



November 2014

Vol. 16 No. 11

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, November 16, 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!

The weather right now is just wonderful. To think in just a few short weeks we will be seeing our first freeze of the season. I hope we have a mild year and not the colder than normal the almanac is telling us it could be. Joe and I are in the process of moving plants into the greenhouse and winterizing the ones that will be left out with fresh mulch. We could really use some rain. The plants sure do better in winter if they are hydrated. I may have to keep watering the outside plants all the way into winter.

I would like to thank Joan Hudson for a great presentation on cycads. I learned several things but the main one was that when a sago palm pups, its pups will be the same sex as the parent plant. I also thought just having male and female plants was enough, not realizing that the timing of the male cone pollen release had to be just right for the female to be fertilized to set viable seeds.

Larry will be presenting our November meeting. We will be learning how to etch ferns on glass. This will be a fun hands-on project. The fee for the project is \$5 for members or non members. The society will pick up the remainder of the cost. I'm looking forward to this and it could make a nice gift to give a plant person in your life.

The nominating committee has completed their task of coming up with a slate of officers for 2015. Thank you very much Beth Ayers, Lisa George and Terri Dolney for your hard work. They will present this slate to the membership to discuss and if agreed upon motion for this slate of officers to be voted on by the membership. Good luck to all who are nominated: Cherie Lee for President, Darla Harris for Vice President, Diana Kerr Hudnall for Secretary, Mary McConnell for Treasurer, and Patrick Hudnall and Larry Rucker for board at large. Thank you to those who have accepted the request to hold a position as an officer in our Society.

We have a place for our December Party.... Frank and Cherie Lee have offered their new home for our end of the year party. They are barely moved in, but have offered their home for us to enjoy each other's company. I hope we have a beautiful warm day to enjoy their home and plants. Remember the date for the **Party is the 14th of December at 1pm**. This is one week earlier than our normal meeting date so please mark your calendar accordingly. If you would like to participate in the gift

exchange, please bring a fern/plant related gift that is in the \$15-\$20 range. This is always fun and it helps bring us all closer together. Remember your spouse, significant other, or a friend is very welcome to come with you! If you have not signed up for a dish, please do so at the November meeting or call Faye Stansberry and let her know what you would like to bring. Hope to see you all at the Party.

As my tenure as your President is coming to a close soon, I want you to know just how much I have appreciated everyone this year. You made my job so easy!

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

Darla



Up and Coming Attractions:

- Nov 16: Etching Ferns on Glass
presented by Larry Rucker
- Dec 14: Holiday Party – 1PM
Frank & Cherie Lee's home
- Jan 18: Making Platycerium Balls
presented by Larry Rucker
- Feb 15: Building Your Own Terrarium
presented by Darla Harris
- Mar 15: TBD
- Apr 18/19: Sat "Field Trip"
led by Carl Taylor, destination TBD
Sun "Isoetes (Quillworts)"
presented by Carl Taylor
- May 17: TBD

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



Please Welcome Our New Member:

Derek Adrion



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



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – October 19, 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 2:15 PM.

General: Darla announced that Beth Ayer will be the Nominating Committee Chair and that two additional members are needed for the Committee. Lisa George and Terri Dolney were nominated, seconded, and approved by the membership. The Committee will present the 2015 slate of officers at the November meeting.

2015 dues are now being accepted. New members joining now will only pay 2015 dues.

Program: Joan Hudson presented an interesting program on cycads. She spoke on two families: Cycas and Zamia. The Sago palm is in the Cycas family. Cycads are primitive plants but in the future are most likely to become extinct because of their reproductive method and limited areas where they grow. Examples of seeds were passed around for examination and there was a period for questions from the membership.

Members brought their baby ferns grown from spores to be transplanted. Containers and soil were provided and all members were given the opportunity to plant and take plants home to care for.

Plant Raffle: Larry Rucker ran the raffle and what a raffle! Plants were everywhere. Thanks to Wayne Dupont of Zone 9 Tropicals who donated so many plants and also to members who brought plants.

Attendance: 16 members and 2 guests were present. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Submitted by: Secretary Anna Belle Hicks



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 October were generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Terri Dolney, Darla Harris, Cherie Lee
Savory:	Cherie Lee, Darla Harris, Faye Stansberry
Desserts:	Gary Wooldridge, Beth Ayer, Sara Chumley
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

Refreshments for November will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Rodolfo Reyes
Savory:	Beth Ayer, Faye Stansberry
Fruit / Veggies:	Open
Desserts:	Pat & Diane Hudnall
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

December will be our Holiday Party. Faye Stansberry is organizing the feast so please let her know what delectable dish you plan to bring. Also, please let her know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2015. Email to stansberry.faye@yahoo.com or call 713-734-0170. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



Phlebodium aureum

Bear's Paw Fern

Family: [Polypodiaceae](#)

Genus: [Phlebodium](#) fle-BOH-dee-um

Species: [aureum](#) AW-re-um

Phlebodium aureum are native to the Americas, tender to semi-tender so the zone would be 9 to 10. It grows well under medium light in a moist to moist dry well drained potting mix or sphagnum moss. It can take drying out some but not being too wet.

The Bear's Paw fern makes a wonderful hanging basket. It is very easy to grow and has large leaves on stems about 12 to 15 inches long the leaves themselves can reach 12 to 15 inches wide and 20 plus inches long. The stems are sturdy and can take blowing in the wind quite well with a very graceful arching frond. The medium creeping rhizomes are covered in hairs.



There are several cultivars available in the trade according to "The Fern Grower's Manual Revised".

'Cristatum' - Frond tips several times branched, tips of pinnae less so.

'Ekstrand' - Pinnae irregularly lobed, the lobes crowded, twisted, and irregularly and coarsely cut into teeth: blades strongly ruffled

'Mandaianum' - Pinnae coarsely and irregularly incised to lacinate, weakly ruffled

'Mayi' - Blades ruffled and fringed

'Undulatum' - Blades wavy

In the trade you will sometimes see *P. aureum* used on a fern when it really should reflect *Phlebodium pseudoaureum*. The *P. pseudoaureum* is a zone 8 to 9 so it is a little more cold hardy. It normally has a blue green color with fronds that are more upright and leathery to the touch. The easiest way to see which one you have is the spore pattern. The *P. pseudoaureum* has one row of sori between the margins and the costa, and it is very uniform (occasionally it will have a second row that is very scattered).

There are several cultivars including:

- 'Blue Star'
- 'Mexican Tasseled'
- 'Leatherman'
- 'Virginia Blue Fern'



P. pseudoaureum - unknown cultivar



Submitted by: Darla Harris



Library

November Book Review

“The Gardener’s Fern Book” by F. Gordon Foster

This book is an excellent definitive reference for the serious horticulturist or nature-lover. It includes identification drawings and descriptions as well as advice on growing and using ferns in various locations. In this book, the parts of the fern are identified, carefully and simply explained, and beautifully illustrated by silhouettes of the entire leaf, together with enlarged sketches of diagnostic features. There is also a wealth of specific information on light, soil, potting, fertilizing, watering, temperature, and other important pointers for growing tender and exotic species indoors, and hardy species outdoors.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



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 December Newsletter is November 26, 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 January 8, 2015

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 November 18, 2014

**“Cycad Reproduction”
by Joan Hudson**



Zamia Male Cone



Zamia Female Cone



Cycas Male Cone



Cycas Female
Megasporophyll

“Moving Up *Pellaea atropurpurea* Sporophytes”



Wonderful refreshments filled with Halloween treats!



A raffle extravaganza thanks to Wayne DuPont of Zone 9 Tropicals and other donators

