

July 2014

Vol. 16 No. 7

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 20, 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:

I hope everyone is enjoying our summer! It has stayed so much cooler than the last couple years. I know we still have the rest of July, August, and the first part of September to really know if we had a cooler summer, but let's hope those 100 degree temperatures are going to stay at bay. Can you believe in just four months we will be worrying about our first freeze? So enjoy it now while we can!

Malcolm gave us an outstanding presentation last month. For those who were unable to attend, he brought in lots of equipment to show us how to stage our plants for the best possible picture. His bottom line really was Practice, Practice, Practice. You have to know your camera and have already tested different settings to be able to just take that perfect (or nearly so) picture on the fly like during field trips. So practicing at home on your own plants is the best way to perfect your skills. Thank you so much Malcolm. Well done!

We will be having a board meeting after our July presentation. We will be discussing the cut-off time for membership. Our by-laws currently state a June cut-off for renewing without having your membership lapse. At that point we no longer provide you with a newsletter. We are proposing the new deadline to coincide with our membership booklet so March would be the new renewal deadline date should the board decide to put this to the membership for a vote. We will also be discussing our meeting place for next year. So if you would like to have input on these or any other topics, you are welcome to sit in on the meeting.

Next month is our Party. Where it will be, nobody knows. If you are able to host our Summer Social, please let us know. This is always fun for everyone to meet and get to know each other on a casual basis. We try to have it at a different home when we can, but a return visit to a previous host home would also be nice especially if you hosted the Winter Party, show us your yard in summer time. Please get with Cherie Lee or myself so we can announce it to the group. Thank you in advance!

The books on Texas Ferns should be in for the meeting and those who put in your order will be able to pick them up at the meeting.

The July meeting is going to be a new way of mounting small epiphytic ferns to form a round hanging plant. We will have the materials you need for the project and the cost for

members is \$10.00 and \$15.00 for non-members. So join our society and save \$5.00 on the project. There is an article included in the newsletter on the fern you will be mounting.

The spore we put down in March is nearing the point to start to move up to the next stage. So I will go over with you in detail what we need to do next in the August newsletter. So keep a keen eye on them so you will be ready to move forward toward getting a large full grown fern from the spore we put down. This is nature at its best!

Well all, I must sign off. Lots of work left to be done.
See you at the meeting!!

Darla



Up and Coming Attractions:

- July 20: "Making Fern Covered 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)



Please Welcome Our New Members:

- Blanca Leon*
- Rosalind Speed*
- Bob Wall*
- Daniel Yansura*



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



Statement of Income & Expenses May 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014

INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 80.00
Raffle Income	226.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.39</u>
Total:	\$ 306.39

EXPENSES

Federation Dues	<u>20.00</u>
Total:	\$ 20.00

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

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

Balance 6-30-2014: \$7,973.98

Net Gain Loss for 2nd Qtr: \$ 281.39

Net Gain Loss for 2014: \$1,795.70

Outstanding Expense: Larry Rucker's plant sale expenses and expenses for May speaker

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting at ~3:30 PM after the regular membership meeting on July 20, 2014 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



Refreshments

Refreshments for June were generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Sara Chumley
Savory:	Darla Harris
Fruit:	Rodolfo Reyes
Veggies:	Diane Kerr
Desserts:	Terri Dolney
Service ware:	Cherie Lee, Rodolfo Reyes

Refreshments for July will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Martha Burg, Rodolfo Reyes
Savory:	Elaine Farrell
Veggies & Fruit:	Donna Williams
Desserts:	Mary McConnell, Bob Wall
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.



Microgramma heterophylla

Climbing vine fern

Microgramma heterophylla is a native to Southern Florida where it is now considered on the endangered State list, being found now in only about four counties. This is a rare epiphytic and is a little slow growing, but develops a very dense mat of fronds grown on long rhizomes.

Most people grow this fern as a terrarium fern due to its very small size, producing 1/4- 1/2" fronds making it an ideal candidate for small spaces. It does best in a humid environment which we have here in the Houston area. It does well with low to medium light, evenly moist but will take brief dry outs without too much damage.

We will be mounting this on sphagnum moss from Chile so that will help retain some extra moisture. The plants are hardened off to our environment so just need to be kept out of direct sunlight and protected from the cold in winter. This is a zone 10 plant, so protect at about 50 degrees to avoid damage.

Propagation is done by division or spore. Division is easy and the fastest way to share this plant with someone else.

