



January 2017

Vol. 19 No. 1

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

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**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 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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### **In Memoriam**

#### **Walt Hesson**

It is with profound sadness that I inform you that we have lost The Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society's first President Walt Hesson. Walt passed away the morning of the Society Holiday Party, Dec 11th at age 90. I did not know this until I got home later that night. I know everyone in our society did not know Walt and his wife Carolyn of 56 years. They had been active in the Society until they were both diagnosed with Parkinson. In spite of his issues with walking, Walt led our last field trip to the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary in 2011.



Walt was a lover of ferns and traveled extensively throughout the United States and in particular Texas. He loved native ferns and wanted to see them growing in their natural setting. He had thousands of slides of ferns that he had taken over the last few years. He and Carolyn joined the American Fern Society and went on many field trips and learned from the best. He was an avid reader and taught himself the art of amateur fern taxonomy.

Walt worked for Brown & Root and was sent to Puerto Rico, but he had not yet discovered ferns. He would smile at the thought of living next to one of the most beautiful and fern rich rainforest but not realizing it at the time. Walt would retire from Brown & Root as Sr. Vice President in 1986.

Walt was also an avid runner. He competed in 11 Marathons including the venerated Boston Marathon and for a number of years he was a member of the Houston Marathon Course Committee responsible for the Design and Certification of the race course during the formative years of the event. For such an active person being struck with Parkinson must have been a real blow, but he held firm and worked on keeping his muscles in shape for as long as the disease and age would allow.

For me Walt was a personal friend and mentor. When I became president of the fern society following Walt, it was only because of his continued wisdom that he shared with me that I had the tools I needed to serve in that capacity. When it would seem we would hit a wall with the society, Walt would talk it out with me and we would bridge whatever issue was going on and move the Society forward. He was the pillar behind the scenes for the Society and for that I will be forever grateful. It was that same strong shoulder that helped me through the aging and health issues with my own parents that were only a couple years older than Walt. I have lost a true friend and the Society has lost a true champion!

*Darla*

## A message from our President:

Happy New Year to everyone!

I would like to sincerely thank Biruta and Max Claunch for hosting our lovely Holiday Party. It was an absolute pleasure walking around their home and gardens spotting all the beautiful ferns. I told you this was going to be a great party to explore a gardener's dream. The food was outstanding, and more than that, the catching up with each other was great. I still did not get to spend as much time with everyone as I would have liked, but it was still wonderful.

Well, we have had our first freeze out this way. I think the Lees have had several already and they are so close to me it's crazy. So far the plants seem to be hanging in there, as I'm writing this they are saying another freeze is on its way. I want you to know I had mosquitoes just days after the freeze so it does not really help. I hope all your gardens fare well.

I would like to thank once again our outgoing board-members for the great job they did for our Society. I'd also like to thank all of you who have volunteered to be on the board and/or serve on one of our many committees this coming year. We will have another wonderful ferny year.

Larry will be presenting a fern etching project in January. More information follows in the newsletter.

In February we will be working with terrariums and will have some ferns for this project which we have not used previously. This should be fun so start looking for a container large enough to hold three ferns to bring to the meeting. We will provide the medium and plants.

Our program for March will be on horsetail ferns. This will be a PowerPoint presentation, but we will have some live examples and some for the raffle.

We have a fun and educational year of meetings already planned for the Society. We only have a couple more months to fill and if you have any suggestions please let Larry Rucker know.

I'm sorry the newsletter ran a little late this month. I have been slow to get my part over to Cherie to finish off the newsletter.

See you soon,

*Darla*



## "Etching Ferns on Glass" by Larry Rucker

Hi all. Hope you had a nice Holiday and the best of New Year. We are going to start our January meeting with a hands-on glass etching project. We did this several years ago and there was such a nice response that I thought we would try it again. I have also been able to find very nice free-standing pieces of glass with beveled edges for our project. I think the end result will be even nicer than the one we did previously. Dress casually because we will be using adhesive, etching fluid, and cleansers. Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



### Up and Coming Attractions:

#### 2017:

- Jan 15: "Etching Ferns on Glass"  
by Larry Rucker
- Feb 19: "Building a Terrarium"  
by Darla Harris
- Mar 19: "The Enigmatic Horsetails:  
Ancient Plants in the Modern World"  
by Chad Husby
- Apr : Field Trip – date and location TBD

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



### Refreshments:

Refreshments for January will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cherie Lee
- Savory: 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 2017. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



## 2017 Officers and Committees:

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



### Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Holiday Party – December 11, 2016

This year's Holiday party was hosted by Biruta and Max Claunch at their home in Kingwood. Twenty-six 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. 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.



## 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.



### Statement of Income & Expenses October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

#### INCOME

Membership Dues	\$ 290.00
Raffle Income	135.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.68</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 425.68</b>

#### EXPENSES

Program	\$ 104.00
Bank Fee	<u>12.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 116.00</b>

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

**Balance 9-30-2016:** **\$8,924.89**

**Balance 12-31-2016:** **\$9,234.57**

**Net Gain Loss for 4th Qtr:** **\$ 309.68**

**Net Gain Loss for 2016:** **\$ 587.82**

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



### Editor's Comments

**Deadline for the February Newsletter is February 1, 2017. 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 meeting is:  
February 2, 2017

### **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 17, 2017

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## **Holiday Party – December 14<sup>th</sup> Hosted by Biruta and Max Claunch**



**Our hosts Biruta and Max Claunch**









