

February 2014

Vol. 16 No. 2

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 16, at 2:00 p. m. – Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center,
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004 - Phone: (713) 284-1994**

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone:

It's official! I'm done with winter this year! Wow...it has been cold, in the low twenties and high teens with snow flurries (tiny but there) and sleet. What else could be thrown at us this year? Oh, I should not tempt the forces of nature. We have however, seen some new birds that have been flying their little wings off to get out of the really cold our northern states have endured. My best friend who lives in Atlanta texted me and said it was 2 deg. F, really 2 not feels like 2. So that being said, I guess we should just take a deep breath and be happy it did not get worse than it did. I still vote for spring, though. I'm more than ready.

Thank you! Thank you! The January meeting was a smashing success. We had a great turn out of worker bees. Everyone pitched in and mounted the ferns Larry Rucker and I brought onto the 30 boards that Michael Lyle provided. We had mostly staghorns but also a few birds nest. Everything looked wonderful and in record time, too. I think once we started, we completed them in just about an hour. I hope everyone enjoyed working together getting ready for the sale. Those who helped clean up all the moss during the board meeting, thank you, thank you, thank you! We still have labels to do, but if everyone will take some to do, it will spread out the work and we can get all the plants named once they arrive.

Welcome back to those who had not been able to attend the meetings much lately. It was sure good to see you! Those who provided refreshments, I gained another five pounds but it was sure good.

February's meeting will be a continuation of our preparation for the Sale with a discussion of the ferns we will have available for the public to purchase. This will be a refresher course on some of the ferns we all may not be currently growing. I'm guessing we will have about 50-60 different types of ferns for sale from the very ground hardy to tropical. So there may be some new ones that you might not have seen before. This should be a lot of fun and educational. The sale really is a lot of fun, work yes, but a labor of love.

We want to welcome our two newest members, Diane Kerr and Viola Charo. We hope you had a good time with your new fern nut friends! Lisa George also brought her daughter Sarah for her first meeting and she won a raffle fern. She then took a

picture of her holding it and posted it on social media. Let's welcome our next generation of fern nuts and she is marketing us already!

I would like to announce that Donna McGraw will be chairing our educational committee. For those who do not know Donna very well, she is an avid fern collector and has traveled the world seeing how ferns are growing in their native habitat. She has judged many fern shows in both Los Angeles and Miami and will be an excellent addition to help us expand our fern knowledge. I know she has taught me a lot over the years. We will be working out all the details, but it will include some articles in the newsletter as well as 10 to 15 minute discussions prior to our scheduled speaker. So if you have something you want to know more about or something you would like to share with the other members, please get with Donna. Thank you for taking this on Donna.

I would like to thank Lisa George for offering to host our speaker and his wife, Carl and Jerry Taylor, for our March field trip and meeting.

Thank you also to everyone who has paid their dues (and some twice). But for those who have not been able to get them in the mail yet, I hope you can do so soon or bring it to the next meeting. We are putting our membership book together and want to include your name in it. Please see Beth Ayer or Marcia Livingston at the meeting. We have a lot of programs planned for this year and Cherie Lee has been hard at work filling the remaining few spots.

Our Society is off to such a good start for the New Year! We only have each of you to thank for that!

Take care all and stay warm,

Darla



**Please Welcome Our
New Members**

Viola Charo and Diane Kerr



Up and Coming Attractions:

- Feb 16: Discussion on Sale Plants
presented by Darla Harris
- 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: "Documenting Your Ferns Using Photography"
presented by Malcolm McCorquodale
- July 18: "Making Moss Balls"
presented by Darla Harris and Cherie Lee
- Aug 17: Summer Party
location TBD
- Sept 21: Annual Plant Exchange
- Oct 19: Cycad Reproduction and More
presented by Joan Hudson
- Nov 16: Project
- Dec 14: Holiday Party
location TBD

March Speaker Bio:

Dr. W. Carl Taylor (wcarl.taylor@gmail.com) is a retired museum curator of botany. Currently, he is a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. As a boy, Carl became interested in ferns through Boughton Cobb's *Ferns and Fern Allies* and its wonderful illustrations by Laura Louise Foster. He served as Secretary of the American Fern Society for many years and published many papers in the American Fern Journal. Most of his articles are about Quillworts (*Isoetes*), a curious lycophyte that looks like a tuft of grass. Carl has adventured far and wide by car, boat, helicopter, and even horseback in search of his beloved Quillworts. He is the author of *Arkansas Ferns and Fern Allies*.

