up for 2014. We have March/April/May covered with out of town speakers. The field trip is taken care of in March as well as a talk. We also have two other commitments for next year, just need to slide them into a month. With all of these and the two parties, that means seven months are done. We had a couple of presentations scheduled for this year that had to be postponed so there are a few additional potential presentations. Thus, this job is off to a good start in 2014. You do not have to know a bunch of fern people to do this job. There are a lot of members who are ready and willing to give you leads and ideas for future meetings. The main job requirement is talking with the potential speakers, getting them committed to a date, and following up with them to make sure they can still make the date as the time gets closer.

This is going to be a great meeting I hope all of you can attend. I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting. Take care,

Darla



Up and Coming Attractions:

2013

- Oct 20: "Ferns in Cultivation of Peru"
presented by Blanca Leon
- Nov 17: "Chromosomes and Ferns"
presented by Joan Hudson
- Dec 15: "Holiday Party"
location to be announced later

2014

- Jan 19: TBD
- Feb 16: TBD
- Mar 15/16: Sat "Field Trip"
led by Carl Taylor, destination TBD
- Sun "Isoetes (Quillworts)"
presented by Carl Taylor
- Apr 20: "Tree Ferns"
presented by Daniel Yansura
- May 18: "Light Requirements for Ferns"
presented by Takashi Hoshizaki
- June 15: TBD

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



Refreshments

Refreshments for September were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Faye Stansberry
- Savory: Larry Rucker
- Veggies: Darla Harris
- Desserts: Mary McConnell
- Service ware: Cherie Lee

Refreshments for October will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Faye Stansberry
- Savory: Donations from Pat Foreman
& Gary Wooldridge
- Veggies: Faye Stansberry
- Fruits: Faye Stansberry
- Desserts: Anna Belle Hicks & Cherie Lee
- Service ware: Cherie Lee

Please let Faye Stansberry know if you can help with the refreshments for future months. Email to stansberry.faye@yahoo.com or call 713-734-0170. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting at 12:45 PM prior to the regular membership meeting on October 20, 2013 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



Statement of Income & Expenses July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013

INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 50.00
Raffle Income	106.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.44</u>
Total:	\$ 156.44

EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$ 77.12
Program supplies	56.00
Refreshments for Federation Meeting	<u>20.00</u>
Total:	\$ 153.12

Bank Balance 7-1-2013: \$5,882.53

Bank Balance 9-30-2013: \$5,885.85

Net Gain Loss for 3rd Qtr: \$ 3.32

Net Gain Loss for 2013: \$ 219.55

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



2014 Dues:

2014 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.



Current 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.



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting September 15, 2013

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:10 PM with President, Darla Harris calling the meeting to order.

General: Darla began the meeting by thanking Marcia and Jimmy Livingston for hosting the Summer Party at their lovely home. It was much appreciated by everyone attending. Darla then thanked Faye Stansberry for accepting the position of hospitality chair.

Darla announced that there would be a board meeting at 12:45 PM prior to the General Meeting in October and at the same location. One topic for discussion would be the possibility of having a plant sale in 2014, possibly at the Garden Expo in the spring. She also mentioned that she would be selecting a nominating chair and the membership would be voting on a nominating committee at the October meeting. This committee will be responsible for selecting a 2014 slate of officers and board members for the membership to consider and vote on in November.

Darla asked if anyone was interested in participating in more technical fern/plant discussions outside of the normal Fern Society meeting. If so, please let her know.

She also reviewed the upcoming meeting presenters and programs.

Hospitality: Signup sheet for refreshments for our October meeting was passed around and please contact Chair Faye Stansberry if you can sign up for refreshments in future months and/or if you would prefer to donate toward the refreshments.

Plant Exchange: Darla led a discussion on each of the plants brought for the "swap". Each member participating received a ticket to draw for the first pick. LuLu Leonard won the draw and started the process. There were many nice ferns and other plants making it a very successful Plant Swap.

Attendance: 11 Members and 1 guest were present. Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Submitted by: Secretary 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.



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:	Faye Stansberry
Welcoming at Door:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



October Book Review

"Ferns to Know and Grow" by F. Gordon Foster

This book includes information detailing fern identification, culture, and propagation presented in easily understood language for both the new and experienced fern growers. Among the book's useful features are its splendid drawings and tracings of fronds, spores, and crosiers for each species, which reveal small identifying features that are often overlooked. This book includes chapters with the following headings: getting acquainted with ferns; ferns, then and now; the plant and its components; easy steps to identification; the culture of hardy ferns; growing ferns in the home garden; woodland plantings that feature ferns; growing ferns indoors; how to propagate ferns; native and exotic ferns to know and grow (illustrated with line drawings of each species); and composite descriptive summary (giving characteristics and cultural requirements of species), as well as a glossary, a fern selector (recommending species for particular situations in the home and garden), and a nomenclatural update.

Submitted by: Frank Lee

Platycerium andinum

Family: [Polypodiaceae](#)

Genus: [Platycerium](#) plat-ee-SIR-ee-um

Species: [andinum](#) an-DEE-num

Commonly known as the Staghorn of the Americas, *P. andinum* is the only *Platycerium* that is native to the New World. Andinum is named after the Andes Mountains of South America where it grows from an elevation of 500ft to 1000ft. All other staghorn ferns are native to one of three general areas of the world, the Malayan-Asiatic, the Javan-Australian, or the African-American, which make up the three species groups. Andinum is part of the African-American species group with its closest relative being *P. quadridichotomun* which occurs in Madagascar. This is another example of why some people believe that the continents of Africa and South America were together at one time.

P. andinum in nature is a very large staghorn that comes from a tropical dry forest region and thus, really does not like to get over watered. For those who have grown *P. superbum*, the growing conditions are very similar. They do not like direct sun, but do like bright light. I had one that was not mounted when I received it and it loved just hanging. Once I mounted it on a piece of cedar, I killed it. I ended up over watering it. So this is a very good candidate for the less expensive sphagnum moss, because it does not hold the water like the New Zealand or Chilean grown mosses.



P. andinum is one of the more difficult staghorn ferns to grow from spore. However, our very own Cherie Lee has done so very successfully, but it took about 3 years to get a 6" pot size. So my hat goes off to Cherie for her wonderful effort on growing these from spore.



P. andinum will put off pups and in nature they tend to form on the sides, level with the bud of the mother plant. They end up growing a full circle around a tree. However in captivity, they can put pups out on the top part of the mother plant. These pups should be taken off and put on their own mount to show the best of both plants.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



These large size Platyceriums have had a hard time surviving in their native Peru due to the loss of the tropical forest where they call home. At one point these were widely collected from the wild, but now thanks to growing from spore the collection of them out of their natural habitat is not necessary and let's hope they are able to make a big come back and show the next generations just how beautiful they truly are growing at peace in nature.

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 November Newsletter is November 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.

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 November 7, 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 October 15, 2013

Annual Plant Exchange



Darla Harris reviewing the various plants for the Swap



LuLu Leonard – Lucky winner of first pick



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



**Judson Robinson Jr.
Community Center**

