



May 2016

Vol. 18 No. 5

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

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**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 15, at 2:00 p. m. – Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center,  
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004 - Phone: (713) 284-1994**

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### **A message from our President:**

Hi Everyone!

I hope you all survived the April floods and winds without loss of life or property. I love nature, but this type of nature I could take in smaller doses. We are not far from Walnut Creek which backs up across our neighbor's property, then on to the road and our property. We have a 27 foot difference between the low front and the higher back of our property. We built our house over half way up so we stay dry in the house, but can't get out the driveway when it floods. This time it took three days to drain completely off before we could drive in and out. The little Tuesday wind storm topped several large trees including one large pine tree that ended up on our house. The tree fell and hit another tree on the opposite side of our house and wedged into two big limbs. It did hit the roof, but did not go through our house. I'm ready for a change in this weather.

Peckerwood Gardens! What can I say? It was a wonderful field trip! It had been several years since the Fern Society had visited and in the roughly 15 years, things have really grown and it was just beautiful. There were a lot of ferns, more than I had remembered from years past. We could not have picked a more perfect day for the trip. The sun was bright and shining, but it was not hot, the mosquitoes slept in and left us alone, the plants and ferns were lush from the abundant spring rains and the mild winter. We had a good turnout of our membership and Adam Black, the new director for Peckerwood, was our tour guide. His love of plants and enthusiasm is refreshing and he gave us the royal treatment. He is going to speak to our Fern Society on "Exploring Taiwan's Fern Diversity" at our July meeting. This will be a real treat because Taiwan is one of the most fern abundant countries in the world. I'm hoping to make the trip myself in the next year or two. I'd like to thank Brenda Wilson, Craig Jackson, and Ruth McDonald for helping out with the field trip and providing us with refreshments at the garden. Several

folks went to lunch at a really good restaurant after the tour, but mostly we enjoyed getting to talk and get to know each other a little better. We have pictures later on in the newsletter of most of the ferns we saw on the field trip. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

This month's speaker is Alejandra Vasco who will be speaking to us on "Ferns of Mexico Systematics". This will be a PowerPoint presentation so we will be in the projector room (the back room without the kitchen). Read more on this presentation in the VP note. **Lisa George will be hosting a Reception for Alejandra at her home on Saturday the 14th of May at 6:30 PM.** This will be potluck so please bring something good to share. Please contact Ruth McDonald or Raini Cunningham so we can get this organized. Lisa has a lovely home in the Galleria area. Maps and more information are available later in the newsletter.

I'm hearing very positive news from several of you on our Staghorn ferns from spore to sporeling in six months results from our March meeting. You should be seeing your green matte at this time. Keep them evenly moist. Try not to peek in too often, I know it's hard not to open and look, but you don't want them to get a fungus. We are on pace to look at them under the microscope when June comes and Joan talks to us on this very subject. Looking good guys!

We have a new librarian. Ruth McDonald has taken on the responsibility of the library. I know this is going to be a great fit for Ruth. She loves to read and there is no better way to increase your fern knowledge than to look up your new plants and read about them in the Society's vast number of books. You may also read about an interesting fern and then go looking for that new fern to add to your collection. I hope all of you will take advantage of the library and make Ruth feel at home doing this. I would like to thank Frank Lee for the nearly 10 years he served in this capacity. Well done! Thank you both for your service to the Society and your fellow members.

On a sad note, I would like to send our condolences to Richard Broom and his family. Richard and his wife Elizabeth have been members of our Society for many years and he was also past Treasurer. On March 31, Richard lost his beloved Elizabeth at the age of 93 after complications to surgery. Elizabeth was a joy to be around. She was such a positive, sweet, and loving person. I loved seeing and talking with them at the meetings and our parties. After they were no longer able to attend our meetings, they maintained their membership so they could keep up with friends they had made but also because they both loved ferns. I stayed in touch with them by phone every now and then, and it was always like we had just talked to each other yesterday. My heart goes out to Richard for he has lost a large part of his life after so many years of marriage. Take care my friend.



