

June 2013

Vol. 15, No. 6

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, June 16, 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!!

Spring is over!!! Darn...I was really enjoying the garden without that excessive heat. All good things come to an end and now we move into summer. Let's hope for rain and no 100 degree days.

Our meeting in May was wonderfully presented by Linda Gay. It was an informal discussion on ferns that really work well in the Houston landscape and there are a bunch of them. We heard about the successes of growing various ferns from our members and under what growing conditions. It makes us all better gardeners when we learn from our friends.

I'm happy to announce we have three new members. Welcome! The more knowledge we share within our Society the better off we all are.

Due to the closing of the Houston Garden Center, starting in September, we will be meeting at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. We will meet there in October and November as well. Most likely we will also meet there next year, but they will let us know. The best thing about the move is that we should have parking! We will be able to show up and really park our cars, unload our stuff, and load up again without any problems. More details will be in the September newsletter but until then, we will still be meeting at the Houston Garden Center for our June and July meetings.

I am looking forward to hearing Joan Hudson's presentation on Tissue Culture or Cloning as some call it at our June meeting. A lot of ferns you buy retail now are a cloned plant. She will be explaining the process to us. For those who went on the field trip to Casa Flora, most of their plants are tissue culture but they really did not go into details on the way it is done. Joan will be explaining that part to us. I can't wait.

I want to pass on an update on Terri Donley. She is doing well after a couple surgeries and follow up treatments but will miss a couple more meetings. I know I speak for us all when I say we miss her and wish her a full and speedy recovery!

On a personal note, I just got back from Miami for the Fern Show and Sale. It was beautiful with lots of pretty ferns to buy. Yes, those who know me know I did have to put a couple in my suit case. If you have never been, it is a very nice trip and fun to see what our fellow fern nuts grown in southern Miami. I'm off

to Los Angeles for their Fern Show/Sale but will be back for our meeting.

For those who are members of the American Fern Society (AFS), they have a couple very nice events coming up this year including a taxonomy class in Maine with Robbin Moran in August and the AFS meeting in July in New Orleans with a field trip. Let me know if you would like more information. Head count is limited so put in soon if you think you might like to attend.

It's time for me to go water, so happy planting and enjoy those ferns.

See you at the meeting.

Darla



Up and Coming Attractions:

- June 16: "Tissue Culture"
presented by Joan Hudson
- July 21: "Crotons"
presented by Darlene Morris
- 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



Please Welcome Our New and Renewing Members

Linda Gay and Gary Wooldridge



Refreshments

Refreshments for May were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cherie Lee
- Savory: Darla Harris
- Chips: Marcia Livingston
- Veggies: Mary McConnell
- Fruit: Betty Mooney
- Desserts: Jessica Sheldon
- Service ware: Betty Mooney

Refreshments for June will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Midge Gorman
- Savory: Jessica Sheldon
- Veggies: Noreen Tolman
- Fruit: Betty Mooney
- Desserts: Beth Ayer
- Service ware: Beth Ayer

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



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.



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting May 19, 2013

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:07 PM with President, Darla Harris calling the meeting to order.

General: Darla welcomed our new members and guests. She discussed the August Summer Party and requested that members who have never hosted a fern party consider volunteering to host this one.

Hospitality: Signup sheet for refreshments for our June meeting was passed around and filled by our generous members. Please contact Chair Betty Mooney if you can sign up for refreshments in July or any future meetings.

Future Programs: Jessica discussed upcoming programs including "Tissue Culture" by Joan Hudson in June, "Crotons" by Darlene Morris in July, our summer party in August, potentially the plant exchange in September, and "Spores" by Ann Herrington in October.

Program: The program for May was a very informative discussion presented by Linda Gay on fern selection and cultivation with wonderful pictures of lovely ferns. She discussed their growing environments and habits and our Houston growing conditions. She also brought several plants as examples and to sell.

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

Attendance: 15 Members including new member Linda Gay and renewing member Gary Wooldridge and 2 guests, Cati Brown and Sandy Lyle were present.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.



