

October 2014

Vol. 16 No. 10

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, October 19, 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:

Fall is in the air! Wow, this last week or so has felt so good, with the overnight temperature falling off to upper 60's to low 70's and the day time highs just in the mid 80's. That means it's time to start thinking about winterizing our tropical ferns. On the north side of town I shoot for Thanksgiving to be all into my greenhouses to beat the first freeze however last year, it froze a week before that so don't put off until the last minute. Frost cloth and plastic will do wonders for some of the borderline ferns if you don't have a greenhouse. For borderline ferns planted in the ground, a good layer of mulch may do the trick for you. I heard that the forecast says it is going to be colder than normal for the central part of the United States. Now does that mean we will just have more cold days but not necessarily more freezing days? I don't know. So I will prepare for the worst and hope for the best to have the best luck at saving my tropical plants.

The plant swap went very well. We had a good turnout, though we did miss several of you. We had a couple guests who also participated. I hope they enjoyed the swap. I understand they plan to join our Society next month. I'm looking forward to talking more with all our new members this year.

Joan Hudson will be speaking to us on the reproductive cycle of cycads (the Sago Palm family and more) at our October meeting. Joan has talked to our group on several occasions over the past few years and it never fails to be informative and entertaining. For those who do not know Joan, she teaches at Sam Houston University and ferns are one of her favorite plants, but this time she is going to share information on another ancient plant family so please join us. As a bonus, we are going to have a workshop at the end of her talk. We will be putting up the baby sporophytes from the spore Joan gave us at her talk on apogamous ferns this past March. So please bring your container with the sporophytes, a container to transfer them into, and tweezers if you have them to the meeting. We will have the soil mix ready for your container. If you don't have a container, we will have more of the same containers we used for the spore available. If you don't have any sporophytes because you weren't able to make the March meeting or your spores didn't grow, don't be dismayed. I'm sure somebody will be willing to share theirs with you. Each container will have over a 100 or so new baby ferns.

At our November meeting, Larry Rucker will be leading a project. We have several options that Larry is currently investigating to determine which he thinks will be the most fun for us to do. So we will let you know what he has in store for us in the next newsletter!

At our October meeting, we will also be voting for two members to help our nominating committee chair select a slate of officers for the 2015 year. Beth Ayers has agreed to Chair the committee so please let her and her committee members know if you are willing to take on a position. We will be voting on the slate of officers at the November meeting and their term will began January 1, 2015.

The December Party location is still open. It will be December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. The signup sheet for food is already available, so please sign up at the next meeting to bring your favorite dish before someone else does. All members are invited and please bring your significant other or a friend along for the fun. We will be having our gift exchange as well so start looking for that fern/plant related item you would like to give away. Please keep the cost between \$15-\$20 so it's a nice gift but not a hardship on anyone who is buying a lot of gifts this year. The more who participate, the more fun we have.

Enjoy this wonderful weather and I will see you at the meeting.

*Darla*



**Up and Coming Attractions:**

- Oct 19: Cycad Reproduction and More presented by Joan Hudson
- Nov 16: Project - Moving Up Your Sporophytes Project - presented by Larry Rucker
- Dec 14: Holiday Party - location TBD
- Jan 18: TBD
- Feb 15: Building Your Own Terrarium
- Mar 15: TBD
- Apr 18/19: Sat "Field Trip" led by Carl Taylor, destination TBD
- Sun "Isoetes (Quillworts)" presented by Carl Taylor

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



### Statement of Income & Expenses July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014

#### INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 40.00
Raffle Income	104.00
Bank Interest	0.62
Program Supplies	255.00
Donations	502.80
Club Store	37.00
Books	<u>231.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,170.42</b>

#### EXPENSES

Speaker	\$ 644.20
Books	329.50
Program Supplies	258.21
Newsletter	<u>14.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,245.91</b>

<b>Balance 12-31-2013:</b>	<b>\$6,178.28</b>
<b>Balance 6-30-2014:</b>	<b>\$7,973.98</b>
<b>Balance 9-30-2014:</b>	<b>\$7,898.49</b>
<b>Net Gain Loss for 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr:</b>	<b>\$ (75.49)</b>
<b>Net Gain Loss for 2014:</b>	<b>\$1,720.21</b>

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



### 2015 Dues

2015 dues are now being accepted. 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.



### Refreshments

Refreshments for September were generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Cecil Strange
Savory:	Darla Harris / Larry Rucker
Fruit:	Terri Dolney
Desserts:	Beth Ayer
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

Refreshments for October will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Terri Dolney
Savory:	Cherie Lee
Fruit / Veggies:	Open
Desserts:	Gary Wooldridge
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](mailto:stansberry.faye@yahoo.com) or call 713-734-0170. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!