Stay safe,

*Darla*



### **“Ferns of Mexico Systematics” by Alejandra Vasco**

Currently there are an estimated 10,000 species of ferns worldwide, concentrated in tropical areas with diverse environments (Mickel and Smith, 2004). Mexico has one of the most diverse fern floras of the world and one of the widest latitudinally, being composed of approximately 124 genera and 1,008 species and 16 infraspecies. Of the total number of species, 186 are endemic to Mexico (Mickel and Smith, 2004).

The Mexican fern flora is more than just a combination of species of the western United States and Central America: it is a complex taxonomic mix that includes genera whose center of origin is in Mexico. It is

also noteworthy that the genera with the highest percentage of endemism in Mexico live in seasonally dry environments. Mexico has long been a destination for field work on ferns due to all of this diversity.

Alejandra Vasco, Ph.D. is a Professor with the Departamento de Botánica Instituto de Biología, UNAM. Circuito Exterior s/n, Ciudad Universitaria. Associate Editor: Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad, Systematic Botany. She did her Ph.D. work at the New York Botanical Gardens with Robbin Moran. She spoke to our Society a few years back when she was still a graduate student. She also is a contributing teacher with the Organization of Tropical Studies in Costa Rica on fern taxonomy. She conducts field work in Mexico with her students and has a vast knowledge of the ferns of Mexico. Let's give her a warm welcome!

Submitted by: Darla Harris



### **Reception for Alejandra Vasco Saturday night May 14th, at 6:30pm**

It is with pleasure I get to let you know that we will be having a reception for Alejandra at the home of Lisa and Bill George. This is between Woodway and I10 just off Chimney Rock Rd. Westminster Dr. has a horseshoe shape and Lisa's home is on the South side loop. Maps are located at the end of the newsletter.

This is a casual reception to meet Alejandra and have an opportunity to get to know her. She is a wonderful lady that loves everything and everyone. She is an awesome fern taxonomist and teacher, with a very broad knowledge and willingness to share information. She is going to be a very important person in the Fern World for a lot of years to come, writing many papers and I hope a book one day.

This is a potluck style party so please bring something to share. We hope this party will allow more members to come and participate. In the past we have gone to a restaurant but that has limited our number of members. Our turnout will help guide us in the future. I really hope all of you will be able to come. Lisa has a lovely home that can accommodate us all.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



### **Please Welcome Our New Members:**

*Joy and Chuck Hudson*



## Up and Coming Attractions:

### 2016:

- May 15: "Ferns of Mexico Systematics"  
by Alejandra Vasco
- June 19: "Fern Gametophyte Growth & Development"  
by Joan Hudson
- July 17: "Exploring Taiwan's Fern Diversity"  
by Adam Black
- Aug 21: Summer Party  
at Larry Rucker's home
- Sept 18: Annual Plant Swap
- Oct 16: Cheilantheid ferns  
by George Yatskievych, Ph.D.  
Botanist, Curator, Plant Resources Center,  
University of Texas at Austin
- Nov 20: "Fern Holiday Ornaments"  
by Larry Rucker (hands on, cost TBD)
- Dec 11: Holiday Party  
at Biruta Claunch's home

Submitted by: Lisa George & Larry Rucker, VPs



### 2016 Dues

If you have not renewed your membership for 2016, please 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.



## 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 Cherie Lee (Past Pres)
Education Chair:	Darla Harris
Hospitality Chair:	Raini Cunningham and Ruth McDonald
Library:	Ruth McDonald
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 our April field trip were generously furnished by Ruth McDonald and Brenda Wilson.

Refreshments for May will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer  
Savory: Cecil Strange, Judith Neufeld  
Desserts: Jacqueline Smith, Cherie Lee  
Service ware: Cherie Lee

Please let Raini Cunningham, [bnrc@xmission.com](mailto:bnrc@xmission.com) / 801-891-2254, or Ruth McDonald, [rmmcdonald0@gmail.com](mailto:rmmcdonald0@gmail.com) / 979-530-6186, know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2016. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



## **Asplenium x kenzoii**

Family: Aspleniaceae  
Genus: Asplenium ass-PLLEE-nee-um  
Species: x kenzoii

Is it a birdsnest? Is it a terrestrial fern? Yes, *A. x kenzoii* is a natural hybrid between *Asplenium antiquum*, an epiphytic birdsnest fern, and *Asplenium prolongatum*, a terrestrial species. Talk about an odd pairing, this makes this fern a very unique and desirable fern. It has the growing form of the birdsnest, with divided leaves. The leaves have the texture of the birdsnest, but puts on pups at the tips like *A. prolongatum* making it a mother fern.

