



July 2015

Vol. 17 No. 7

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 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,

Hope you all are surviving the heat. At least I am thankful for the periodic rain storms we are having. I do hope they continue. They definitely help with the watering and give us a break, however brief, from the heat.

Last month, Joan Hudson and Darla Harris gave us a very interesting presentation and hands-on demonstration of the microscopic structure of ferns. It is amazing and beautiful what you can see under the microscope. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. There are always new things to see each time we have this opportunity. Thank you both again for bringing the equipment and putting this program together for us.

I would also like to thank Diane and Patrick Hudnall for offering to host our Summer Party this September 20th. They have a beautiful home and I know we will have a great time. I hope you can all make it.

I'd like to thank everyone who brought refreshments to our meeting. We had a nice assortment of goodies. It is always nice to have some snacks for those of us who don't have time for lunch. Thanks again for your generosity.

I hope to see you all at the meeting this month. It should be a lot of fun. See Darla Harris' article for more information. Take care.

Cherie



Please Welcome Our New and Renewing Members:

*Will Fleming, Pat Foreman,
Ruth McDonald, and Susan Peacock*



Unique Planting Method for Epiphytic Ferns

You spoke and were listening so here comes the brick. We will be doing a hands-on planting of three different ferns on a brick. It is amazing how little medium and water saturation some ferns need and this will be a prime example. We will have an *Asplenium* (Bird's-nest) fern and two different *Davallia* (rabbits-foot) ferns to mount on a three-hole brick. Everything you need will be provided so just bring yourselves. This will be a fun meeting and you get to take home your project! No charge for members, \$5.00 for non-members.



Submitted by Darla Harris, Vice President



Up and Coming Attractions:

- July 19: "Unique Planting Method for Epiphytic Ferns" presented by Darla Harris
 - Aug 16: Summer Party
at Diane and Patrick Hudnall's home
 - Sept 20: Annual Plant Exchange
 - Oct 18: "Pellaea atropurpurea – Potting Up & Hardening Off" presented by Darla Harris
 - Nov 15: "Coastal Ferns of Peru – Xeric Environment" presented by Blanca Leon
 - Dec 13: Holiday Party
at Donna and Monty McGraw's home
- Submitted by: Darla Harris, Vice President



Refreshments:

Refreshments for June were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Beth Ayer
- Savory: Darla Harris, Lulu Leonard,
Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry
- Fruit: Diane Hudnall
- Desserts: Cherie Lee
- Service ware: Cherie Lee

Refreshments for July will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Beth Ayer
- Savory: Pat Foreman, Ruth McDonald
- Desserts: Beth Ayer, Diane Hudnall
- 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!



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



Statement of Income & Expenses April 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015

<u>INCOME</u>	
Membership dues	\$ 160.00
Raffle Income	215.00
Bank Interest	0.64
Total:	\$ 375.64
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Total:	\$ 0.00
Balance 12-31-2014:	\$8,002.84
Balance 3-31-2015:	\$8,253.27
Balance 6-30-2015:	\$8,628.91
Net Gain Loss for 3rd Qtr:	\$ 375.64
Net Gain Loss for 2015:	\$ 626.07

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



Polystichum polyblepharum
Korean Tassel Fern

Family: [Dryopteridaceae](#)

Genus: [Polystichum](#) pol-IS-tick-um

Species: [polyblepharum](#) pol-ee-BLEF-ar-um

What's not to like about the Korean Tassel Fern? I don't know. It is one of those really nice all-around ferns.

The name is a start to understanding this fern. First the name polyblepharum means "many eyelashes". Even though they're a little hard to see, they are the fuzzy stems. You might ask "What about the tassel"? Well that is from its great spring push of new croziers that lean back to make room for the other new fronds. There are also some other names used that do not really apply such as Japanese Lace Fern, it is not really lacy, and Holly Fern which gets confusing with the Cyrtomium ferns. So Tassel Fern it is!

So what you have is a beautiful evergreen fern with very fuzzy stems, which are really large cinnamon brown scales, that pushes off new growth in the spring but maintains the old growth for a couple years unless you decide it needs to be trimmed.

Growing as a clumping fern it has a short creeping rhizome that sometimes forms a small trunk. The fronds can grow up to 40" long in a rosette pattern that makes nearly a perfect circle. It has round sori that are in rows along the costa. The pinnules are shaped like a boot and have a slight serrated margin. The stems make up about 25 percent of the frond length. The leaves are glossy deep green that have a striking appearance that last throughout the winter months.

