



November 2013

Vol. 15, No. 11

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, November 17, 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,

What a great meeting! We had Blanca Leon speak to us on the Ornamental Ferns of Peru. We were even able to have living ferns for show and tell to correspond with the ferns in her presentation. She is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker. She loved our members, too and I hope she was serious about joining our Society. What an asset she would be to our club. I hope she will be able to speak to us again, maybe even next year. Blanca also donated a new book to our Society library on the Ornamental Ferns of Peru so get with Frank Lee and check out this new addition to the many fern books we have.

This month we have the pleasure of having Joan Hudson speak to us on Ferns and Chromosomes. I know it sounds really technical, and to a degree it is, but when it comes to forming hybrid ferns, it really is very interesting and a wonder that new ferns are happening all the time. So come join us and learn the wonder of just what it takes to propagate those new cultivar and hybrid ferns.

It is once again time to start the annual nomination process for our elected officers and board members. I appointed Malcolm McCorquodale to head our nominating committee and the members at the October meeting elected Terri Dolney and Patrick Hudnall to round out the committee. So if you are interested in serving as an officer or board member, please contact one of the nominating committee members. We will be electing our 2014 officers and board members at the November meeting.

The board members met prior to the October meeting and decided to move forward with a sale next year. We have been confirmed with the Texas Home & Garden Show for a 20ft x 20ft booth at the **George R. Brown show March 28-30**. We have been given an excellent location near the DIY Outdoor Stage so the traffic should be great!! Maybe we can also do a presentation on mounting a staghorn fern or something. We will be organizing a sales committee to help with the details.

Our January and February meetings will be dedicated to the sale. We will have a presentation on the ferns we will be selling to refresh our knowledge on their growing habits and prepare everyone to be able to answer questions. Also, we will need everyone's help making labels and putting some plants on plaques to sell. These meetings will provide a way for everyone to participate in the sale even if they can't make it to the show to

help with setup/break down or the sale. More details will follow. This is really a fun event for all the members who help out!!

I would like to discuss the topic of refreshments. It is very difficult to estimate how many members and guests may attend a meeting. At the October meeting, we had a wonderful spread of food with a lot of leftovers due to a low attendance. I want to thank those who called Faye Stansberry, our Hospitality Chair, and volunteered to bring something after they saw her name listed to bring half of the refreshments last month. It appears we have a similar issue this month with several items still open.

Refreshments are provided to make the meetings more enjoyable and provide a light snack especially for members who must rush to the meetings and do not have the opportunity to eat first. That being said, we need everyone to participate by either bringing refreshments or donating funds in order to make this work and not be a burden on anyone or we need to cut down on what we are providing. It should not be the same people bringing refreshments month after month and it is not the responsibility of the Hospitality Chair to fund the refreshments. We all need to share this responsibly and not take advantage of the generosity and time of others. Please call Faye and sign up for a date or two that works for you.

For those who were sick or just unable to attend last month's meeting, you were missed and we really hope to see you in November. It takes all of us and when anyone is not at the meeting, it really is a loss to the others. So please get well and clear your schedules so we will see you the 17th of November!!!

For those who do not know, our VP Jessica Sheldon has decided to move to New Mexico. Jessica has been a member of our Society for the past eight years and has been our VP for the past four years. Her time, energy, enthusiasm, and creativity have been greatly appreciated and she will be dearly missed. This will be her last meeting for some time and possibly forever (we don't want to think about that), so please come and tell her how much she will be missed.

Take care everyone and I hope to see you all at the meeting.

Darla



A message from our Vice President:

"Last Words" November 2013

To all my dear friends in the Fern Society, if you don't know by now and if you read this newsletter, this November will be my last meeting with you all here in Houston.

I can hardly write through the stream of tears, I am going to miss you all. I have not been in good health with every year getting a little worse, until this year when I have literally been in bed either sleeping with varying degrees of fatigue, nausea, and general malaise when awake or recovering from some surgery (both of which were very successful). It has been a very challenging year.

Given I still don't have a clear diagnosis, and may never have one, my allergist suggested I move out of the Petri dish of mold we call Houston and move to a higher altitude and colder climate. I spent 3 weeks in Silver City, NM, where I had lived 20 to 25ish years ago and did manage to only sleep 12 hours a day and felt relatively good while awake.

Silver City is a small community in remote Southwest NM, elevation 6000 ft. As I mentioned, I lived there before and have a good friend who is only a block away. Silver is such a strange place. It really appeals to the "slightly off", creative, bohemian side of me. With a population of 10,000, a lot of which are old hippies, younger hippies, Hispanic from a long line of traditional mine workers, ranchers, and really poor artists, Silver City doesn't even have a movie theater!!!! However it has a Western NM University with a strong art program (I took classes there before and look forward to again), a hospital, and some of the most beautiful mountain and landscapes in NM without all the tourists. Silver also hosts a marathon, a well known bike race "The Gila Monster" which Lance Armstrong used to participate in. The race still goes on, just without Lance. Surprisingly with such a small population there seems to always be something going on. This month is the first Fiber Artists Festival (I'm into fiber arts, so this exciting). There is a wonderful group of fiber artists who manage a retail space for their creations. I look forward to sewing again and being a part of their group. It is a really funky place to live. No malls, as I said, no movie theater, only Wal-Mart or Albertson for grocery shopping; but alive with creative people.