*A. x kenzoii* originated in Japan making this a hardy fern for us. It is good outside in Zone 9 and could go as low as zone 8. It takes after its terrestrial parent liking medium moist soil and shady conditions. Like its birdsnest parent it does not like to be over watered or over potted.

Propagation is from the buds at the tips of each leaf. Being a hybrid, the spores are aborted and not viable for reproduction. The buds can be either tacked down into the soil while still attached to the mother plant, allowed to set their own root and then removed from the mother plant or just left to grow attached to the mother plant in mid air until larger and then removed and put in a soil mix.

*A. x kenzoii* can be grown in the house as well taking lower humidity than some ferns. Keep in a window or under/near another light source. It tolerates low light well. Staying small it does not take up a lot of room and can be grown as a terrarium plant. This is a very forgiving fern and can be grown so many ways, it is sure to find its place in your home.

For those who were able to attend the field trip to Peckerwood Gardens, this was one of the plants offered for sale to our members. I think we will be seeing some of these hit the raffle table in the future. The parents may be considered an odd couple, but they made a beautiful offspring which would be a great addition to anyone's collection.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



### **Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society April 16, 2016 Field Trip**

The April Field Trip was to Peckerwood Gardens in Hempstead. Members arrived around 10:30 AM for an 11 AM tour. Adam Black, Director of Horticulture, led the tour. The garden was beautiful with many ferns. Various plants and ferns were also available for purchase

**Attendance:** 18 members and 2 guests were present.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee  
for Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



### **May Book Review**

#### **“Ferns for American Gardens” by John Mickel**

Written by the curator of ferns at the New York Botanical Gardens, this reference describes more than 400 types of ferns and many subspecies, varieties, and cultivars. Each entry explains the habit, frond size and color, hardiness zones, ease of cultivation, and includes suggestions for the best use of the plant in the garden. Soil preparation, garden maintenance, and propagating ferns are also discussed.

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 Ruth McDonald at

[rmmcdonald0@gmail.com](mailto:rmmcdonald0@gmail.com) or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



## Editor's Comments

**Deadline for the June Newsletter is June 1, 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:  
May 5, 2016 and June 2, 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:  
April 19, 2016



**Bromeliad  
Spring Sale**

**Saturday  
May 7, 9am-3pm**

**West Gray  
Multi-Service Center  
1475 W. Gray St.**

**Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc.**

## World Bromeliad Conference XXII

### Bromeliads – TEXAS Style



**Westin Galleria Hotel**  
5060 West Alabama  
Houston, Texas 77056

### Show and Sale

<b>Friday</b>	<b>June 17</b>	<b>9 AM – 5 PM</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 18</b>	<b>9 AM – 4 PM</b>

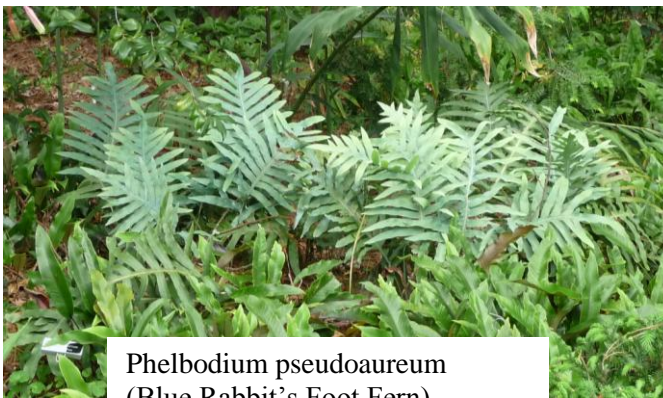
**“Peckerwood Field Trip”  
Lead by Adam Black**



Director of Horticulture  
Adam Black



*Pyrrhosia lingua* ‘Ogon Nishiki’  
(Variegated Felt Fern)



*Phelbodium pseudoaureum*  
(Blue Rabbit’s Foot Fern)  
John Fairey collection - Mexico



