



August 2015

Vol. 17 No. 8

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Summer Party: Sunday, August 16, at 2:00 p. m. – Diane and Patrick Hudnall’s Home,
2625 Werlein Ave., West University, TX 77005 - Phone: (832) 859-5471**

A message from our President:

August Summer Party

Hi Everyone,

The August meeting is our annual 'Summer Get Together' where we eat, drink, and check out our hosts' ferns. Patrick and Diane Hudnall will be hosting and we all know that Patrick can grow any fern or plant for that matter. I'm looking forward to seeing what plants they have to show us. Don't forget to get with Faye Stansberry about what food and/or drinks you would like to bring. Her contact information is in the Refreshment section of the Newsletter. Also, please remember that you are welcome to bring your spouse, significant other, or just a friend to the party. We'd love to meet them.

Well I didn't think it would get hotter, but it certainly has and without much rain. I don't know about the rest of you but I'm spending all my time watering these days. I hope you and your ferns are surviving. I will certainly be ready for fall.

Last month, Darla Harris showed us various methods of growing our ferns with examples using a variety of containers. She then led us through our hands-on project planting three ferns in a brick. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did and that your ferns are doing well. In case you are like me and too involved with everything else to get their names, Darla was kind enough to send them to me. Thanks Darla for a great program.

September Plant Swap

I want to remind everyone about the Plant Swap. You can bring up to 5 plants/plant related items to swap. They do not have to be ferns. If you are planning on bringing a division of something and have not already divided it, please do it now so the plant will have time to get established prior to the swap. We want to trade plants that will be happy at their new homes. Remember too that the order in which members pick depends on when the items they brought are selected. Only the first draw is a freebie. So the more desirable your items, the earlier they will be selected and thus, the more choices you will have from which to pick. Fun fun fun... so see you at the Swap.

- Black Rabbit Foot Fern Davallia trichomanoides
- White Rabbit Foot Fern Davallia tyermanii
- Victoria Bird's Nest Fern Asplenium antiquum Victoria

I'd also like to thank everyone who brought refreshments to our meeting. There was a nice assortment and we really appreciate everyone's generosity and help pitching in.

And speaking of refreshments, August 16th will be our Summer Party at Diane and Patrick Hudnall's home. Please see Darla's VP article for additional information. Maps and directions are on the last page of the newsletter. I hope you can all make it.

Submitted by Darla Harris, Vice President

Take care.

Cherie



Please Welcome Our New Members:

*Karen & Cyril Andalico, Janet Maxian,
Sharon Plummer, Betsy & Fred Robinson,
and Beth Whitley*



Up and Coming Attractions:

- Aug 16: Summer Party
at Diane and Patrick Hudnall's home
- Sept 20: Annual Plant Swap
- 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



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – July 19, 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 announced that Biruta Claunch was not moving out of town but the summer party in August would remain at the home of Patrick and Diane Hudnall. The September meeting is our annual plant exchange – bring up to 5 ferns, plants, or other plant related items. Frank reminded us that he brings books from the library each month available for checkout.

Program: Darla demonstrated our project, a 3-hole brick with 3 epiphytic ferns, two different types of "Rabbit Foot" ferns and a "Victoria Bird's Nest" fern.

Plant Raffle: The raffle table was filled with interesting plants and \$72 was collected.

Attendance: 34 members present including 7 new members



July Raffle Results:

Thank you to our Donors: Biruta Claunch, Bret & Raini Cunningham, Will Fleming, Darla Harris, Cherie Lee, Lu Lu Leonard, Donna McGraw, Larry Rucker, and Cecil Strange

Congratulations to the Winners: Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Raini Cunningham, Pat Foreman, Darla Harris, Cherie Lee, Mary McConnell, Donna McGraw, Fred Robinson, Patricia Ross, Cecil Strange, Beth Whitley, Donna Williams



Summer Party

Don't forget our Summer Party at Diane and Patrick Hudnall's home August 16th. Please let Faye Stansberry know (call 713-734-0170 or 713-319-6957 or email stansberry.faye@yahoo.com) what refreshments you plan to bring to add to the festivities.



Refreshments:

Refreshments for July were generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer
Savory: Pat Foreman, Ruth McDonald,
Larry Rucker
Desserts: Beth Ayer, Diane Hudnall, Cherie Lee
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



Pyrrosia lingua
Japanese Felt Fern

Family: [Polypodiaceae](#)
 Genus: [Pyrrosia](#) py-ROH-see-uh
 Species: [lingua](#) LIN-gwa

Pyrrosia is native to of the Old World tropics and contains about 50 different species. They are small to medium size ferns with simple, entire blade leaves. With a hand lens, you can see their star shaped hairs which are very pretty. The rhizomes are scaly and can vary from short- to long-creeping. They have phyllopodia to which the fronds are attached and jointed. The leaves are very thick making it difficult to see the netted veins.

Pyrrosia lingua is very diverse. It has many cultivars: Monstrifera, Crestata, variegata, serrate, to name a few. This fern crosses easily within its species, either through genetic or cultural factors, resulting in a wide variety of appearances. Fronds can reach up to 20" long and 2" wide, but are usually only half this length.