April Speaker Bio:

Daniel Yansura has been an avid fern collector for over 30 years. During that time he was also a scientist at Genentech, where he worked on some of the earliest biotech products, including Humulin and Human Growth Hormone. Since retiring in 2011, he has used his molecular biology capabilities to identify tree ferns using DNA. Dan has traveled extensively to countries with rich fern flora, including New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Myanmar, where he photographs ferns and collects spore, particularly tree fern spore. His personal collection exceeds 200 species, and includes over 20 tree fern species.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Vice President (with Darla's help)

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
- Education Chair: Donna McGraw
Hospitality: Faye Stansberry
Library: Frank Lee
Marketing Chair: Laura Jordan
Membership Co-chairs: Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston
Newsletter: Cherie Lee
Spore Exchange: Patrick Hudnall
Ways and Means: Larry Rucker
- Raffle, Store, etc.
- Web Master: Malcolm McCorquodale
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.



Refreshments

Refreshments for January were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Donna McGraw
Savory: Terri Dolney, Cherie Lee, Darla Harris
Fruits/Veggies: Malcolm McCorquodale
Desserts: Donna Williams, Beth Ayer, Cherie Lee
Service ware: Cherie Lee

Refreshments for February will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Mary McConnell
Savory: Marcia Livingston, Larry Rucker
Veggies: Darlene Morris
Desserts: Beth Ayer, Cecil Strange
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 or call 713-734-0170. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



Maidenhair Ferns

Adiantum means to shed water in Greek and it's easy to see why botanists chose this as the name of this group of ferns. The common name – Maidenhair - comes from the fact that the leaf stipes (stems) are usually black or dark brown. Plants in the Adiantum family are small to medium in size. The thin textured fronds are delicate, lacy, and often drooping. The pinnae (leaflets) are fan or wedge shaped with sori located around the outer edges where the leaflets curl under forming false indusia to protect the spore.

There are over 200 species of Adiantum and many, many cultivars. Several species account for the majority of the variants. They are *A. tenerum*, with at least 22 different cultivars; *A. capillus-veneris* with at least 10; and *A. raddianum* with more than 70 distinct named cultivars and many more that have not yet been named.

Maidenhair ferns need air movement and lots of humidity but cannot tolerate soggy soil. They prefer a neutral to slightly alkaline soil mix. The mixture must be well drained with the general proportion of 2/3 organic to 1/3 sand or perlite. Most maidenhair ferns are lime lovers – a few actually prefer to grow on limestone - which is why they seem to do so well up against home foundations or concrete walkways - so adding some ground limestone, limestone pieces and/or shell grit to the mixture is beneficial.

Grow your Maidenheads in bright light but no direct sun and give them room for their graceful fronds to develop and air to circulate around them. Provide humidity but don't let water collect on the leaves for long periods especially indoors.

Submitted by: Donna McGraw, Education Chair



A. x mairisii



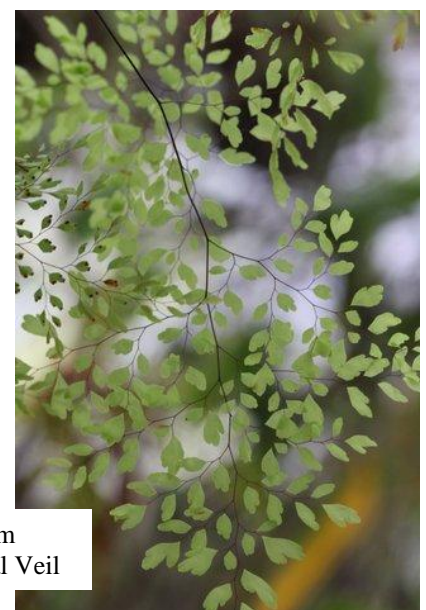
A. raddianum
'Variegatum'



A. formosum



- A *A. macrophyllum*
- B *A. pedatum*
- C *A. raddianum* 'Lisa'
- D *A. raddianum* delta
- E *A. microphyllum*



A. raddianum
cv. Bridal Veil



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
General Meeting – January 19, 2014**

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

General: Darla announced that there was a sign-up sheet for purchasing T-shirts, priced \$10, available in black and bright green and other colors. There was no Treasury Report. Anyone who had not signed Photo Book for Jessica Sheldon was asked to do so. Larry Rucker’s new title will be Ways and Means Chairman.

