



June 2014

Vol. 16 No. 6

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, June 15, 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!

What a 'Great' May meeting we had! We learned the science behind light and why plants including ferns need it to survive. I'm sure each of you took something away from the meeting that you did not know before or at least had a better understanding of light. So I'm in the market for a good light meter to see how I'm doing on that count. I will let you know how it goes. *Thank you Takashi* for a wonderful meeting on a fascinating topic!

I would like to welcome our new members to our Society! We have many different types of meetings remaining this year so there should be something for everyone. Our June meeting will be presented by Malcolm McCorquodale on plant photography. He has been taking plant pictures for many years and has even had them printed in the Houston Chronicle. His passion is photographing orchids, but who would not love taking pictures of beautiful orchids. But, did you know there are a lot of tricks to get that special picture and Malcolm is going to share some of the things he has learned over the years with us. For those of you who have not seen his work, this will be in part a slide show of some of his photographs and I think you will agree, he really knows how to take a good picture. The second part will be working with each of us with our own camera on set up and staging a fern (must be a fern for our meetings...right?) to show it off to its best advantage. We will learn some lighting techniques as well as angles to capture the essence of the fern.

Our ferns have come in for our July meeting 'Moss Balls' project. This will be a workshop meeting and we will have enough for 30 projects. The project will cost \$15.00 which will include a plant, Styrofoam ball, hanger, and moss. We will be putting it together at the meeting for you to take home afterwards. This should be fun and a new way to grow your ferns. This will probably be a new fern for most of you. I will include additional information in next month's newsletter.

Our August meeting is a 'Party!' We need a volunteer to host this year's Summer Social. We try to have our parties at different members' homes so we can see how they grow their ferns. So if you're able to have our group over for the Summer Party, please let Cherie Lee and/or me know. Thanks in advance for volunteering!

September will be our annual plant swap. Now is a good time to get those plants ready to swap. This is always a great way to take home some new plants. It does not have to be a

fern, but it should be nice. For those who have not participated before, we draw numbers for the first pick. The person who brought the plant selected gets to choose next and so on. So when your plant is picked, you get to select a plant to take home. This continues until everyone's plants are chosen. This year, each member will be able to bring up to three plants to swap. So bring something that everyone wants, so you get to go next!

We have a lot of fun things coming up for our members and we are already starting on next year's speakers and projects. Any ideas and/or suggestions for programs/projects are always appreciated!

I hope everyone got some much needed rain. Let's hope it is not all we get this year. We got 9 1/4" over that four day period and that was more than enough. I would have liked half in April when I only had 1/2" of rain for the full month. But, this is Texas and our weather is always crazy. We get what we get and make the best of it.

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

Darla



Up and Coming Attractions:

- June 15: "Documenting Your Ferns Using Photography" presented by Malcolm McCorquodale
- July 20: "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)



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



Please Welcome Our New and Returning Members

Sara Chumley

Karen Deakin

Gary Wooldridge



Refreshments

Refreshments for May were generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Teresa Dolney
Savory:	Donna & John Williams, Larry Rucker
Veggies:	Noreen Tolman
Desserts:	Donna & John Williams, Cherie Lee
Service ware:	Rodolfo Reyes

Refreshments for June will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Sara Chumley
Savory:	Darla Harris
Fruit:	Rodolfo Reyes
Veggies:	Diane Kerr
Desserts:	Terri Dolney
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!



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.



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – May 18, 2014

The regular monthly meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. President Darla Harris called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM.

General: Darla welcomed our new member and two renewing members. She told the membership that our Secretary Anna Belle Hicks could not make the meeting and please keep her in our thoughts for a speedy recovery.

Program: Our speaker, Takashi Hoshizaki, was introduced by Darla. He is from Los Angeles and has spent years working with plants and ferns. He presented a very informative lecture on light and its importance to plant development. He discussed the electromagnetic spectrum, frequency needed for the chemical reactions in plants, and the amount of foot candles (lumens) required for growth.

Plant Raffle: Larry Rucker conducted an excellent raffle including several large staghorn ferns donated by Patrick Hudnall. The raffle brought in \$114.

Attendance: 21 members and one guest were present. Meeting adjourned at 3:24 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee for Secretary Anna Belle Hicks



Campyloneurum angustifolium

Strap fern

This is a beautiful fern that gets its nickname of strap fern from the long simple leaves. The blades are very narrow from .2 to .5 inches wide but can get 20 inches long, stemming in a cluster from a short creeping rhizome. This is an epiphyte and grows on tree trunks throughout the tropical and subtropical Americas. It prefers high-medium light in a drained, moist to moist-dry mix. This is a zone 9 fern that is semi-tender and should do well mounted to a palm tree or other tree in the yard here in the Houston area. For me it has done very well mounted on a slab of cork or tree fern and in a tree fern basket. It tolerates a short dry out period with little harm.

The *Campyloneurum* family has about 50 species with several that are in cultivation and most will work for our zone 9 climate.

I'm hoping we can talk Blanca Leon into coming back to speak to our group on this genus sometime next year. I share a love of this genus with her and I know we can all learn a lot from her.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



Tree Fern Presentation by Daniel Yansura

As a follow-up to our April meeting on Tree Ferns, here are a couple of Dan's slides in case you are like me and didn't get everything written down. Hope this helps.

