



May 2014

Vol. 16 No. 5

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 18, 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:

We sure had a good meeting on tree ferns. It was great to learn that there are 27 different tree ferns that should do well in our area with just minor protection. Dan Yansura has a wealth of knowledge on tree ferns and other ferns as well. He has a large collection consisting of an extensive variety of ferns. He asked me to thank everyone. He enjoyed meeting you and sharing ideas. I know I enjoyed my time with him and learned a lot. We want to thank him again for donating his airline ticket cost, which was more than our Society could ever have expected. Thank you again Dan for a wonderful meeting!

Our May meeting is going to be just as wonderful. We have Takashi Hoshizaki coming in from Los Angeles to speak to us on "Light and Its Importance to Plant Development". Many of you know Takashi from the times he and his late wife Barbara came to talk to our group on the taxonomy of ferns. Takashi earned his doctorate in botanical science from UCLA. He worked as a research scientist at the Space Biology Laboratory, School of Health Sciences, UCLA for 13 years and retired from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology in 1989. He was twice president of the Southern California Academy of Sciences, published numerous scientific papers and forty-eight citations in fields of Plant and Animal Science, Cell Biology, and Evolutionary Studies. This time Takashi is going to draw on his years of working with plants and ferns, both on the job and at home, and tell us about the importance of light to their growth. I'm very excited to learn all we can from this amazing man. So I hope you will mark your calendar and be there with us.

Well, the numbers are in on the Sale and we did very well. Mary McConnell has the full report later in the newsletter. The unsold ferns that we mounted at the meeting on the boards that Michael Lyle donated will be making their way to the monthly meetings for raffle plants so we will continue to make money off this project. I want to take this time also to welcome our six new members who joined our Society due to the Sale. We are so excited to have you join our group of fern lovers and hope to get to know you better over the next few months. Thanks again to all who participated on the sale. Your efforts have really been rewarded.

We are putting together new name tags, those who still have theirs need to reuse the plastic holder. The membership book will be out as well so we can keep up with each other as needed.

I think spring is about over, we have had some nice cool days, but we are getting some really hot ones too. We could sure use some rain. Let's hope April Showers is just a month late....

Take care everyone,

Darla



Please Welcome Our

New Members

Elaine Farrell

Carolyn Holland

Rodolfo Reyes



Up and Coming Attractions:

- May 18 "Light and Its Importance to Plant Development"
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

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



**Statement of Income & Expenses
January 1, 2014 to April 30, 2014**



INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 232.00
Raffle Income	176.00
Plant Sale	3,225.00
Petty Cash	249.00
Bank Interest	0.66
Total:	\$3,882.66

EXPENSES

Newsletter (postage)	\$ 45.75
Sale Expenses	1,331.51
Projector	475.19
Speaker Fees	345.67
Website	170.23
Total:	\$2,368.35

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

Balance 4-30-2014: \$7,692.59

Net Gain for 2014: \$1,514.31

In April, the Society purchased a projector for use at meetings.

See Plant Sale details below.

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer

Refreshments

Refreshments for April were generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Teresa Dolney
Savory:	Patrick Hudnell, Diane Kerr, Larry Rucker, Martha Burg, Faye Stansberry
Fruit:	Midge Gorman, Larry Rucker
Veggies:	LuLu Leonard
Desserts:	Pat Foreman, Faye Stansberry, Cherie Lee
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

Refreshments for May will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Teresa Dolney
Savory:	Donna Williams
Fruit:	?
Veggies:	Noreen Tolman
Desserts:	John Williams
Service ware:	Rodolfo Reyes

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!