This is a wonderful addition to anyone's fern collection.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



The Beauty of Spores – courtesy of Darla Harris

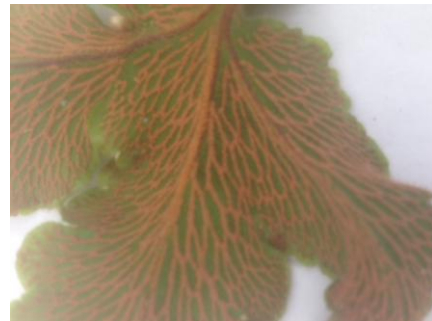
Woodwardia virginica



Blechnum gibbum
silver lady



Doryopteris palmata



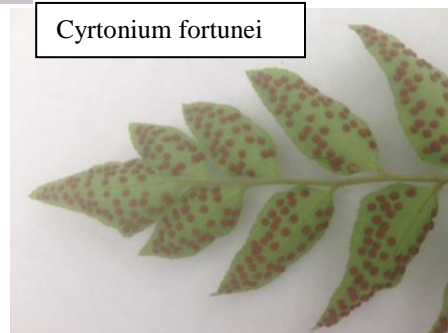
Anemia mexicana



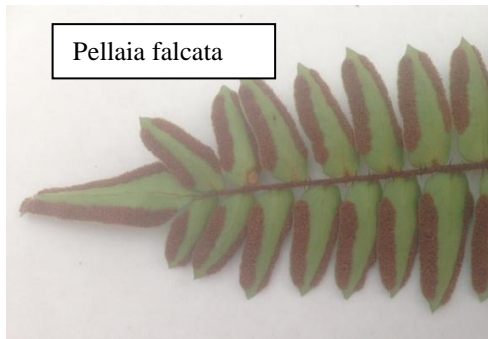
Pteris vittata



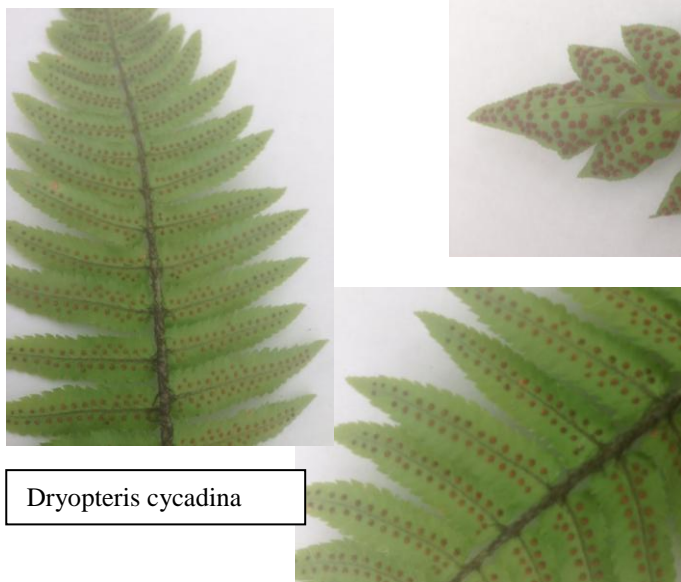
Cyrtium fortunei



Pellaea falcata



Dryopteris cycadina





**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
General Meeting – June 15, 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 2:10 PM.

General: Darla welcomed members and thanked those who provided refreshments. It was suggested by Darla that for our newsletters, members choose their favorite fern and do a write-up on it including pictures if available. Members could sign-up for publication month of their choice. Darla said we do not have a host for our August or December parties and asked if there were any volunteers. A change is being proposed to our by-laws that would require membership dues to be paid by March instead of June. Volunteers to furnish refreshments are needed for the July meeting. Frank Lee announced that the Library was available.

Upcoming Programs: Our program for July will be making a fern ball under the direction of Darla Harris and Cherie Lee. Darla showed an example and estimated the cost would be \$10 for members.

Program: Malcolm McCorquodale presented an informative program on photographing ferns. He said practice was the key to good pictures but he also discussed other important elements such as mechanics, composition, art, camera settings, and lighting. He also showed some of his special equipment and demonstrated how to use it.

Plant Raffle: As usual, the raffle table was filled with many lovely plants and Larry was successful in selling lots of tickets.

Attendance: 20 members were present. There were two new members: Rosalind Speed and Bob Wall.

Submitted by: Secretary Anna Belle Hicks



Editor's Comments:

**Deadline for the August Newsletter is July 31, 2014.
Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



July Book Review

“Native Ferns, Moss & Grasses” by William Cullina

Native Ferns, Moss and Grasses contains a thorough discussion, with several maps, of what plant hardiness means in the light of global warming. Cullina stresses the importance of each native plant's genetic makeup as he guides readers to an understanding of hardiness factors from coast to coast. For each species, he gives the natural range, type of soil, and habitat in which the plant thrives. For the keen gardener or nursery professional, the book should prove an invaluable and authoritatively selective resource, with listings that provide common names, natural habitats, and cultural requirements as well as plant descriptions. In the back, he provides complete information on where to buy these plants and lists of the best species for various uses.

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.



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 meeting is: August 7, 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 meetings are July 15, 2014 and August 19, 2014

“Documenting Your Ferns Using Photography”
presented by Malcolm McCorquodale



Malcolm McCorquodale



Malcolm instructing Martha Burg

Practice, practice, practice



Another great raffle