## Hawaiian Fern Photos



**Hapu'u pulu  
(hay-pu-u pu-lu)  
*Cibotium glaucum***

This fern grows in mesic to wet forests and is usually found at higher elevations than the other Hawaiian species. Fiddleheads of this tree fern are covered with absorptive pulu (wool) that protects its new growth from drying. Soft pulu is also useful as a dressing for wounds and abrasions.



**Palapalai (pa-la-pa-lie)  
*Microlepia strigosa***

This scented fern grows in shaded, moderately wet areas. It is a favored adornment of hula dancers and is used to decorate altars to Laka, goddess of hula. Palai means to “turn one’s face away, in humility”.







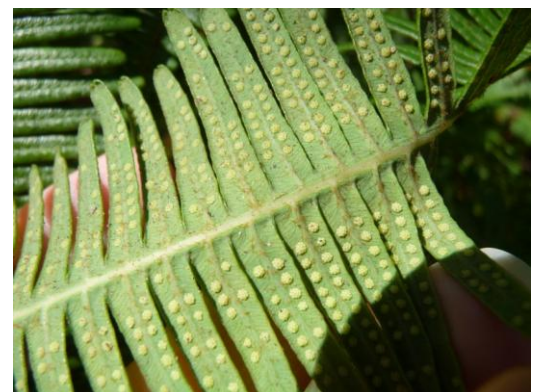
**Kupukupu (koo-poo-koo-poo)  
Nephrolepis cordifolia**

This terrestrial or epiphytic fern grows in mesic to wet forests. It is the only Nephrolepis in Hawaii that produces subterranean tubers on stolons. Kupu means “to sprout” and the fern is sometimes used to adorn hula stages so that knowledge will sprout in the dancers. This native has more narrow fronds than its Asian cousin.



**Uluhe (oo-loo-hay)  
Dicranopteris linearis**

This common terrestrial fern grows in mesic to wet forests. It can grow tall forming large tangled mats looking similar to a vine. Hawaiians would soak the ferns in water and drink the liquid as a laxative.



Photos by Cherie Lee





**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society  
General Meeting – September 21, 2014**

Our monthly meeting was our Annual Plant Swap held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. President Darla Harris called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

**General:** Everyone was welcomed. Darla said two changes in our By Laws are being proposed. (1) Members whose dues are delinquent for three months and have been notified shall be automatically dropped from the membership roll. Beth Ayer made the motion that this change be made, was seconded by Larry Rucker and carried. (2) The Society will not be responsible for any expenditures exceeding \$60 made by Board Members or appointed chairpersons or \$25 made by other members without approval by the Board. Patrick Hudnall made the motion that this change be made, seconded by Terri Dolney and carried.

**Program:** Darla showed some of the sporophytes that are growing from the spores planted at our March meeting. She gave instructions for transplanting and how to care for them.

This being our Annual Plant Swap, tables were filled with an array of beautiful plants consisting of a variety of ferns plus other plants including bromeliads, gingers, palms, etc. Participants could bring up to three plants to swap. Darla showed the ferns and gave information on each. Tickets were drawn for the first pick. Subsequent picks were determined by the previous plant selected. Participants were pleased with their new plants.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Our October program will be on Cycads. We do not have a host for our Christmas Party and volunteers are needed for October and November refreshments.

**Attendance:** 16 members and 2 guests were present. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Submitted by: Secretary Anna Belle Hicks



**October Book Review**

**The Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening “Ferns”  
by Philip Perl**

The Encyclopedia of Gardening was the first long series about gardening by Time-Life, but it was followed up by many more. This set was published in the late 70's, but a lot of the information is still relevant today. The “Ferns” edition discusses ferns grown indoors and in the garden. It has a section on identifying ferns by their family and discusses various techniques for propagating ferns. It also has an illustrated encyclopedia of ferns which includes growing tips.

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](mailto: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 November Newsletter is October 29, 2014. Thanks.**

**Cherie Lee, Editor, TGCFS Newsletter**



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## 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](http://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 November 6, 2014

### **Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.**

[www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month (except for October when it will be the fourth Tuesday) at 7:30 PM at the West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray St., Houston, TX 77019

Next regular meeting is October 28, 2014

### **Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show and Sale**

October 24, 25 & 26

The Doubletree by Hilton  
Houston Intercontinental Airport  
15747 JFK Boulevard  
Houston, Texas

#### Show Hours

Saturday, October 25 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Sunday, October 26 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

#### Sale Hours

Friday, October 24 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
(Registrants only)  
Saturday, October 25 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Sunday, October 26 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

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## “Annual Plant Exchange”



Lovely display of plants to swap