First is a list of the tree ferns that should be able to be grown in our area.

Cultivated Tree Ferns California

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Cyathea cooperi | Cibotium glaucum |
| Cyathea brownii | Cibotium schiedeii |
| Cyathea medullaris | Cibotium regale |
| Cyathea princeps | |
| Cyathea mexicana (firma) | Dicksonia antarctica |
| Cyathea australis | Dicksonia fibrosa |
| Cyathea novae-caledoniae | Dicksonia squarrosa |
| Cyathea latebrosa | Dicksonia blumei |
| Cyathea fulva | Dicksonia arborescense |
| Cyathea divergens | Dicksonia youngiae |
| Cyathea woolsiana | Dicksonia sellowiana |
| Cyathea stelligera | |
| Cyathea smithii | |
| Cyathea dealbata (BJH) | |
| Cyathea aramaganensis (BJH) | |

Second are the growing media Dan recommends for various stages of growth.

Growing Media

- Fast Draining
- Root aeration

More media aeration →

Spore sown → Small to 6" pot → 1-20 gallon pots
 Peat moss/sand Coir/perlite/bark Potting mix/bark /lava rock
 in netted pots



Cibotium schiedeii



Cyathea cooperi 'Brentwood'
(most common to purchase)



Cyathea medullaris

Submitted by: Darla Harris



The Ferns and Lycophytes of Texas

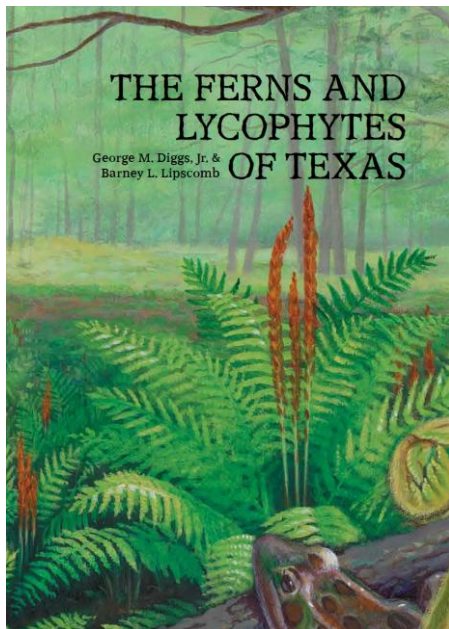
by George M. Diggs, Jr. & Barney L. Lipscomb

ISBN-13: 978-1-889878-37-9

Publication Date: March 2014

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Specifications: 7"×10" (flexbound), 392 pp., color photos, distribution maps.



About the Book

Texas has a surprising number of native ferns and lycophytes — 127 in all, the most of any state in the continental U.S.A. This is particularly unexpected given that most people associate ferns and related plants with humid, even tropical conditions, just the opposite of much of Texas. This book explains why and looks at the fascinating world of Texas ferns, ranging from the swamp forests of far East Texas, to the hidden canyons of the Edwards Plateau, and even to the high mountain “sky islands” of such places as Big Bend National Park. Each species has an illustration page with a color photo, a line drawing, and detailed maps. Be ready to be surprised by this special group of Texas plants!

\$29.95

(plus \$4.50 S&H) additional books are 3.00 S&H

I'm excited about this new book and one of the authors should be coming to talk to us early next year. If you would like to order this book with the Society it will save you 1.50 on S&H. We will be placing the order following the June meeting. If you want to order with the Society and will not be at the meeting please send me an email at darla@fernplantation.com before the meeting to be included in this order.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



June Book Review

“Hawaii’s Ferns and Fern Allies” by Daniel D. Palmer

This book is the first comprehensive survey of Hawaii’s ferns to be published in more than one hundred years. It covers endemic, indigenous, and naturalized ferns and fern allies (including rare and endangered plants). It contains more than 100 drawings along with detailed descriptions for all 222 species, varieties, and forms, and some hybrids. The author also includes information from Hawaiian folklore and mythology, describes uses of ferns by native Hawaiians, and updates Hawaiian common names.

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



Editor’s Comments:

Deadline for the July Newsletter is July 3, 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., Houston, TX 77005

Next regular meetings are: June 5, 2014 and July 3, 2014

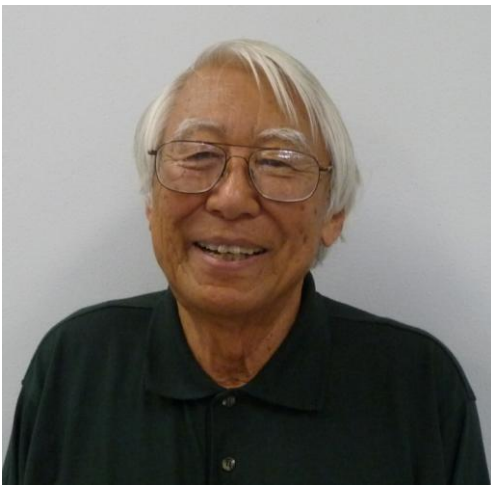
Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

– 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 July 15, 2014

“Light and Its Importance to Plant Development” presented by Takashi Hoshizaki



Excellent presentation



Great raffle selection

