



October 2016

Vol. 18 No. 10

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, October 16, 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:

Did you feel that?? Yes, it was cool air.... Wow, fall is showing itself to us. I know it is not here all the way yet, but these cool mornings and pleasant afternoons are a welcome change. This is a great time to get those ground hardy ferns in the ground. Some will be evergreen for you while others will go dormant for winter but when they push their new fiddleheads in the spring, they will have their feet all settled in and ready to live through our summer.

The plant swap was a great success. I hope everyone loved their new treasures. I know I do. There was a nice selection of ferns including staghorns, hardy ferns, and tropical ferns. We also had several native flowering plants and trees, aroids, cacti, bromeliads, orchids, and ceramic pots. I want to thank everyone for all the participation! Great Job!

At our October meeting, we will be electing two members to serve on the nominating committee for next year's officers. They will assist Bret Cunningham who I appointed Committee Chair. They will present the slate of officers at the November meeting. This is a one month commitment so it is a great opportunity to participate in the Society without taking on a full year commitment.

We are having a special speaker address our Society this month. George Yatskievych will be talking to us on the Cheilantheid ferns. He is one of the World Authorities on this branch of ferns. We will be in the projector room at the back of the building. We will also have 4 different types of Cheilantheids available at the meeting in 4" pots. Each membership present at the meeting will receive one set of 4 at no cost. Non-members may purchase ferns for \$3.00 each. Additional information about the presentation and George is included in the program article.

Don't forget Larry Rucker will be presenting a fun hands-on project at our November meeting. Supplies for the project will be covered for members. There will be a \$5.00 fee for non members.

It is time to start paying your dues for next year. With all the wonderful raffle plants and those of you purchasing raffle tickets, we have been able to get great speakers and have fun programs with almost no extra cost to the members. The dues have never gone up from the beginning of the Society's formation and will remain at \$10 for a single membership, \$15 for a family membership, and \$5 for a student membership to help encourage them to join and learn more about ferns. More membership information is included later in the newsletter. Membership forms are available on the website, by email with this newsletter, or at the meeting.

We need to have our year end board meeting in November. Let's plan to have it following Larry's presentation. Board members please let me know if you are not able to attend.

Don't forget the December Party at Biruta Claunch's house. I'm hoping she is ok. She broke her ankle while visiting family a couple months ago and I have not been able to speak to her. Let's wish her well and hope to see her soon.

Enjoy this weather everyone and see you at the meeting!

*Darla*



## October Program – “Cheilanthoid Ferns”

This month we have the pleasure of listening to George Yatskievych discuss Cheilanthoid Ferns. So what are cheilanthoid ferns? They are a worldwide group of ferns that have adapted to seasonally xeric habitats. There are over 300 species in about 12 genera (they have been changing some of these into new/different groups, so we will let him tell us the latest information). There are several of these ferns that are native to Texas. With the recent droughts, we could use some ferns that can take less water from time to time.

Who is George Yatskievych? Well for me, the first time I saw his name was as the membership chair for the American Fern Society but looking at his resume, he is a botanist through and through. He is not limited to ferns either. He started off with a BS in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology then a MS and PhD in Plant Science (Horticulture). He spent the next 18 years at the Missouri Botanical Gardens as a Botanist in the Missouri Department of Conservation the Natural History Division. The following 9 years he spent as the Curator of the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Then the best part happened (I think)! He came to Texas and is now the Curator, TEX-LL Herbarium at the University of Texas at Austin Plant Resources Center.

George has been published 63 times and his knowledge includes Biodiversity, Systematics, Species Diversity, Conservation, Invasive Species, Nomenclature, Plant Taxonomy, Natural History, Plant Systematics, Floristic Studies, Plant Conservation, Plant Identification, Phytogeography, Scientific Digital Photography, Collection Management, History of Botany, Herbarium, Endemism, Systematic Botany, Angiosperms, Pteridophytes, Floristics, Ferns, Orobanchaceae, Conservation Biology, Biodiversity Research, Botany, Phylogenetics, Molecular Phylogenetics, Polyploidy, Flavonoids, Phylogeny, Taxonomy, Chloroplast DNA, Ecology and Evolution, Plant Morphology, Evolution, Acanthaceae, Wildlife, Phylogenetic Analysis, Hybridization, and Phylogeography and Phylogenetic Biogeography. Wow!

This is going to be a great talk from a renowned speaker. Not only will George be sharing some of his vast knowledge with us but it will be a very enjoyable afternoon. I had the pleasure of meeting George in Washington D.C. last year at the Next Generation Pteridology Conference and I'm happy to say he is a member of our Fern Society.

