

September 2014

Vol. 16 No. 9

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 21, 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!

Can you believe that summer is almost over? Other than the last couple of weeks, it really has been a pretty mild summer for us with temperatures staying below 100 and more rain than we have seen in the last couple summers. Over all, not too bad! I wonder what type of winter we can expect. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best is all we can really do.

The Summer Social Party was a great success. If you have never been to Lucy and Rafael's home and gardens, you need to put that on your short list. They are very gracious hosts and their home and garden is a fairytale. I could go back a dozen times and I know I would still see things I had missed before. The garden contains a wonderful mix of plants. For the fern lover, there was a lot to feast your eyes on starting at the front walk where there is a wall of *Platyceriums* (staghorns) including *Elephantotis*, *Wandae*, and several other species and cultivars. They were large and very happy plants that have been grown with loving care, as were all the other plants. The unique yard art was the most creative I have ever seen, with a mixture of antiques and other downright fun and amazing items. Lucy, you can expect to see some of your ideas play out in my yard in the future. I could write a full article just on their home and collections. All I can truly say is 'Thank You' for sharing your very personal home with our Society. It was a real treat! Thanks to all who attended for the wonderful food you provided.

It's TIME for our **Annual Plant Exchange**. Our September meeting will be our plant swap and the rules are as follows. Each member can bring up to three plants or plant related items. These do not have to be ferns, but ferns are always good. Please bring established plants, no cuttings. Each participating member will receive a number and we will draw to see who selects first. Whoever brought the plant/item that was chosen gets to pick next, and so on until all the plants have been picked. So bring something that everyone will want and you will get to select next. It is always fun getting to take home some new treasures.

We will be voting on our proposed by-law changes at the September meeting. If you did not read the proposed changes in last month's newsletter, they are again included in this newsletter.

In October, we will be electing our nominating committee for selecting our 2015 officers. Be thinking about a position you might like to hold. All officer positions are available but due to term limitation, the President position must be filled by a new person for 2015. Per our by-laws, a person can fill a post for up to four years but all officers need to be nominated and voted on each year even if they are still eligible to serve another year.

Joan Hudson is going to present a program on Cycads at our October meeting. November is going to be another fun project and then December is our year end party. Again this will be at a member's home and we are still looking for a volunteer. If you are willing to host the Holiday Party, please let me know. For our new members (and I should have put this in last month's newsletter), you can always bring your significant other or a friend if you don't want to come alone.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Plant Exchange! Until then, happy growing and stay cool.

Darla



Up and Coming Attractions:

- 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
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



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.



TGCFS T-Shirts

If you are interested in purchasing a TCGFS T-shirt, please let Darla Harris know. She will be placing another order within the next couple of weeks. Darla@fernplantation.com

Proposed Revision to By-Laws

On July 20, 2014, the TGCFS Board of Directors unanimously agreed to propose the following changes to the by-laws to the membership for a vote at the September meeting.

Current:

Article IV Section 3 Members, whose dues are delinquent for 6-months and have been duly notified, shall be automatically dropped from the membership roll.

Proposed:

Article IV Section 3 Members, whose dues are delinquent for **3-months** and have been duly notified, shall be automatically dropped from the membership roll.

Current:

Article VI Section 6 The Treasurer shall have charge of all monies belonging to the Society and shall make disbursements as set out by the Board of Directors or as approved by the Society. The Society will not be responsible for any expenditure exceeding \$25.00 without prior approval of the Board. The Treasurer shall deliver a quarterly financial report to the Newsletter Committee to be included in the appropriate newsletter. At the completion of the term of office, the Treasurer shall turn over all records to the newly elected Treasurer.

Proposed:

Article VI Section 6 The Treasurer shall have charge of all monies belonging to the Society and shall make disbursements as set out by the Board of Directors or as approved by the Society. The Society will not be responsible for any expenditure exceeding **\$60.00 for Board Members and appointed chairpersons or \$25.00 for other members** without prior approval of the Board. The Treasurer shall deliver a quarterly financial report to the Newsletter Committee to be included in the appropriate newsletter. At the completion of the term of office, the Treasurer shall turn over all records to the newly elected Treasurer.



Refreshments

Refreshments for September will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Cecil Strange
Savory:	Darla Harris
Fruit:	Terri Dolney
Desserts:	Beth Ayer
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!



Transplanting Sporophyte To Stage Two

Dan wrote a wonderful article last month, but I still was asked a couple more questions. So I took a few pictures while I was moving mine up to stage two to share with you.

1) You need a larger container, it took me two 9 X 13 to do mine. It needs to be sealable to hold in the humidity.

2) Fill with your potting mix. I use a seed starter mix wetted with distilled water and heated in the microwave for 10 minutes.

3) After the potting mix has cooled down, take a knife or spoon handle to make indentions in the soil about an inch or so apart for each row.

4) You need to take tweezers or even a small spoon to scoop up or pluck out a small group of sporophytes about the size of a dime. The root system is very fragile at this stage so try not to disturb them too much. That is why a dime size works pretty well.

After you get them all transferred you can spray lightly with distilled water and at this stage you can do a very weak liquid fertilizer. I use Miracle Grow for house plants. It's almost an even number. I use a few drops in a spray bottle.

Continue them under the same type lighting you had been using for about 10 hours a day.

We will follow up at stage three when the time comes.

I hope everyone has had very good success with these. I can't wait to hear how it is going for you.

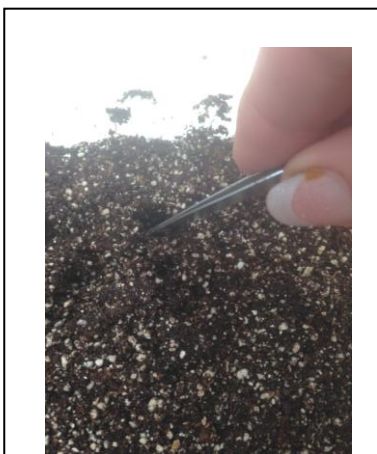
Submitted by: Darla Harris



Spores applied by mixing in water and pouring on mix; "spore soup"



Spores sprinkled onto mix; sporophytes were more crowded and did not grow as quickly or as large as those using the "spore soup"



Step 3



Step 2



Step 4





**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
General Meeting – August 17, 2014**

The August meeting was our annual summer party. Lucy Melara and her husband, Rafael, graciously hosted the party at their lovely home and garden – both works of art. Everyone enjoyed touring their fantastic garden filled to overflowing with beautiful plants. There was plenty of delicious food and opportunities to visit with each other. Those who were unable to attend were missed. Thanks to Lucy and Rafael for their hospitality and a fun filled afternoon.

Submitted by: Secretary Anna Belle Hicks



September Book Review

“Ferns of the Tropics” by Wee Yeow Chin

This book offers an introduction to the structure and life cycle of ferns, with clear illustrations and photographs. It also includes a step-by-step explanation of how to propagate and cultivate ferns successfully in a range of climates. It explores the habitats of ferns and gives a sampling of the range of fern species found in the tropics. Each species is illustrated in color and extended captions contain a wealth of information about the plant, including habitat, origin, usage, and tips on cultivation.

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 October Newsletter is October 1, 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 meeting is October 2, 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 September 16, 2014

“Summer Party”

Hosted by Lucy and Rafael Melara