Shape and form is not the only way P. lingua adapts in nature. It can also be grown as an epiphyte or terrestrial in the ground or in a pot. It can grow in bright light (indirect sun) down to medium light. It is cold hardy to zone 6 and can take the Texas heat as well. What more can you ask for from a fern?

The one thing this fern is picky on is water...it does not like to be over watered so be careful.



Narrow Form



Wide Form



Crestata



Variegata



Monstrifera



'Nokogiri-ba'
 Named after
 Barbara Joe
 Hoshizaki

Submitted by: Darla Harris



The Staghorn and the Squirrel

Once upon a time in a land far, far away (Ed. note: last Thursday evening, in my back yard) there lived a little female squirrel. Rumor has it she was quite promiscuous. Certainly she had a passel of kids and no husband was in evidence. Be that as it may, she had set up housekeeping -- claiming squatter's rights -- in the sphagnum moss upon which the owner of the property (Ed. note: me) was growing a large staghorn fern (Ed. note: a large *Platycerium bifurcatum* with shield fronds bigger than 3 feet in length).



The land owner, being a responsible gardener and conscious of the lack of recent rain, chose to water that fern -- along with the other ferns and hanging baskets that litter his back yard. Following his usual procedure, he inserted a watering wand between the shield fronds and the mounting board and proceeded to blast the plant with water. Imagine his surprise when this little hussy of a squirrel comes EXPLODING out of the back of the fern, shaking water off her head and upper torso, and looking to tear into whoever had interrupted her cocktail hour! Up, and out, and around the tree trunk she flew (not like the "down on a thistle" as recounted in the Christmas poem but in a **mad frenzy**). [Ed. note: Have

you ever noticed that the eyes on these little rodents are entirely black? There's no white visible surrounding the pupil and iris.]

The innocent homeowner (and part-time gardener) was thoroughly convinced that the squirrel was about to launch herself from the tree trunk and onto his little pumpkin head, rending and clawing in retaliation for this unwelcome interruption. But then there came a "Peep, peep, peep" from behind the shield fronds. You guessed it! He had been saved by the plaintive crying of the squirrel's little brood. Back behind the fronds bounced the squirrel, then out again, and then back, disappearing long enough this time that the homeowner felt safe in scrambling back out of range of any immediate attack.

One could wish that all parties to this little tale lived happily ever after in peace and harmony, as in the grand traditions of story-telling everywhere. But we'll have to wait till the next time the owner / gardener feels a need to water this particular plant to determine whether the itinerant squirrel has (1) moved her place of residence or (2) developed a more relaxed attitude towards such interruptions in her workaday world.

THE END

When you grow plants purchased from March Mart, you never know 'who' else in your garden will enjoy them! I thought you might enjoy this write-up on my "close encounter" with the squirrel nesting in the Staghorn Fern in my back yard. She was still there when I watered again on Sunday . . . and popped out even faster than previously.

Submitted by:

Jere A. Noerager

Fern & Tropical plant enthusiast

March Mart Tropical Plant committee chair



August Book Review

"Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns" by Sue Olsen

This book is a comprehensive reference with succinct descriptions, habitat information, and cultural recommendations for more than 960 ferns, accompanied by 700 color photographs. Whether you are a beginner, an expert, or anywhere in between, this expansive, well-organized, and lavishly illustrated volume will be the first place you'll turn to deepen your knowledge and appreciation of the fascinating world of ferns.

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 September Newsletter is September 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_](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:
August 6, 2015 and September 3, 2015

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

[_www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org_](http://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:
August 18, 2015