Let's give him a very warm welcome.

Submitted by: Darla Harris, President



## Up and Coming Attractions:

2016:

- Oct 16: “Cheilanthoid 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



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting Minutes for September, 2016

The general meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by President Darla Harris.

**General:** Darla announced that next month the membership will vote on a nominating committee to nominate the 2017 officers.

Darla thanked Larry Rucker for hosting the party at his beautiful home, with great plants, nice food, and good conversation amongst the members. Darla also noted that Biruta Claunch will be hosting this year’s Holiday party.

There was a discussion about the Tomball plant sale/raffle approach at the Tomball Garden Club meeting. We may consider adopting their method for selling and raffling plants at future meetings.

Next month people can start paying dues for the 2017 membership year. A request was made to sign up to bring food for future fern club meetings.

**Program:** Darla explained the method for conducting the plant swap.

**Attendance:** 23 members were present

**Raffle:** no raffle

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, Secretary



## Refreshments:

Refreshments for September were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Bret and Raini Cunningham, Darla Harris, Joy Hudson, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Rodolfo Reyes, and Larry Rucker

Refreshments for October will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer  
Savory: Mary McConnell, Ruth McDonald  
Desserts: Cherie Lee  
Service ware: Ruth McDonald

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!



## Statement of Income & Expenses July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016

### INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 50.00
Raffle Income	186.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.67</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 236.67</b>

### EXPENSES

Newsletter (stamps)	\$ 44.52
Website	<u>32.34</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 76.86</b>

**Balance 12-31-2015: \$8,646.75**

**Balance 6-30-2016: \$8,765.08**

**Balance 6-30-2016: \$8,765.08**

**Net Gain Loss for 3rd Qtr: \$ 159.81**

**Net Gain Loss for 2016: \$ 278.14**

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



## 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. Biruta Claunch
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



### 2017 Dues

If you have not renewed your membership for 2017, 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.



## Fall Fern Planting

Fall is always a good time to put ground hardy plants in the ground and ferns are no exception to this. With over 10,000 fern choices, there is a fern for nearly every part of your landscape. There are deep shade, shade, part sun, full sun, small, large, clumping, spreading, bog, water, and xeric ferns that grow in our zone 9 habitat.

Since most people know that the majority of ferns can grow in average shade to part sun, I get asked most which ferns can grow in either full shade or full sun.

Let's start with some ferns that can handle growing under one of those old live oaks. Keep in mind ferns to have to go through photosynthesis so they do have to have some light. They are not a closet plant. That being said the following are the best to adapt to low light.

*Adiantum capillus-veneris* - this maiden hair fern is also a Texas native - spreads

*Adiantum pedatum* and *raddianum* (delta etc.; see "The Fern Growers Manual revised" for all the cultivars) - spreads

*Arachniodes standishii* -the upside down fern - clumping

*Asplenium scolopendrium*- Hart's tongue -clumping

*Dryopteris erythrosora* -Autumn fern -clumping

*Nephrolepis cordifolia* - Sword fern - spreads

Sun tolerant ferns will still do better with some break from the sun but can survive if you harden them off to the sun. The best way to do this is to plant them in the fall and then in the spring they can adjust to the longer days one day at a time.

*Diplazium esculentum* - the vegetable fern - spreads

*Doodia media*- the rasp fern -clumping

*Dryopteris erythrosora* - Autumn fern -clumping

*Microlepia strigosa* - lace fern - spreading

*Nephrolepis cordifolia* - sword fern - spreading

*Onoclea sensibilis*- sensitive fern - slow spreading

*Osmunda* - all, Cinnamon fern, Royal fern

*Pellaea*- most

*Pteris vittata* - cemetery fern - clumping, but comes up easy by spore.

*Rumohra adiantiformis* - leather leaf -florist fern - slow spreader

*Woodwardia* - most -*orientalis*, *virginica* -TX native



Variety of Maiden Hair Ferns



*Adiantum raddianum* – Maiden Hair Fern



*Dryopteris erythrosora*  
- Autumn Fern



*Nephrolepis cordifolia* – Sword Fern



*Doodia media* – Rasp Fern



*Microlepia strigosa* – Lace Fern



*Rumohra adiantiformis* – Leather Leaf Fern



*Pteris vittata* - Cemetery Fern



*Woodwardia orientalis* – Mother Fern

Submitted by: Darla Harris



## 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. 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 November Newsletter is November 3, 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:  
October 6, 2016 & November 3, 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:  
October 18, 2016

## “Annual Plant Exchange”



Darla Harris with the lucky first pick

