

January 2015

Vol. 17 No. 1

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 18, 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 you all had a wonderful holiday and I wish you a great New Year. It is starting out rather cold though. We are looking at a week of freezing nights up here around Tomball. I hope the rest of you have it a bit milder.

I'd like to thank all of you who held a position as an officer, board member, or committee chair in 2014, those who agreed to accept a position for 2015, and everyone else who has pitched in throughout the year. It takes everyone contributing to make a great society and we are very lucky to have such a generous group.

It was great seeing everyone at the Holiday Party. I only wish the rest of you could have made it. The food was wonderful as always and the rain held off until after we had toured the greenhouses. Hopefully the rest of you will be able to make it next time.

Our VP, Darla Harris, has been busy setting up speakers and projects. We are starting out the year with a bang including three projects, a field trip, and some interesting programs on fossils and the microscopic aspects of ferns. I am looking forward to an exciting year. But remember, if you have any ideas for programs or things you'd like to learn about, please let Darla know.

I hope to see you all at the meeting this month. Take care and stay warm.

*Cherie*



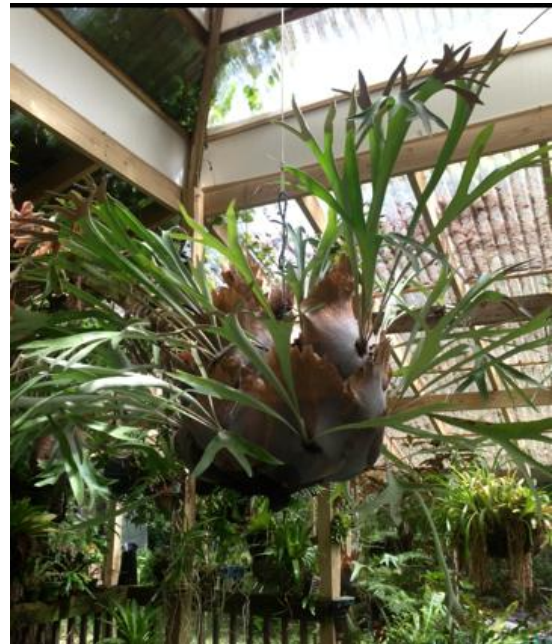
**Upcoming Program Information**

Your Program for January 2015:

Platyneriums (staghorns) are those beautiful, majestic epiphytic ferns that never fail to make you do a double take. Growing in the wild they can be either a single magnificent plant hanging high in the treetops or a cluster of plants circling the tree. Either way, the regal appeal is one we love to try to duplicate in our own back yards.

Our January meeting will be presented by Larry Rucker on how to make a Platynerium hanging ball. You will be learning another way to grow them in cultivation besides on plaques

which we have practiced in the past. This will be a hands-on project so each person will be able to make and take home what will become a beautiful and grand Platynerium ball. The fee for this class is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. This includes the hanging basket, moss, a 4" potted P. bifurcatum 'Netherlands', and the opportunity to tap into Larry's vast knowledge of these ferns.



Planning ahead for the February meeting:

The February program will be on how to put a terrarium together. We will have ferns, soils, etc. for the hands on project. However, you will need to bring your own container to use as your terrarium. Your container should be large enough for a couple of ferns but not so big that you can't carry it home. More details on this project will be covered in next month's newsletter but start looking for your container now so you will be ready when the time comes.

Submitted by Darla Harris, Vice President



## Up and Coming Attractions:

- Jan 18: "Making a Platycerium Hanging Ball"  
presented by Larry Rucker
- Feb 15: "Building Your Own Terrarium"  
presented by Cherie Lee & Darla Harris
- Mar 15: "Vegetative Reproduction of Ferns"  
presented by Darla Harris
- Apr 18/19: Sat "Field Trip"  
led by Carl Taylor, destination TBD  
Sun "Isoetes (Quillworts)"  
presented by Carl Taylor
- May 17: "Fern Fossils"  
presented by Diane Kerr Hudnall
- June 21: "Microscopic Study of Ferns"  
presented by Joan Hudson

Submitted by: Darla Harris, Vice President



## 2015 Officers and Committees:

President:	Cherie Lee
Vice President:	Darla Harris
Secretary:	Diane Kerr Hudnall
Treasurer:	Mary McConnell
Board Members-at-Large:	Patrick Hudnall Larry Rucker
Education Chair:	Darla Harris
Hospitality Chair:	Terri Dolney and Faye Stansberry
Library:	Frank Lee
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



## Refreshments

Refreshments for January will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Beth Ayer, Cherie Lee
Savory:	Mary McConnell, Donna McGraw
Desserts:	Diane Hudnall, Marcia Livingston, Karen Pol
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

Please let Faye Stansberry or Terri Dolney know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2015. Email to [stansberry.faye@yahoo.com](mailto:stansberry.faye@yahoo.com) or call 713-734-0170 or email to [102666@email.hal-pc.org](mailto:102666@email.hal-pc.org) or call 713-592-9029. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