*Pyrrhosia lingua* ‘Tachiba Koryu’



*Adiantum* sp. Nova  
Maidenhair Fern  
John Fairey collection - Mexico



*Osmunda regalis spectabilis*  
American Royal Fern



*Selaginella braunii*  
(Braun's Arborvitae Fern)



*Pyrrosia polydactyla*



*Pyrrosia hastate*



*Arachniodes simplicior* 'Variegata'  
East Indian Holly Fern



*Pyrrosia lingua* 'Shishi-Gashira'  
Crested Felt Fern



*Pyrrosia lingua* 'Kei Kan'  
Cockscomb Felt Fern



*Pleopeltis bombycina*  
Wooly Polypody



*Microsorium fortunei*





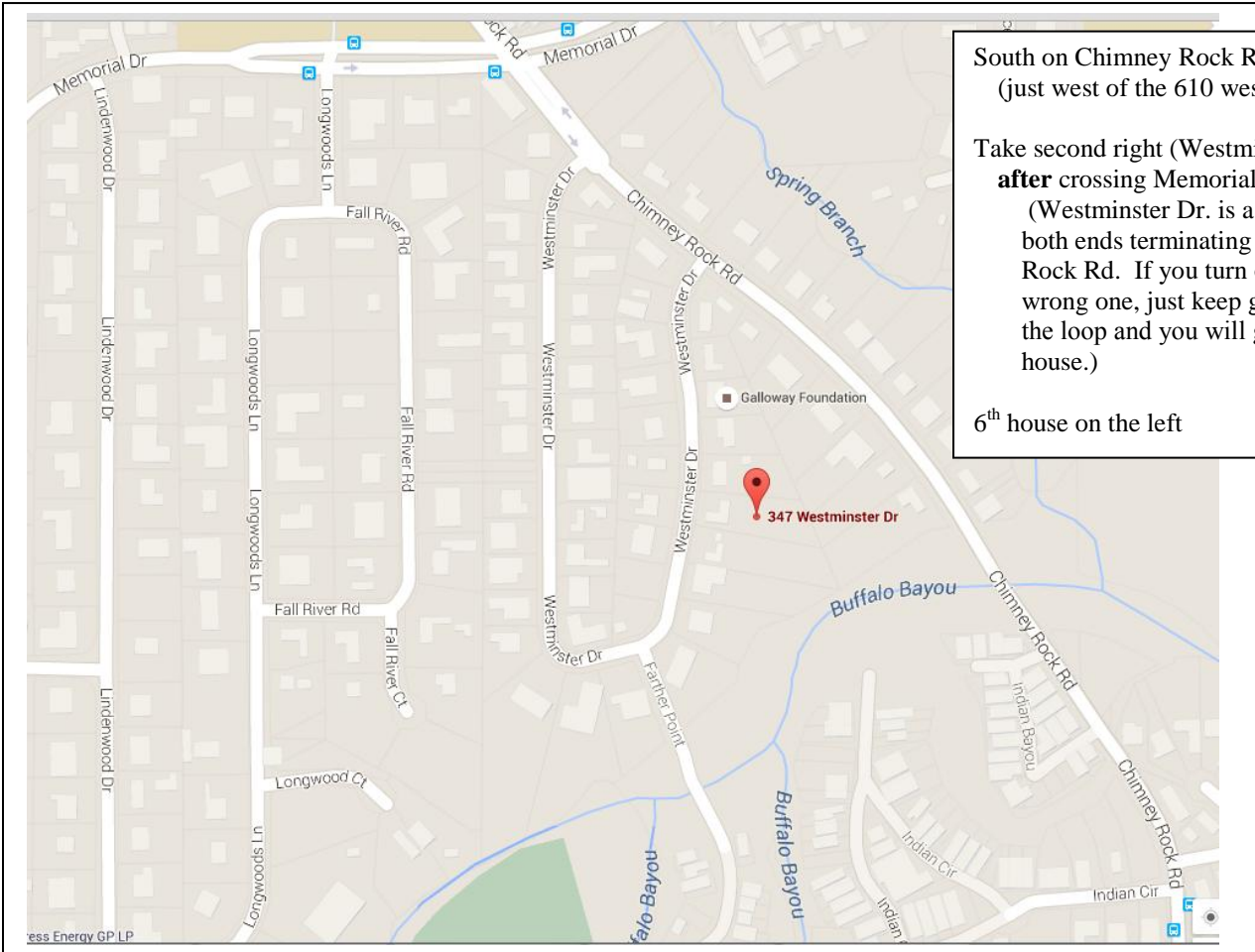
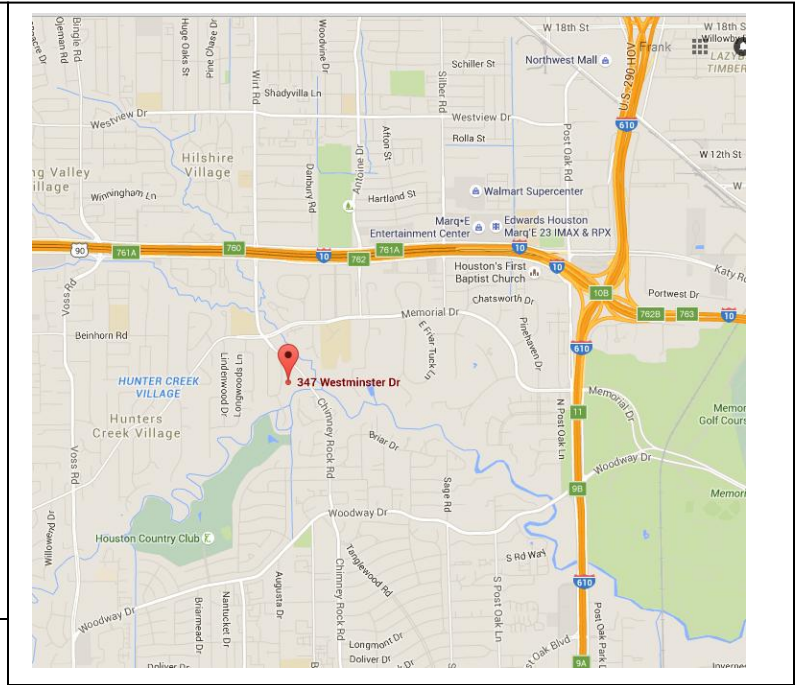