While Silver City doesn't have the tourist draw which the northern part of the state has, there are spectacular cave dwellings and pottery from the ancient Mimbres people. Much of the artwork I did when living there was centered around the images from the Mimbres people. They are the only people that, at their time, did drawings of people and their surroundings, while the famous Cliff Dwellers in Colorado were doing geometric drawings.

My tears have slowed some just sharing with you what I'm looking forward to in this new adventure of my life. I will have a 2 bedroom house, so no excuses for anyone who dares to brave a cultural experience and visit me.

My new address is: 1200 W 6th St
Silver City, NM 88061

My email is the same jscooking@aol.com and phone 936-242-9900.

I will be "disconnected" from my computer Nov 9th while I travel to Silver via Corpus Christi to visit one of my sisters who lives there. I will depend on locations with WIFI, so if you email it might take awhile before I can answer.

To keep the flood of tears back, I will again say how much the Fern Society has been a part of my life but of course more than that, the people I have come to know and love.

Jessica Sheldon



Up and Coming Attractions:

2013

- Nov 17: "Chromosomes and Ferns"
presented by Joan Hudson
Dec 15: "Holiday Party"
location to be announced later

2014

- Jan 19: Plant Sale Related Topic
Feb 16: Plant Sale Related Topic
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



**Please Welcome Our
New Member and Returning Member**
Lisa George and Laura Jordan



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



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.



Refreshments

Refreshments for October were generously furnished by:

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

Refreshments for November will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Savory:	Laura Jordan & Mary McConnell
Veggies:	?
Fruits:	?
Desserts:	Terri Dolney
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

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



November Book Review

“The Ornamental Ferns of Peru”
by Blanca Leon, Elluz Huaman, Jose Roque,
Maria I. La Torre and Asuncion Cano

This book includes information on the various parts of ferns and types of fronds. It also discusses and shows examples of the various types and locations of sori for different ferns. But best of all, it has a discussion and description of each of the ferns with lovely photographs. Although the book is primarily in Spanish, it does contain a paragraph on each of the ferns in English.

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.



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Board of Directors Meeting
October 20, 2013**

Meeting held at the Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas with President Darla Harris presiding and calling the meeting to order at 1:25 PM.

Members Present: Darla Harris - President
Jessica Sheldon-Vice President
Frank Lee - Secretary
Mary McConnell - Treasurer
Larry Rucker – Board
Cherie Lee
Marcia Livingston

Society Sale: Darla Harris discussed the possibility of the society having a sale in 2014 in either February at Reliant or March at George R. Brown. After discussion, Mary McConnell moved to have a TGCFS sale at George R. Brown March 28-30. Jessica Sheldon seconded and all Officers and Board members present approved.

Board members also decided:

- 1) to have a Plant Sales Committee to handle the plant purchase, preparation, and sale,
- 2) there would be no member sales, but possibly members could sell whole sale to the society for the society to sell (to be decided later), and
- 3) what to do with left over plants would also be decided later.

Board members also agreed that the January and February meetings would focus on the plants being sold at the sale and preparations for the sale including making nametags and mounting ferns on plaques.

Marcia Livingston motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 PM. Mary McConnell seconded and the Board members approved.

Submitted by: Frank Lee, Secretary



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 - October 20, 2013**

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:00 PM with President, Darla Harris calling the meeting to order.

General: Darla announced that Malcolm McCorquodale will be the Nominating Committee Chair this year. Cherie Lee nominated Patrick Hudnall for the nominating committee, Mary McConnell seconded, and the membership approved. Marcia Livingston nominated Terry Dolney for the nominating committee, Jessica Sheldon seconded, and the membership approved. Voting for the Officers and Board members will be at the November meeting.

Darla discussed the decision by the Board to have a plant sale at the Home and Garden Show on March 28-30 at George R. Brown. A Sale Committee would be formed so please let her know if you are interested in being on the committee. January and February regular meetings will include discussions on the sale plants and preparation for the sale including making nametags and mounting plants on plaques.

Hospitality: Signup sheet for refreshments for our November 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.

Program: Blanca Leon from the University of Texas Austin presented a very interesting program on the Ornamental Ferns of Peru. Members brought examples of many of the ferns in her presentation for display and discussion during and after the program. Blanca also donated a copy of the book she co-authored entitled "The Ornamental Ferns of Peru" to our library.

Plant Raffle: Larry Rucker ran the plant raffle with many plants finding new homes.

Attendance: 13 Members and 3 guests were present. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 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 December Newsletter is November 29, 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 January 2, 2014.

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 November 19, 2013

Ferns in Cultivation of Peru” presented by Blanca Leon



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



**Judson Robinson Jr.
Community Center**

