



October 2015

Vol. 17 No. 10

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, October 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,

Hope you are all doing well and enjoying these cool nights. Rain has still been a little scarce up here on the north side but the ferns are starting to respond nicely to the lower temperatures

I hope you all enjoyed the Plant Swap last month. I always like to see what interesting plants folks bring and this year was no exception. Many of the platyceriums (Staghorn ferns) were selected early in the Swap which should mean that this month's meeting will be very popular. Darla Harris will be presenting the program on identifying various platyceriums and their growing requirements. Please see her article that follows for more details.

This month we will also be selecting our nominating committee who will propose a slate of officers for 2016. Beth Ayer has agreed to serve as the Committee Chair and we will elect two additional committee members during our October meeting. If you are interested and willing to serve on the committee, please let me know.

Take care and hope to see you at the meeting.

Cherie



Up and Coming Attractions:

- Oct 18: "The Ultimate Trophy Plant: Platycerium – The Staghorn Fern" 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

**"The Ultimate Trophy Plant
Platycerium - The Staghorn Fern"**

For many people, Platycerium is a prized plant whether it is mounted on a board or hanging in a basket from a tree. However you like to grow them, they can be very impressive. They come in several shapes and sizes and to some extent may have different growing requirements. In nature they grow all over the world including one from the Americas.

At this month's meeting, we will discuss the species and a few cultivars. We will try to have examples of as many species as possible for you to examine. We will discuss how they are similar and what makes them different so you will learn how to tell them apart. Please bring your hand lens and for those who do not have one, we will have some extras for you to use. We will also cover their cultural requirements, how to care for them including a couple of handouts. This should be a fun way to learn more about these ferns most of us can't live without.



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



Statement of Income & Expenses July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015

INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 70.00
Raffle Income	102.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.65</u>
Total:	\$ 172.65

EXPENSES

Books	\$ 20.00
Gifts	74.67
Newsletter	69.75
Program supplies	<u>445.00</u>
Total:	\$ 609.42

Balance 12-31-2014:	\$8,002.84
Balance 6-30-2015:	\$8,628.91
Balance 9-30-2015:	\$8,192.14
Net Gain Loss for 3rd Qtr:	\$ (436.77)
Net Gain Loss for 2015:	\$ 189.30

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



Refreshments:

Refreshments for September were generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Bret & Raini Cunningham, Rodolfo Reyes
Savory:	Ruth McDonald, Patricia Ross, Larry Rucker
Fruit:	Diane Hudnall
Desserts:	LuLu Leonard, Mary McConnell
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

Refreshments for October will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Terri Dolney, Rodolfo Reyes
Savory:	Beth Ayer, Larry Rucker
Fruit:	Patricia Ross
Desserts:	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!



2016 Dues

2016 dues are now being accepted. Please review the 2015 directory for any updates to your information, complete the membership form, and return it with your payment and any changes noted 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.



Didymochlaena truncatula
Mahogany Fern

Family: [Dryopteridaceae](#)

Genus: [Didymochlaena](#) did-ee-moh-KLAY-ee-nuh

Species: [truncatula](#)

I'm often asked what is a good fern to grow inside the house. I tell them about the mahogany fern. This is a very pretty, erect, low light fern that has beautiful shades of color. It is a low maintenance fern that does not shed or need constant pruning. It prefers evenly moist soil but will take a bit of over watering or under watering. What more can you ask for in a fern?

The fern itself is a medium to large fern, but grows upwards with an erect rhizome and fronds making a whorl or basket-shaped appearance. With time, offshoots can occur and maybe be removed to form new plants or left alone to make a fuller plant. The leaves are leathery and rectangular and can survive being bumped in a traffic area.

The name comes from the Greek word didy-mos meaning double and chlaina meaning cloak. The cloak is taken from the indusium that wraps around to cover both sides of the vein. The sorus is in a horseshoe shape.

Mahogany fern can also be grown outside in a shaded area. It is a semi-tender fern so should not be left out for a freeze. My experience with this fern is that it's easy to grow provided it does not get too bright of light. Like most ferns it does like humidity so in the house put it on a water tray with pebbles or marbles to keep the plant from sitting in the water while it receives the needed humidity.

For me the best part of this fern is the color. I love the mahogany colored new leaves that turn a darker richer color with age. If you're not growing this fern now, you might want to add it to your collection.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Annual Plant Exchange – September 20, 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: Larry briefed the group about the botanical garden and mentioned that the group who has raised the \$5 million is holding another meeting September 30th at the Park Place Elementary School at 6:30 pm. There are still a small group of dissenters who do not want the garden near their neighborhood.

Cherie thanked the people who brought food and refreshments and asked people to sign up for the next few months. Beth talked about the forms for next year’s membership located near the sign-in book and Cherie told everyone to talk with Beth if they want stickers for the new members to add to their directory.

Cherie talked about the October meeting and said there will be 2 members voted on to be on the nominating committee and there will be a board meeting directly after the regular meeting.

Darla discussed the topic for the October meeting and the group decided on Staghorn identification.

Program: The Program for this meeting was a plant exchange and Darla gave a quick description of the ferns people brought to exchange.

Attendance: 21 members were present

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



Editor’s Comments:

Deadline for the November Newsletter is October 30, 2015. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



2015 Membership Directory Updates

If you did not receive directory stickers for our new members at the previous meetings, you can pick them up at the sign-in table at our next meeting.

Submitted by: Beth Ayer, Membership Co-chair



October Book Review

“Platycterium Hobbyist’s Handbook” by Roy Vail

This book contains nearly 200 pages of clear, understandable information on staghorn ferns by the world's leading expert on them. He has grown these ferns for over 40 years and explored areas where they grow where no other hobbyist has ever been. The book has how-to instructions on spore propagation, division, buying staghorn ferns, as well as photos and discussions of each species and distribution maps of where they occur in nature.

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.



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 meeting is:
November 5, 2015

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

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

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Moody Community Center,
3725 Fulton St., Houston, TX 77009

Next regular meeting is:
October 20, 2015

“Annual Plant Exchange”



Lucky First Pick went to Raini Cunningham