## 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.



## Statement of Income & Expenses October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	
Membership dues	\$ 245.00
Raffle Income	126.00
Bank Interest	0.57
Program Supplies	45.00
Books	<u>33.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 449.57</b>

<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	
Plant Sale Expenses	\$ 156.78
Raffle Supplies	11.00
Program Supplies	167.24
Federation Refreshments	<u>11.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 346.02</b>

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

**Balance 9-30-2014: \$7,898.49**

**Balance 12-31-2014: \$8,002.04**

**Net Gain Loss for 4th Qtr: \$ 103.55**

**Net Gain Loss for 2014: \$1,823.76**

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



## Platycerium bifurcatum 'Netherlands'

*Platycerium* is a genus of about 15 to 18 fern species in the polypod family, *Polypodiaceae*. These are mostly from Old World tropics, except for *P. andinum*, the only one coming from South America. The name comes from the Greek platys, flat, and keras, horn, referring to the flattened, antler-like fronds.

The Australian species, such as the *P. bifurcatum*, are easy to grow outdoors in subtropical climates like Houston. We might have to protect them for a few nights during winter, but most of the time they are fine. I have had good success with temperatures reaching 29 degrees for 12 hours with only burning the fronds. Wrapping in frost cloth will help prevent this burning. If we are going to be colder than that, wrapping the frost cloth with bubble wrap or 4 to 6 mil plastic will give it a nice greenhouse effect. The frost cloth will keep the cold plastic from burning the fronds. You can also just bring them in for winter if you have a protected area.

*P. bifurcatum* is a medium sized fern growing well in medium to high light and keeping the plant on the drier side. Water more in the hot summer months and keep it drier over winter. The 'Netherlands' fronds are arching and grayish.

One of the most common pests for *Platycerium* is scale. The white small scale occurs most often. I have found liquid Sevin to work very well and it is easy to purchase at any home and garden supply store. Roaches also like to get into the moss and eat at the growing tip. I have found just submerging the whole plant into water will run them off. The liquid Sevin works on them, too. Hanging from a tree with good air circulation will cut down on pest problems.

How do you identify your *Platycerium*? One way is to look at the vascular bundles. This can be done by looking at the stipe in cross section by cutting a frond with a sharp blade and using a hand lens. There are essentially three shapes depending on the species. The Australian species, *P. bifurcatum*, *P. hillii*, *P. veitchii*, and *P. willinckii*, will have a pale ring of tissue with the vascular bundles in a circle and not scattered.



You can also look at the shape of the fronds and the spore pattern. The Australian species have fronds that are several times forked and the spore patches are borne on the ends of the fronds.



Submitted by Darla Harris



### Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Holiday Party December 14, 2014

This year's Holiday party was hosted by Cherie and Frank Lee at their home in Hockley. Nineteen members attended and everyone had an enjoyable time: great people and great food. The gift exchange was full of surprises with a wide range of gifts including live plants, wind chimes, and many other ferny items.

We missed those of you who couldn't make it, maybe next year.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee for Secretary Anna Belle Hicks



### Editor's Comments:

**Deadline for the February Newsletter is January 30, 2015.  
Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFs Newsletter*





## January Book Review

“The Fern Dictionary” by Wilbur W. Olson

This book has been designed to be of value to everyone interested in ferns. The two concerns of this book are names of ferns and definitions of words as they apply to the study of ferns. The book is divided into three sections. One section is devoted to a listing of common names of ferns and their associated botanical names. The second section lists the genera that are being used and that have been used. The third section is a glossary giving the botanical definition of words, particularly as they are applied to ferns. And of course, as in any dictionary, pronunciations are included.

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.



---

## 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 meetings are January 8, 2015  
and February 5, 2015

### Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

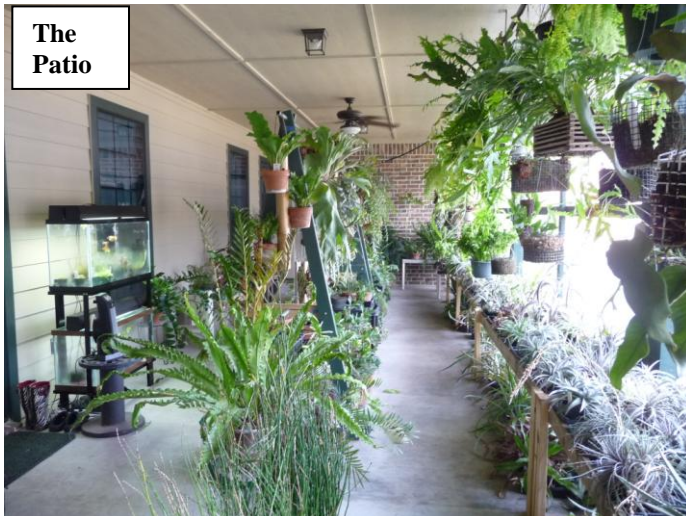
[www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

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 January 20, 2015

---

## Holiday Party – December 14<sup>th</sup> Hosted by Frank and Cherie Lee





The Greenhouse





