



January 2014

Vol. 16 No. 1

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 19, 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:

Happy New Year's Everyone!!!

I can't believe it is 2014, it seems like just a couple of years ago we were turning 2000. Where does the time go? Well I do know part of that answer, buying new ferns, planting, watering, fertilizing, enjoying. That has made the passing of years a lot of fun while we learn which ferns work and which ferns don't work for us and our individual habits. I know for me my ferns have to be drought tolerant because I don't tend to over water. So I work with my planting mix to retain more water for those that really just can't tolerate drying out. All of us care for our plants differently and thus the secret to plant success is making adjustments to fit both ourselves and our plants so everyone is happy. So here is to another great year learning about and enjoying our plants!

Our Holiday Party was wonderful. The food was plentiful and the conversations just what I thrive on. We have such a great group of friendly, good hearted people it is just a joy to be around everyone. Many thanks to Diane Kerr for allowing us to meet at her lovely home and for everything else she provided to help our group celebrate the end of the year together. Patrick, please convey this to Diane for us and bring her to our meetings please. We would love to see her on a monthly basis.

Every year we try to steer our Society in a direction and this year is no different. This is the year for New Members! We can rekindle some of our previous members, but we are going to have an all out membership drive this year. Laura Jordan has agreed to be our new Marketing Chair. She has lots of ideas on how to generate some new members and how to make them Fern Nuts like the rest of us! Jean Keiser had gotten the Fern Society started on Face Book and now Laura will be taking over to get our Society firmly into the social media age. We plan some enhancements to our Website with our Web Master Malcolm McCorquodale's help. Our Society sale in March is not only to help with the Society's expenses, but also to get new wonderful ferns in the hands of the general public and spark their interest in ferns and our Society. If the American Fern Society can put their membership information on Amazon, we also need to branch out to generate more interest in our Society. Please get with Laura on any ideas and help you can give her.

Our first meeting of this new year is going to be a hands on project!! We will be mounting ferns on boards for our upcoming

sale. The boards, moss, and plants will be provided and all the members will have an opportunity to help get these plants ready for our sale. Everyone will get practice mounting staghorn ferns and a couple other ferns. This way everyone gets to share in the fun of the sale. Larry Rucker will be leading the way on this project, but I'm sure he is going to have a lot of worker bees on this too! Larry is Chairing the Sale this year so please let him know if you have anything you would like to donate. The boards that you will be working with have been kindly donated by Michael Lyle. Everything we don't have to purchase means more money into the Society's bank account. Thank you in advance for everyone's help!

Board members, we will have a short board meeting after the January meeting. Let's try to work it in around 3:30 PM. Thank you.

2014 dues are now due. We want to get our membership book out earlier this year. Please remember dues need to be paid by March so you will be included in the book. We want everyone to be included.

I'm looking forward to 2014 and seeing what all this new year brings to each of us.

Take care and hope to see each of you at our meeting.

*Darla*



### Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting at 3:30 PM after the regular membership meeting on January 19, 2014 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



### Up and Coming Attractions:

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  
Mar 28-30 Fern Sale  
Texas Home & Garden Show  
George R. Brown  
Apr 13: "Tree Ferns"  
presented by Daniel Yansura  
May 18 "Light Requirements for Ferns"  
presented by Takashi Hoshizaki  
June 15: TBD

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Vice President



### 2014 Officers and Committees:

President: Darla Harris  
Vice President: Cherie Lee  
Secretary: Anna Belle Hicks  
Treasurer: Mary McConnell  
Board Members-at-Large: Patrick Hudnall  
Larry Rucker  
Membership Chair: Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston  
Marketing Chair: Laura Jordan  
Ways and Means: Open  
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



### 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.



### Statement of Income & Expenses October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

#### INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 285.00
Raffle Income	107.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.43</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 392.43</b>

