



May 2015

Vol. 17 No. 5

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 17, 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,

Hope everyone is well and busy working on your plants while we still have some nice spring weather. There always seems to be so much to do and never enough time.

Last month we had the pleasure of having Dr. Carl Taylor and Jerry, his wife and expert fern spotter, lead us on a field trip in the Big Thicket. I wish you all could have been there. We saw some great ferns and a lot of other interesting plants. Carl has an extensive knowledge about many plants, not just ferns.

For our regular meeting on Sunday, Carl presented a very interesting program on Isoëtes. He discussed their structure, reproduction, habitats, and more. It was indeed a pleasure to meet both Carl and Jerry.

I would like to give a very special thanks to Lisa George and Darla Harris for making several trips up to the Big Thicket to scope out the trails for our field trip. Their efforts gave us the opportunity to see the largest variety of ferns in the allotted time. I would also like to thank Lisa for hosting Carl and Jerry at her home during their stay here in Houston. That adds a personal touch which I'm sure was appreciated.

Once again I'd like to thank everyone who brought refreshments. We had a nice assortment of goodies. Thank you all for your generosity.

Darla has been busy filling out the calendar for this year and she has another very interesting program for us this month. This is something we haven't seen before. Please see her article that follows with more information.

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

Cherie



The Earth's Strata and Fern Fossils

The Earth's strata are made up of three types of rocks: igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary. It normally consists of a number of different parallel layers one upon another. Geologists use the information they find in these layers to study the record of past events that have been preserved in these layers of rock. It is a history of the timeline of events to be read almost like a book.

With the accumulation of rock particles that have settled in the bottoms of rivers, lakes and oceans, many living and dead animals and plants are buried on the bottom of these water ways. With time and additional layers of rock particles deposited on top, these particles become rocks. Gravel becomes a rock called conglomerate, sand becomes sandstone, mud becomes shale, and the trapped animal skeletons and plant pieces can become fossils.



Just how did this all happen and when? Diane Hudnall will be discussing this and more in our May program on how geologists think the earth evolved. Her program will cover when the first plants appeared, how

the plants evolved to become ferns and later flowering plants. There will be a brief demonstration at the beginning and a short little project at the end. Diane has a BS in Geology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and an MS in Geology/Geophysics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She currently works for Eagle Rock Energy, a small independent oil and gas company, and previously worked for several larger oil companies including Anadarko and Shell Oil.

This is the first talk on this subject to be presented to our fern society and I'm very much looking forward to hearing all of this information. I hope you will be able to join us. There will be some fern fossils to study and members will receive one to take home. The meeting will be in the smaller back room with the screen.



Submitted by Darla Harris, Vice President

2015 Officers and Committees:

- President: Cherie Lee
- Vice President: Darla Harris
- Secretary: Diane 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 April were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Beth Ayer, Darla Harris, Jacqueline Smith
- Savory: Bret Cunningham, Terri Dolney, Darla Harris, Cherie Lee
- Veggies: Cherie Lee
- Desserts: Darla Harris, Hannah Martin, Patricia Ross, Larry Rucker
- Service ware: Cherie Lee

Refreshments for May will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Terri Dolney
- Savory: Biruta Claunch, Marcia Livingston
- Desserts: Beth Ayer, Mary McConnell
- 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 or call 713-734-0170 or email to 102666@email.hal-pc.org or call 713-592-9029. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



Up and Coming Attractions:

- May 17: "Fern Fossils"
presented by Diane Hudnall
- June 21: "Microscopic Study of Ferns"
presented by Joan Hudson
- July 19: "Pellaea atropurpurea
- Potting Up & Hardening Off"
- Aug 16: Summer Party
at Biruta Claunch's home
- Sept 20: Annual Plant Exchange

Submitted by: Darla Harris, Vice President



Athyrium filix-femina

Lady Fern

Family: [Dryopteridaceae](#)

Genus: [Athyrium](#) uh-THEE-ree-um

Species: [filix-femina](#) FY-likes fem-in-uh

A native fern to Texas, the Southern Lady fern was one of the ferns we had hoped to see on our field trip last month, but it was on a different trail in the preserve.