Really Where the Red Ferns Grow

Where the Red Ferns Grow is really so much more than a sad book. It is a fact of nature that there are a lot of ferns that put off red growth. So where do they grow and which ones will grow in our yards both in ground and potted right here in the Houston area?

We have touched on several over the years and Linda talked about a couple at the last meeting. This spring, as they were pushing off all their beautiful new red leaves, I snapped some pictures. I hope you enjoy them with some comments on them as well.

I will also expand on one that has become my new favorite fern.

Family: [Blechnaceae](#)

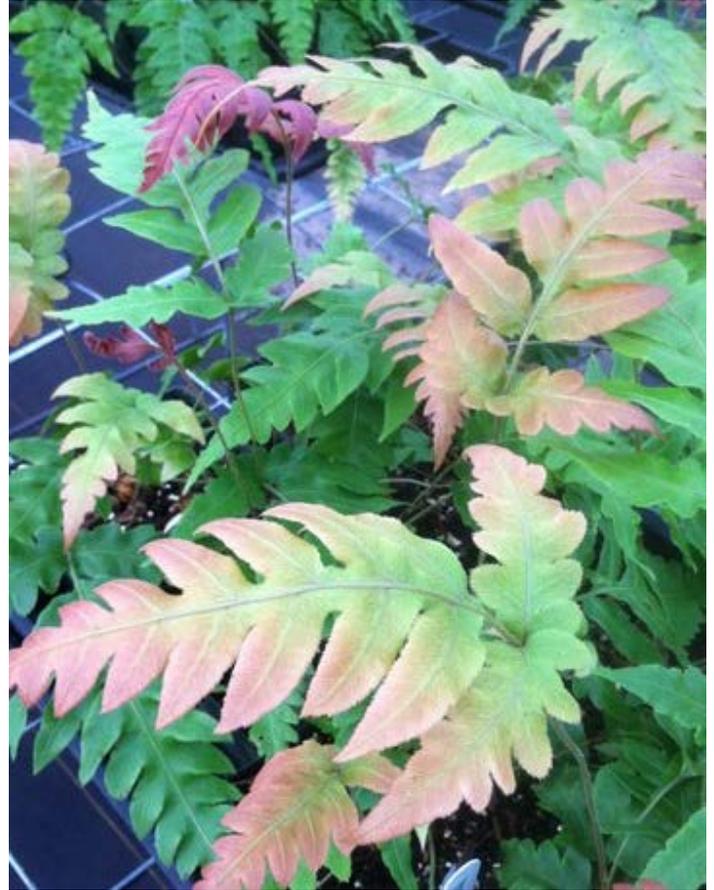
Genus: [Woodwardia](#) wood-WARD-ee-uh

Species: [unigemmata](#) yoo-nee-jem-MAH-ta

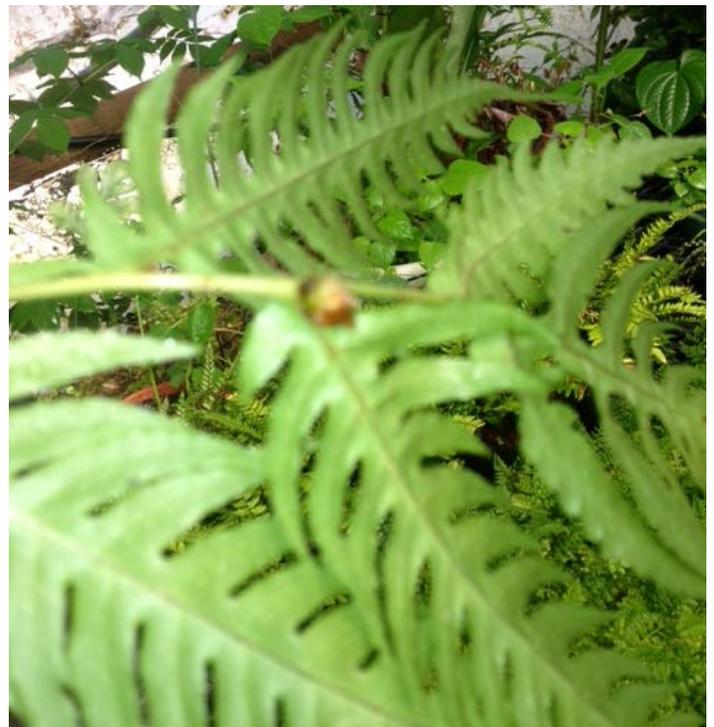
This is a large fern that is good to zone 8 for cold and seems to do quite well in our heat and humidity. It should be evergreen unless we get a cold winter then it is semi-deciduous. It grows well in medium to bright light and likes to stay moist, but not wet.

