



January 2016

Vol. 18 No. 1

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 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:

I would like to welcome all to the Fern Society's 'New Year 2016'. As I do often, I think back over the past year and smile at all the things that took place. The Fern Society always makes me smile. We have such a wonderful group of people! We have people from all areas of life who come together to enjoy ferns! How great is that? In doing so, I have made friends that I have now known from a few months to 18 years and for me that has been the most rewarding part. We come together to share our plants and our knowledge and to work together to have a very close family-like society. I truly hope you feel the same as I do. I'm looking forward to yet another year of smiles with you my friends.

I would like to first thank Donna and Monty McGraw for hosting our end of the year party. Rain, Rain, Rain... we live just a few miles from their home and had 6"+ of rain just prior to the party. For those who made the trek to the county, I know you enjoyed yourselves and I'm glad all made it home safely. We got to see lots of ferns, begonias, and African Violets. The McGraw's have a wide range of plants and a near perfect setting to grow them in. The food was abundant, the conversation delightful, and by the end of the party, the rain had stopped, ending a lovely afternoon on a high note.

I would like to thank Cherie Lee for the wonderful job she did for the Society serving as our President and of course editor of the Newsletter. We lost her as President but she has agreed to continue putting out the best Newsletter a Society could ask for. She is one of the hardest workers our club has and I hope everyone notices and gives her a pat on the back for a job well done!

All the board members, those who served last year and those serving again this year, please accept our

thanks for all your effort! All the chair-members, thank you also for a great job! The refreshments this past year were always abundant and that speaks for the entire group contributing. The same applies to raffle plants, both on the giving and receiving end. The raffle pays for our speakers, supplies for our projects, and is a very important part of the Society. Thank you to all who donate!

So many people helped this year to make everything go smoothly and I want to thank everyone. To put everyone's name out would mean just reading the membership book. Everyone has helped out and that makes a great organization!

This year should be another great year of learning with hands on projects and speakers helping us learn how to have success with our love of ferns. Lisa George and Larry Rucker will be hard at work getting our programs together and if you have any suggestions please let them know.

We will have a board meeting after the February meeting.

Thanks everyone and see you soon!

*Darla*



**Please Welcome Our New and  
Renewing Members:**

*Sharon Banister,*

*Craig Jackson,*

*and*

*Brenda Wilson*



## "Mounting *Aglaomorpha coronans*"

presented by Larry Rucker

This month's meeting will be a hands-on project. We will have enough supplies for one project per household membership for \$15.00. Projects for non-members will cost \$20.00. This will include the board to mount on ready to go with screws and hanger, one *Aglaomorpha coronans*, moss, and line to hold it on the board. We will also show you why it is important to know the growing habits of the plant you are mounting and adjust your supplies to match up.

The *Aglaomorpha* is a footed fern (rhizome) that grows in a circular motion and can create a nest of fronds doing well if mounted on something round or a board that allows growth around the back side too. I have found it will take pretty bright light and can be quite drought tolerant but will grow faster if watered well. It is also known as the crown fern due to its growing habit. The fronds are coarsely cut, wide at the bottom, and turn brown with age. They will turn papery and serve to help catch leaf debris. The *Aglaomorpha* does well indoors until it gets too large. It does not need high humidity to do well.

We will bring a large example of what to expect of your plant in a few years.



Submitted by: Darla Harris

## 2016 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Lisa George and Larry Rucker
Secretary:	Diane Hudnall
Treasurer:	Mary McConnell
Board Members-at-Large:	Biruta Claunch Terri Dolney
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

## 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.

## Up and Coming Attractions:

2016:

- Jan: "Mounting Aglaomorpha coronans"  
by Larry Rucker (hands on, \$15 per  
membership / \$20 non-members)
- Feb: "From Spore to Staghorn Fern in 6 Months"  
by Patrick Hudnall (hands on)
- Mar: TBD
- Apr: Field Trip "Peckerwood Gardens"  
20571 FM 359, Hempstead, TX 77445
- May: "Ferns of Mexico Systematics"  
by Alejandra Vasco
- June: TBD
- July: TBD
- Aug: Summer Party  
at Biruta Claunch's home
- Sept: Annual Plant Swap
- Oct: TBD
- Nov. "Fern Holiday Ornaments"  
by Larry Rucker (hands on, cost TBD)
- Dec. Holiday Party  
at Larry Rucker's home

Submitted by: Lisa George & Larry Rucker, VPs



## Refreshments:

Refreshments for January will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Beth Ayer  
Savory: Biruta Claunch, Darla Harris, and  
Ruth McDonald  
Desserts: Diane Hudnall and Cherie Lee  
Service ware: Cherie Lee

Please let Faye Stansberry and Terri Dolney know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2016. Email to Faye at [stansberry.faye@yahoo.com](mailto:stansberry.faye@yahoo.com) or call 713-734-0170 or email to Terri at [maidenofthesea@hal-pc.org](mailto:maidenofthesea@hal-pc.org) or call 713-592-9029. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