TGCFS - 2014 PLANT SALE

Income		Expenses		
Cash Sales	\$ 943.00	Credit Card Charges	\$ (45.46)	(\$ 16 was collected in \$ 1 charges)
Credit Card Sales	\$ 1,320.00	Copies of Brochures	\$ (22.95)	
Check Sales	\$ 992.00	Plant Costs	\$ (1,263.10)	
		Plants Purchased	\$ (831.60)	
		Hanging Pots	\$ (12.50)	
		Moss	\$ (25.00)	
		Labels & Printing	\$ (140.00)	
		Transportation		
		Rental Truck	\$ (100.00)	(incremental cost only)
		Gas	-	(donated)
		Boxes	\$ (76.50)	
		Travel Expenses		
		Plane Tickets	\$ (77.50)	(taxes only, miles donated)
		Hotels	-	(2 nights, donated)
Total Income	\$ 3,255.00	Total Expenses	\$ (1,331.51)	Net Profit \$ 1,923.49

As of 4/30/2014, the profit from the plant sale is \$1,893.49 (minus the \$30 dues included in the Income above) but some additional outstanding expenses remain to be deducted.

It starts with good intentions, naturally.

Lasagna Composting is the perfect place for my “good intentions”. After a week, more like 2 or 3, and I look in the refrigerator at the lettuce, celery, carrots (maybe they are good enough to eat yet?) and kale (especially the kale), I know instead of remorsefully throwing these wilted, browned, and slimy veggies into the garbage, I can with a clear conscience use them as my compost pile! That’s how easy it is to start composting.

Since I am just one person and I don’t have a lot of kitchen waste at any one time, I collect refuse in a kitchen container (a bowl with an old cutting board on top), then transfer that to a bucket outside; secured lid so creatures of the night or my dog can’t steal my garden goodies. When that bucket is full or just



pretty green and moldy, I select a spot in the yard I want to compost. If the dirt is pretty soft, I dig a little hole and wa-la, plop the goo in. Cover up the hole with the dirt and the existing microbes, nematodes, and fungi will do the rest. You have successfully built, or buried, your first compost pile. In a few months dig around to see how much recognizable evidence of your “good intentions” are left. If there has been warm weather with rain, your pile should be broken down into what looks like dirt with maybe some chunks of things still decomposing.

What can go into your kitchen collectables? Well besides the more obvious salad trimmings, carrot peels, egg shells, and coffee grounds or tea bags, you can put in: stale crackers, dried fruit, old herbs, rancid nuts, old baking mixes, expired yeast (you do bake bread yet, don’t you?), leftover wine, and paper towel from wiping up spills. What not to put in? No meat, fish, bones, oil, or other fat (butter, lard, remember lard?), milk or milk products like yogurt are allowed. Yes, we all know how the Indians showed the Pilgrims how to put fish in little holes along with the corn seeds to “fertilize” the little seedlings but the neighbors didn’t complain about the stink. So while fish can be composted, it takes special care and planning to do so. Fish meal and emulsion are another matter to be covered later.

What if I can’t dig a hole to bury my kitchen goo? I’ll get a little more detailed in the use of other available materials to start a layered lasagna compost. My most readily available materials are newspapers and boxes leftover from my move. In Houston, my most available materials were leaves and grass clippings, but most anybody will have or can get newspapers. This is the start of introducing “brown”, newspaper or carbon based material to “green” kitchen waste or nitrogen based material. To keep this

as simple as possible just remember: too much “green” = stinky; too much “brown” = nothing. We will get more technical later.

Pick a place you want to start improving the soil. Dump your goo from your bucket onto the spot and spread around a little to suit yourself. Use a hoe, rake or rubber gloved hand! This goo is already composting and alive with all kinds of things which can be harmful to you especially if you have an open cut. I even wear a mask to cut down on my breathing in the mold spores, harmful to me, but a cornucopia feast for the soil. Next I layer on some newspaper, water, water, water, and wait. If I want to cover an



area larger than what I have kitchen waste for, I’ll spread some alfalfa pellets over the area as my “green” and cover them with the newspaper. Water, water and wait.



We have given our “good intentions” and other kitchen waste the respectable purpose of building the very simplest of composting efforts. Give it a try and get into composting!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon



Water Dispersed Spore Container

How Are Your *Pellaea atropurpurea*, (Purple Cliff Brake Fern) Gametophytes Growing?