Care is pretty simple. It likes shade which is best for us as we are on the hot side of its zone. It's resistant to most pests and diseases. It likes acid soils and prefers moist soil but can take a drying out within reason.

It is definitely worth a try in your yard!



Submitted by: Darla Harris



Paying it Forward

As many of you know, I had the opportunity to go to Costa Rica for two weeks this past January for a field/workshop on Ferns and Lycophytes. This was an undergraduate program mainly for students who were getting their PHDs in biology/botany with special interest in ferns. There were sixteen students from Latin America and the United States who attended and I was fortunate to get to know them all well.

It came to my attention recently that one of the students from Panama was trying to get to Mexico to do a herbarium study of Selaginella, the primary focus of his thesis. His name is Christian Adolfo López Sánchez and has been attending these undergraduate programs on scholarships, but this time he needed help with airfare. He had raised nearly half of the funds, but was still short \$275. The Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society board discussed this young man's situation and decided to fund the remaining part of his airfare to help further the study of ferns and lycophytes.

I hope you will get a chance to meet Christian in the future. While we were in Costa Rica, he agreed to come to Houston and give our Society a presentation on Selaginella once his schooling was over and he was less busy. We have that to look forward to in the next few years.



This is in part the thank you from Christian: "I'm so happy about this! You do not know how much I appreciate this. You (be) sure that on my next visit to the United States considers visit you! What matters is that you've helped me! I will be eternally grateful for this."

On a personal note, I would also like to thank the board for this generous donation. We as a Society have received donations from different speakers. This was our opportunity to pay this forward and help a fellow fern enthusiast with his lifelong dream of being the expert on Selaginella.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



June Raffle Results:

Thank you to our Donors: Biruta Claunch, Darla Harris, Joan Hudson, Cherie Lee, LuLu Leonard, Donna McGraw, Jere Noerager, Larry Rucker, and Faye Stansberry

Congratulations to the Winners: Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Will Fleming, Pat Foreman, Darla Harris, Anna Belle Hicks, Pat Hudnall, Joan Hudson, Cherie Lee, LuLu Leonard, Ruth McDonald, Jere Noerager, Susan Peacock, and Larry Rucker



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – June 21, 2015

The regular monthly meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by President Cherie Lee.

General: Cherie welcomed members and guests and thanked the people who brought refreshments. Cherie mentioned that Biruta would be leaving the fern club and moving to North Carolina. She announced that we have two new members, Ruth McDonald and William Fleming, one member, Pat Foreman, has rejoined, and three visitors, Tiffany and Kevin Turek and Susan Peacock. Cherie reminded everyone of the plant exchange in September where everyone is able to bring up to 5 plants to exchange. She then thanked Darla and Patrick for submitting articles for the newsletter and invited anyone who would like to contribute to the newsletter to send her articles, pictures or announcements. She also mentioned that Darla ordered a new book for the library 'The Plant Lovers Guide to Ferns'. Cherie turned the meeting over to VP Darla to introduce today's speaker. Darla mentioned that there was an open meeting next month and suggested four topics. The members voted for bricking as our next month activity. Darla then introduced Dr. Joan Hudson, a botanist from Sam Houston State University.

Program: Joan Hudson and Darla Harris introduced our program for today 'A Microscopic Study of Ferns'. We were all able to view the structures, spores, veins and hairs of different ferns through the lens of a microscope.

Plant Raffle: The raffle table was filled with interesting plants and \$68 was collected.

Attendance: 18 members and 3 guests were present

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, Secretary



July Book Review

“The Tropical Look” by Robert Lee Riffle

This is a comprehensive book of nearly 2000 plants that evoke landscapes of swaying palms and frangipani blossoms. The author draws a distinction between tropical plants and tropical-looking plants, some from cool climates but with foliage or flowers that would not look out of place in any tropical landscape. Each entry includes information on whether a plant can survive cold weather, whether it will spring back from its roots, its light requirements, soil preferences, and techniques for propagation. Over 400 photographs show the plants in all their glory. An A-Z encyclopedia has entries representing every kind of tropical plant, including trees, bamboos, palms, ferns, perennials, shrubs, water plants, vines, and much more. Also featured are cacti, succulents, and xeric plants that can conjure up the tropics in dry landscapes. There are also lists that put all the plants into categories: fragrant plants, shade-tolerant plants, and so forth. This book offers everything you need to know to plant and maintain a dramatic tropical looking garden.

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 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 August Newsletter is July 31, 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 meeting is August 6, 2015

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Moody Community Center,
3725 Fulton St., Houston, TX 77009
Next regular meeting is July 21, 2015

“Microscopic Study of Ferns” by Joan Hudson and Darla Harris