## Statement of Income & Expenses October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

### INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 280.00
Club Store	20.00
Raffle Income	154.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.61</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 454.61</b>

### EXPENSES

None	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Balance 12-31-2014:</b>	<b>\$8,002.84</b>
<b>Balance 9-30-2015:</b>	<b>\$8,192.14</b>
<b>Balance 12-31-2015:</b>	<b>\$8,646.75</b>
<b>Net Gain Loss for 4th Qtr:</b>	<b>\$ 454.61</b>
<b>Net Gain Loss for 2015:</b>	<b>\$ 643.91</b>

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



## January Book Review

### "Ferns to Know and Grow" by F. Gordon Foster

This book includes information detailing fern identification, culture, and propagation presented in easily understood language for both the new and experienced fern growers. Among the book's useful features are its splendid drawings and tracings of fronds, spores, and croziers for each species, which reveal small identifying features that are often overlooked. This book includes chapters with the following headings: getting acquainted with ferns; ferns, then and now; the plant and its components; easy steps to identification; the culture of hardy ferns; growing ferns in the home garden; woodland plantings that feature ferns; growing ferns indoors; how to propagate ferns; native and exotic ferns to know and grow (illustrated with line drawings of each species); and composite descriptive summary (giving characteristics and cultural requirements of species), as well as a glossary, a fern selector (recommending species for particular situations in the home and garden), and a nomenclatural update.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



## **Pityrogramma calomelanos**

### **Dixie Silverback fern**

Pityrogramma has about 16 different species and is native to the tropical and subtropical America and Madagascar. It has also naturalized in many parts of the Old World tropics and there are a few stands in South Florida.

Pityrogramma is known for its powdery yellow or white on the lower surface of the blade. It is a terrestrial fern and grows quickly, though some are short lived. It has short-creeping to somewhat erect rhizome. The stipes (stems) are dark and shiny, normally stiff with a groove on the upper surface. The species vary morphologically and they hybridize readily, which complicates identification.

The Pityrogramma calomelanos is a pretty fern that grows to medium size in high light, well drained soil in a moist to dry medium. This fern also likes good air circulation. It is not cold hardy requiring a zone 10 or a greenhouse type condition, protected over winter. The spores come up easily so the fern can become weedy in the greenhouse.

This is a very pretty fern and I think it is worth growing, just don't over water or freeze it and you should be fine.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



### **Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Holiday Party – December 13, 2015**

This year's Holiday party was hosted by Donna and Monty McGraw at their home in Magnolia. Twenty-three 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 and other gardening items.

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

Submitted by: Cherie Lee for Secretary Diane Hudnall



## 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](mailto: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 February Newsletter is February 4, 2016. Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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## 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 7 and February 4, 2016

### **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 19, 2016

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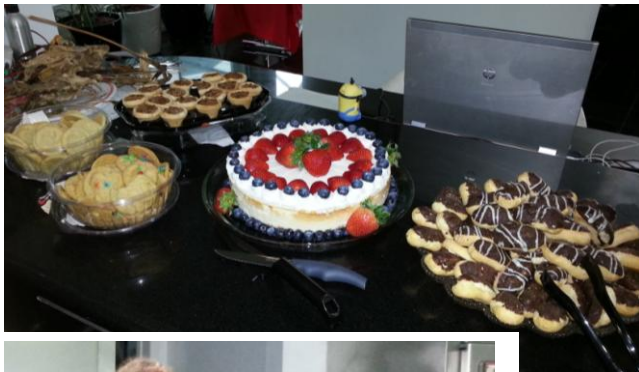
## Holiday Party – December 14<sup>th</sup> Hosted by Donna and Monty McGraw

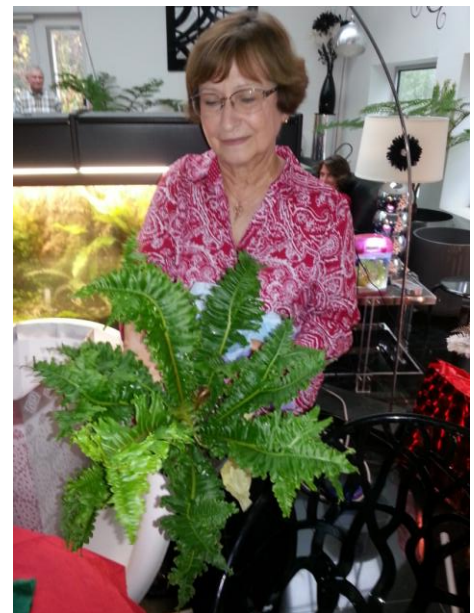


**Our Hosts Donna and Monty**









Photos by Diane Hudnall and Cherie Lee