The leaves emerge almost maroon/red and turn green with age. The leaf to me is very pretty because it has so much texture to it. It is like its cousin the *W. orientalis* because it also puts off a baby bud, though not in the same manner as the *orientalis*.

This fern is native to eastern Asia and looks very similar to the *W. radicans* that is native to Europe.



The picture below of *W. radicans*, like *W. unigemmata*, showing how the baby bulb grows on the underneath side of the frond where *W. orientalis* has the plantlets on the top of the leaf following the margins. Sorry I could never get it to focus better.



Below is a mature *W. radicans* frond, but the two ferns look very much alike when mature. So, it has a large leaf.

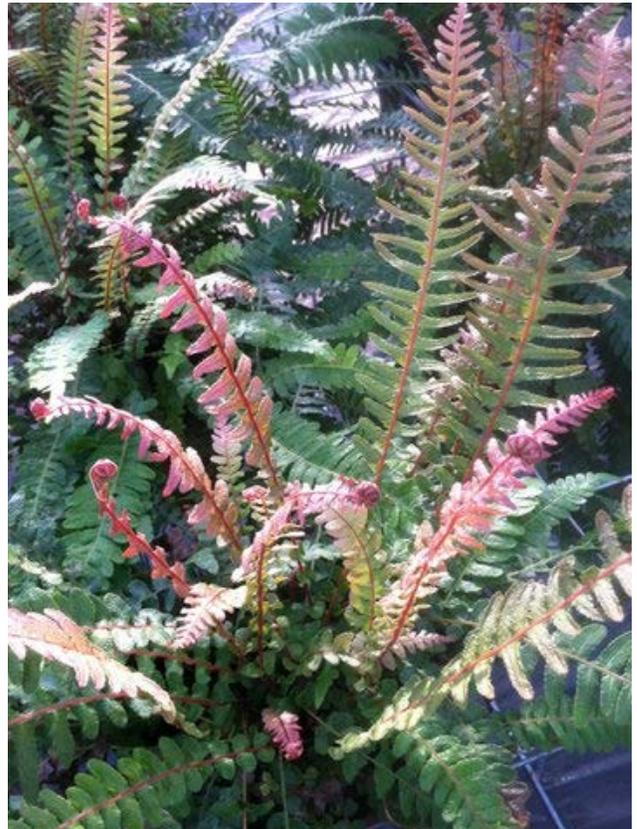


Brilliance Autumn Fern /*Dryopteris erythrosora*
Brilliance (Very cold hard for us, takes everything Houston weather can dish out)

Brazilian Tree Fern /*Blechnum brasiliensis* (Cold hardy if you keep it watered before a freeze and protect with just a frost cloth.)



The Rasp fern /*Doodia media* (could be cold hardy for us in mild years)



Mahogan fern / *Didymochleana* (not cold hardy)



So how do your Red Ferns Grow?

Submitted by: Darla Harris



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.



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.



June Book Review

“Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns” by Sue Olsen

This book is a comprehensive reference with succinct descriptions, habitat information, and cultural recommendations for more than 960 ferns, accompanied by 700 color photographs. Whether you are a beginner, an expert, or anywhere in between, this expansive, well-organized, and lavishly illustrated volume will be the first place you'll turn to deepen your knowledge and appreciation of the fascinating world of ferns.

Submitted by: 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 July Newsletter is July 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.

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 July 16, 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 except July's meeting which will be held a week early.

Next regular meeting is June 27, 2013.

“Ferns – Selection and Cultivation” presented by Linda Gay



Linda Gay



Raffle Table