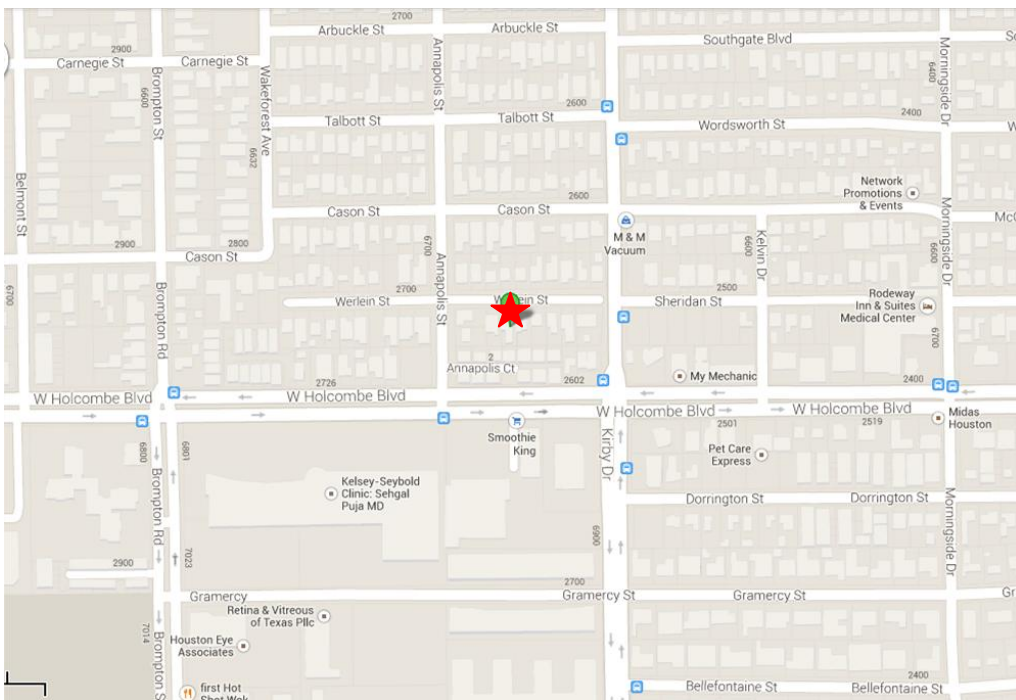
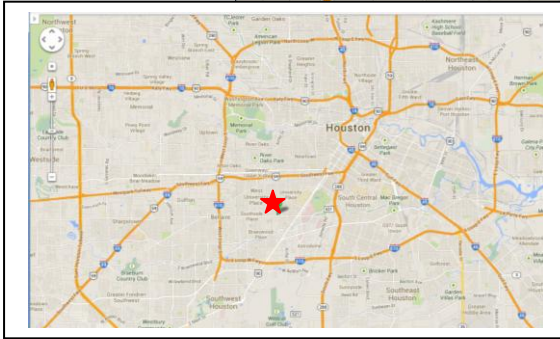
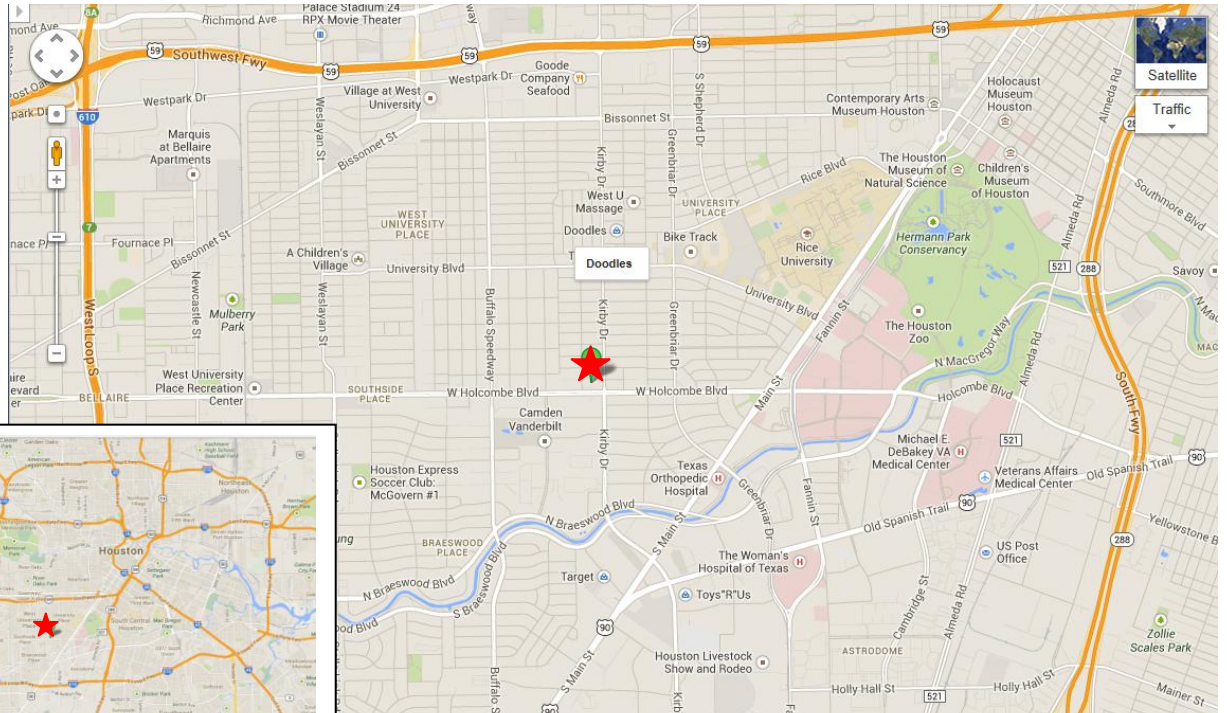
“Unique Planting Method for Epiphytic Ferns” by Darla Harris



Presenter and Project Instructor Darla Harris



Summer Party – August 16th at 2 PM
Diane and Patrick Hudnall's Home
2625 Werlein Ave., West University, Texas 77005
832-859-5471



Best route from 59 South, going either way:

Take Kirby south to Holcomb. Turn right (west). Go 1 block to Annapolis. Turn right (north). Go 1 block to Werlein. Turn right (east) on Werlein.

From the South loop 610:

Take Kirby north to Holcomb. Turn left (west). Go 1 block to Annapolis. Turn right (north). Go 1 block to Werlein. Turn right (east) on Werlein.

Parking is tight. If we work together, several cars can fit in the driveway.