Upcoming Meetings: Cherie Lee said Malcolm McCorquodale will give a program on “Documenting Your Ferns Using Photography” in June. It was discussed if we should have a plant swap this year or perhaps have one every other year. It was decided to have the usual swap again in September but the maximum number of plants members can bring will be three instead of five. We are still awaiting the publishing of the book on Texas ferns. At that time, we plan to have the author give us a program.

Program: Larry Rucker demonstrated how to mount ferns on plaques. Wood plaques had been donated by Michael Lyle and Larry had installed the necessary screws and brought the other needed supplies. Members mounted ferns on 30 plaques for our March sale.

Darla said that next month we will have examples of ferns that we will be selling so members can become familiar with them and their care.

Plant Raffle: The plant raffle generated \$45 for the Society.

Attendance: 16 members and 2 guests (who joined at the meeting) were present.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Submitted by: Secretary Anna Belle Hicks



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Board of Directors Meeting
January 19, 2014**

Meeting held at the Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. Meeting called to order by President Darla Harris at 3:45 PM.

Members Present:

- Darla Harris - President
- Cherie Lee - Vice President
- Anna Belle Hicks - Secretary
- Mary McConnell - Treasurer
- Larry Rucker – Board
- Patrick Hudnall - Board
- Donna McGraw

Darla said primary purpose of meeting was to discuss March sale. It was agreed best way to handle expenses incurred by members was for them to present bills to Treasurer for

reimbursement. Budget for sale is \$1000. There will be a combination of hardy and tropical ferns. Our booth will be 20’ x 20’. Time of delivery of ordered ferns was discussed. Information sheets regarding ferns that do well here and membership applications are being prepared.

Donna McGraw will chair our new Education Committee. Donna mentioned several ideas – presenting a plant of the month quarterly, articles in the Newsletter, spore growing class. Patrick said he could supply spores. Doing this ‘in house’ or having an outside speaker at a cost of \$200 was discussed.

It was decided that we would not participate in the Mercer Plant Sale this year.

The Spring Field Trip will most likely be to the Little Thicket.

The location for our future meetings is still unclear. Information available now is that the fee for weekend meetings at the new facility will be too expensive.

The next Board Meeting will probably be in August. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Submitted by: Secretary Anna Belle Hicks



2014 Dues

The membership committee would like to thank all of you who have renewed your membership for 2014. Currently 74% of the 2013 members have renewed. We look forward to hearing from all the other members in early 2014.

If you have not done so already, please complete the membership form and return it with your payment to our Membership Co -chairs Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston 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.



February Book Review

“A Field Guide to the Ferns and Their Related Families”
by Broughton Cobb

This unabridged paperback edition is a completely illustrated pocket guide to all the species of ferns, horsetails, clubmosses, spikemosses, and quillworts found in a major portion of the North American continent. The clear text and precise drawings are based on the Peterson Field Guide system of visual identification and make this a book readily understood by the beginner, yet authoritative enough to meet the demands of the professional biologist. There are over 500 illustrations showing both the full plant and details of spore cases, leaf patterns, and other diagnostic characters.

The author has included two separate sections by other botanical experts, one on the geological history of ferns and the other on the creation and care of a fernery. The many closely related species to be found in the British Isles and Western Europe are described in a brief chapter featuring a key of plant silhouettes that leads the reader instantly to proper identification.

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 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 March Newsletter is February 28, 2014.

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 meetings are: February 6, 2014
and March 6, 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 February 18, 2014

Plant Sale Preparations – January 19th
Mounting Ferns on Wood



Instructor Larry Rucker

