

November 2016

Vol. 18 No. 11

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, November 20, 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.

What a wonderful presentation George put on for us. Isn't science amazing? The ability to study these plants, learn all about the morphology, chromosomes, and DNA, and then put all the puzzle pieces together is remarkable. Thank you George for giving us such insight into what causes one fern to be in one genus when another fern that looks similar is in another genus. Now I'm trying to get all my plants renamed. I hope everyone loves their new ferns. Names are further down in the newsletter.

I want to thank Bret Cunningham for chairing the nominating committee and his two volunteers Cherie Lee and Mary McConnell. They have worked together to present a slate of officers for next year. Thank you for your work on this! Thank you to those who have agreed to serve the club. The membership will vote on the proposed slate at the November meeting.

Larry is putting together a fun, hands on activity for our November meeting. Dress for glue and glitter and see how he is working in ferns. If possible, please bring electrical power strips and hair dryers. Cost is free for members, \$5 for non-members.



There will be a short board meeting directly after our November meeting. Let me know if you have something to add to the agenda. Members are welcome to attend.

Don't forget our Holiday Party will be on December 11th at 1 PM. This is the **second Sunday**, one week earlier than usual, and at **1 PM**. Biruta Claunch has graciously agreed to host our party at her home in Kingwood. Remember this is pot-luck so please let Ruth McDonald know what favorite holiday dish you plan to

bring to share. Also, we will be having our traditional gift exchange so if you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift to the party.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Darla



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting after the regular membership meeting on November 20, 2016 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



Proposed 2017 Officers

President	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Larry Rucker
Secretary:	Diane Hudnall
Treasurer:	Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large:	Terri Dolney Johnny Williams

Voting will take place at the November meeting.



Please Welcome Our New Members:

**Sergio & Wanda Henao,
Dorothy Mattiza, and Susan Tracy**



Up and Coming Attractions:

2016:

Nov 20: "Fern Holiday Ornaments"
by Larry Rucker - hands on project
(free for members, \$5 for non-members)

Dec 11: Holiday Party – 1 PM
at Biruta Claunch's home

Submitted by: Lisa George & Larry Rucker, VPs



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: - Raffle, Store, etc.	Larry Rucker Biruta Claunch
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



T-Shirts

Darla Harris will be placing an order for our fern society T-shirts at the end of the month. If you are interested in purchasing one, please let her know at this month's meeting or email her at darla@fernplantation.com.



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.



October Raffle Donors:

Thank you to our Donors: Beth Ayer, Pat Hudnall, Chuck & Joy Hudson, Hannah Martin, Rodolfo Reyes, Patricia Ross, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, and Cecil Strange



Refreshments:

Refreshments for October were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Darla Harris, Diane Hudnall, Joy Hudson, Cherie Lee, Mary McConnell, Ruth McDonald, Rodolfo Reyes, Larry Rucker, and Faye Stansberry

Refreshments for November will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Cherie Lee
Savory:	Larry Rucker, Beth Whitley, Donna & Johnny Williams
Desserts:	Diane Hudnall, Cherie Lee
Service ware:	Ruth McDonald

Please let Raini Cunningham, bnrc@xmission.com / 801-891-2254, or Ruth McDonald, 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!



Botrychium biternatum
Moonwort or grape fern

This is a fern that is native to the southeastern US including eastern Texas. These pictures were taken at my house in Montgomery County. This was the only plant we found on 22 acres.

This time of year is when spores start maturing, but it is quite challenging to grow new plants from spores. They germinate underground in a dark atmosphere. This was discovered quite by accident when this fern was being studied at a US University a few years ago. They had tried unsuccessfully on more than one occasion to get gametophytes using the traditional methods. After the last failure, the Petri dish was just shoved in a drawer during a fast clean up of the lab. Several months later it was discovered in a drawer growing perfectly.

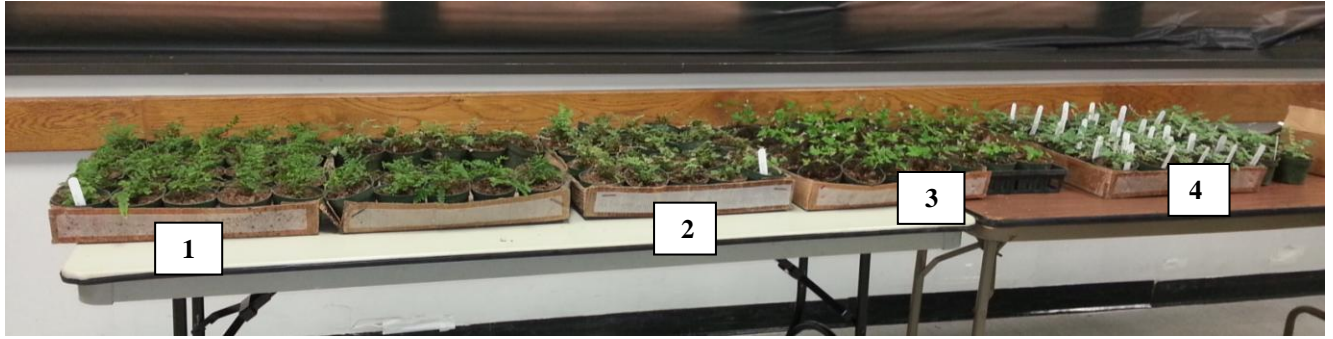
I love the shape of the fern coming up on a single stem producing three leaves then shooting up a spike out of the stem that holds the spore in little grape like beads.

These are a small ferns reaching 5" tall and wide and fertile spike about 14", but very unique.

I have fresh spore to put down and see if the darkness will produce some new ferns. I'll let you know in the spring.



October Meeting Ferns



(1) *Myriopteris lanosa*



(2) *Myriopteris tomentosa*



(3) *Aleuritopteris argentea*



(4) *Astrolepis sinuata*

**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
General Meeting Minutes
for October, 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 opened the meeting requesting two members volunteer to be on the nominating committee and Brett Cunningham. Mary McConnell and Cherie Lee volunteered.

Beth Ayer introduced new members Susan Tracy and Dorothy Mattiza who travelled from Kerrville to attend this month's meeting. Beth also mentioned that we have started our 2017 membership drive. Dues are \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family membership.

Darla noted that next month's project will use glue and glitter and everyone should wear appropriate clothing. Larry Rucker requested that some people bring hair dryers for the project. Darla also noted that Biruta Claunch will be hosting this year's Holiday Party.

A request was made to sign up to bring food for future fern society meetings. Next month we will sign up for food to bring to the Holiday Party.

Program: George Yatskievych presented a comprehensive and intriguing talk on Cheilantheid ferns. He introduced his topic as the most diverse assemblage of ferns in the world and himself as the agent of anarchy. He talked about the extensive collection of ferns in this genus and the difficulty all who study them have in characterizing and ordering them into coherent groups. He talked about the global reach of these ferns and how they are more prevalent

and diverse in the new world. The largest concentration of diversity is right here in Texas and Mexico. He also spent time lamenting over the difficulty he and others have in cultivating these ferns. The club purchased several for the members to take home and attempt to grow.

Attendance: 30 members attended

Raffle: \$58 raised selling raffle tickets

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, Secretary



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 or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the December Newsletter is November 25, 2016. 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-

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:
January 5, 2016

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

-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:
November 15, 2016

“Cheilanthoid Ferns”

by George Yatskievych, Ph.D.



Our speaker George Yatskievych, Ph.D.



Photo courtesy of Lisa George



Photo courtesy of Lisa George