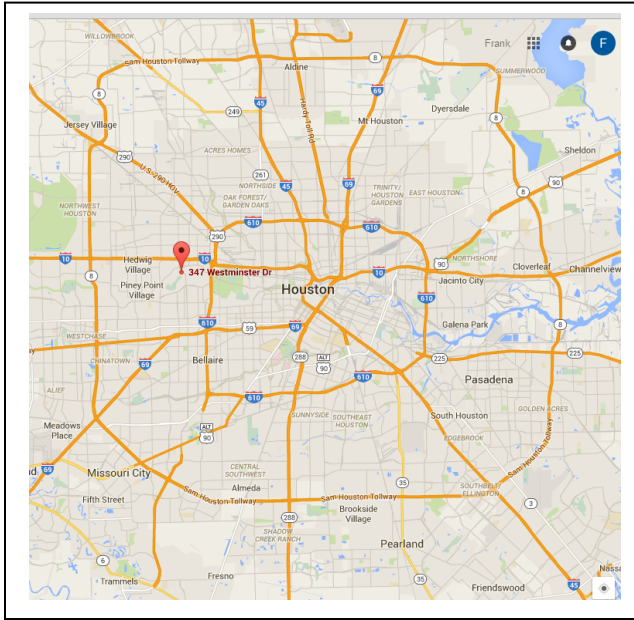
*Polystichum polyblepharum*  
Korean Tassel Fern



*Woodwardia orientalis*  
Mother Fern



**Directions to Reception for Alejandra**  
**347 Westminster Dr., Houston 77024**  
**281-733-5564**



South on Chimney Rock Rd off of I-10  
 (just west of the 610 west loop)

Take second right (Westminster Dr.)  
**after** crossing Memorial Dr.  
 (Westminster Dr. is a loop with  
 both ends terminating into Chimney  
 Rock Rd. If you turn onto the  
 wrong one, just keep going around  
 the loop and you will get to Lisa's  
 house.)

6<sup>th</sup> house on the left