Just wondering how everyone is doing with their new babies from our March presentation by Joan Hudson. A few observations Darla and I had were that the gametophytes came up about three weeks earlier in the container with the shaken on spores and were much denser than those in the container with the water dispersed spores. But, I saw little sporophytes (baby ferns) coming up about a week earlier in the container with the water dispersed spores. See pictures below. Anyone else have any interesting observations to report?



Shaken on Spore Container



Thank you Joan for this presentation and bringing us the spore to grow.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee



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 Chair:	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: - Raffle, Store, etc.	Larry Rucker
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – April 13, 2014

The regular monthly meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas on the second Sunday of the month because of Easter being on the third Sunday in April. President Darla Harris called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

General: Darla reported that we took in \$3,255.00 at the sale. After expenses as of now, we netted \$1,923.29. There may be a few small expenses still outstanding. Two thirds of the sales were by credit card. The number of customers was limited due to the low turnout at the Show. The name of the Show had been changed with no reference to gardening. Kathy Huber had given us a write up in the Chronicle for two weekends. We gained six new members as a result of the sale.

Thanks were expressed to Darla Harris and Larry Rucker for their trip to Florida, to LuLu Leonard for donating miles for Larry's air fare, and to all the other members who helped make the sale a success.

Martha Burg announced that Mercer Arboretum, in celebration of their 40th anniversary, is sponsoring a series of lectures at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on September 4, September 25, and November 6. Among the speakers are Tony Avert, owner of Plants Delights Nursery, and Dr. Jackson, director of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

The Bromeliad Society in having a show and sale May 16-18 at Mercer Arboretum.

Darla said Mercer has been doing improvements and is looking very nice. We may consider it for a field trip next year.

Program: Our speaker, Mr. Daniel Yansura, was introduced by Darla. He is from the California Bay area and has been growing tree ferns for at least 25 years. He presented a very informative lecture and slide show. There are two families and 600 species of tree ferns predominately found south of the equator. In the U.S., they are found in Oregon, California, and Hawaii. He discussed

sources for purchase, how to grow from spores which is cheaper and a wider variety available, and general care of the ferns.

Plant Raffle: Again, many plants and also bulbs were available and Larry Rucker conducted another successful raffle.

Attendance: 20 members were present.

Submitted by: Secretary Anna Belle Hicks



May Book Review

“Fern Growers Manual”

by Barbara Joe Hoshizaki & Robbin C. Moran

Barbara was a professor of Botany at Los Angeles City College, Curator of Pteridophyta at the University of California at Los Angeles, and was the President of the Los Angeles International Fern Society as well as an honorary member of countless Fern Societies and horticultural instructions around the world. She wrote the first Fern Growers Manual in 1975 with its 250 pages and expanded this book in 2001 with the help of Robbin Moran, with over 600 pages covering hundreds of ferns on how to grow and just as important, how to identify them. Our TGCFS library contains copies of both of these books. Anyone interested in growing hardy, semi hardy, or tropical ferns will find a wealth of information on this group of plants. These books provide detailed, useful advice on cultivation, identification, and landscaping for ferns in any region.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



2014 Dues

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.



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 832-566-5788 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



Editor's Comments:

**Deadline for the June Newsletter is May 30, 2014.
Thanks.**

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: June 5, 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 May 20, 2014

Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc.
Presents:
**The Annual
Bromeliad
Show & Sale**
May 16 - 18
**"Bromeliads -
Jewels in the Garden"**
**Mercer Arboretum
and Botanic Gardens**
**22306 Aldine Westfield,
Humble, TX 77338**
Sale:
**Fri 12-4 PM; Sat 9 AM-5 PM;
Sun 11 AM-4 PM**
Show:
Sat 2-5 PM; Sun 11 AM-4 PM
bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

"Tree Ferns" presented by Daniel Yansura



Great presentation



Nice raffle selection

Nice refreshment selection

What more could you ask for?