Growing as a clumping fern rather than one that grows with a rhizome makes it a great choice for a fern that will not spread rapidly throughout your yard. It boasts bright yellow-green fronds that grow to an overall height of 2-3 feet with lightly serrated edges on twice-pinnate fronds giving it a dainty appearance for a tall lady. The fronds are not evergreen and will go down for winter with all new fresh fronds in the spring. The sori are a reniform (kidney-shaped) indusium on the underside of the leaf.

In nature it grows in a damp, shady woodland environment with moist but not wet humus-rich soil. It prefers filtered light but will take bright light as well, but not direct sun.

This is not a fussy fern and is often grown for its graceful appearance. It is a beautiful fern to have in our landscapes at home.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



May Book Review

“Encyclopedia of Ferns”

by David L. Jones

This book contains seven sections: an introduction to the structure and botany of ferns; cultural requirements; pests, diseases and other problems; propagation and hybridization; specialized culture, repotting, containers and housing; species to grow; and lists of ferns for various purposes. Line drawings, black-and-white and color photographs enhance the text and there is a comprehensive glossary of terms. The book is aimed at amateur and professional growers.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – April 19, 2015

The regular monthly meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. President Cherie Lee called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM.

General: Members and guests were welcomed and guests were introduced. Thanks were expressed to members who furnished refreshments. Members were reminded that books were available for checkout from the library.

VP Darla Harris provided an update on the Big Thicket field trip and thanked Lisa George for joining her in reviewing the trails in advance and for hosting the speaker, Dr. Carl Taylor and his wife, Jerry, at her home. She then introduced the speaker, Dr. Carl Taylor.

Program: Dr. Carl Taylor presented a very interesting program on “Isoëtes”. He discussed their structure, reproduction, habitats, and more. A sample leaf was available to view the four air chambers and microscopes were available to view the spores.

Plant Raffle: The Raffle Table was filled with interesting plants and \$87 was collected.

Attendance: 20 members and 2 guests were present.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee
for Diane Hudnall, Secretary



Library

We encourage you to take advantage of the great resource of information available in our library. At each meeting there are a wide variety of books 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 June Newsletter is June 4, 2015. 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 meetings are May 7, 2015
and June 4, 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 May 19, 2015



**Bromeliad Society
Show & Sale**

May 15	Sale	noon - 5pm
May 16	Show	2pm - 5 pm
	Sale	9am - 5pm
May 17	Show	10am - 3:30pm
	Sale	10am - 3:30pm

**Mercer Arboretum &
Botanic Gardens**

22306 Aldine Westfield Rd,
Humble, TX 77338

Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc.

“Big Thicket Field Trip”



**Our Field Trip Leader Dr. Carl Taylor
and His Wife, Expert Fern Spotter Jerry**



Carl
discussing
*Pleopeltis
polypodioides*
Resurrection
Fern



Polystichum acrostichoides
Christmas Fern





Thelypteris kunthii
Southern Shield Fern



Lygodium japonicum
Japanese Climbing Fern



Botrychium biternatum
Southern Grape Fern



Woodwardia aerolata
Netted Chain Fern





Osmunda regalis
Royal Fern



Selaginella apoda
Meadow Spikemoss



Lunch Time in the Thicket



Pteridium aquilinum
Bracken Fern





Woodwardia virginica
Virginia Chain Fern



Osmunda Cinnamomea
Cinnamon Fern





Asplenium platyneuron
Ebony Spleenwort



Sundews



Pitcher Plants

The Ferners
(missing Diane & Patrick Hudnall
and photographer Sarah George)



“Isoëtes – Quillworts”
by Dr. Carl Taylor