#### EXPENSES

Speaker	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>

**Bank Balance 10-1-2013: \$5,885.85**

**Bank Balance 12-31-2013: \$6,178.28**

**Net Gain Loss for 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr: \$ 292.43**

**Net Gain Loss for 2013: \$ 511.98**

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



### Refreshments

Refreshments for January will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	?
Savory:	?
Veggies:	?
Fruits:	?
Desserts:	Cherie Lee
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

Please let Faye Stansberry know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2014. Email to [stansberry.faye@yahoo.com](mailto:stansberry.faye@yahoo.com) or call 713-734-0170. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



### Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Holiday Party December 15, 2013

This year's Holiday party was graciously hosted by Diane Kerr and Patrick Hudnall at Diane's beautiful home in West University. Fifteen members and three guests attended and everyone had an enjoyable time: great place, great food, and great people. The gift exchange was full of surprises with a wide range of gifts including live plants, pots, and many other ferny items. Thank you Diane and Patrick for a wonderful time.

We missed those of you who couldn't make it, maybe next year.

Submitted by: Secretary Frank Lee



## Lacy Autumn Fern

### *Dryopteris erythrosora Prolifica*

**Family:** Dryopteridaceae

**Genus:** Dryopteris dry-OP-ter-iss

**Species:** erythrosora er-rith-roh-SOR-uh

**Cultivar:** Prolifica pro-lif-ica

This fairly new *Dryopteris* is a wonderful new addition to your fern garden. This fern is from Asia and is good from zones 5-9. It is evergreen and takes hot summers and cold winters without missing a beat as long as you don't let it dry completely out the first year. It needs to get established, but it is not a bog plant either so don't over water.

Like the Autumn fern we are currently growing, this new addition starts off the spring with new foliage that is the soft colors of fall with its pink to pinkish-red new foliage then turning a nice solid dark green once the leaf matures. It gets its lacy name from the very fine, dainty, and considerably narrower leaf structure. Yet like its sister the Autumn fern has leathery leaves so it will withstand a good wind storm and a downpour of rain without crushing the leaves.

Cultivation really is pretty easy, pick an area of your yard that does not get full all day west sun. This fern can take some sun but still need partial shade from the afternoon summer sun. Plant the crown of the plant at ground level in a humus-rich soil and keep moist until established and then it is drought tolerant. It does like a humid atmosphere so should do well in the Houston area. This is a clumping fern so a slow spread of the original plant is what you will get reaching about 24 inches tall. I'm told this is a mother plant and the leaves will produce plantlets. Mine has not done so yet, but I'm excited to see them appear.

We will have this fern available at our upcoming sale at the George R. Brown March 29-30. I will bring a couple for raffle so everyone can get a look and feel of this beautiful new cultivar.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



## 2014 Dues

The membership committee would like to thank all of you who have renewed your membership for 2014, which is currently 69% of the members. We look forward to hearing from the other members at the start of the New Year.

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.



## January Book Review

“A Natural History of Ferns” by Robbin C. Moran

From the curator of ferns at the New York Botanical Garden, this book is a meticulously researched, soundly organized, and entertainingly written treatise on the biology of ferns. For all their cool beauty and exotic allure, ferns are anomalies of the plant world because of their distinctive form of reproduction, by spore rather than seed. Moran examines this and other essential processes in a scholarly manual that sets forth in a single volume the wealth of material usually accessible only through intricate research. As opposed to field guides focusing primarily on identification, this history explains the unique life cycle and explores the evolutionary adaptations that have occurred throughout the species' 340-million-year history. Exhibiting a storyteller's flair, Moran opens each chapter with an engaging vignette or anecdote to instantly engage the reader, thus elevating what could be a pedantic discourse into an enjoyable discussion.

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.



## 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 February Newsletter is January 31, 2014.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*

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## 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 meetings are: January 2, 2014  
and February 6, 2014

### **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 January 21, 2014

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## Holiday Party – December 15<sup>th</sup>

### Diane Kerr's Home



**Hosts  
Diane and Patrick**









**Lucky First Pick  
Martha Burg**



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



Judson Robinson Jr.  
Community Center

