



March 2017

Vol. 19 No. 3

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

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**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, March 19, 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:

The March winds have started, the trees are starting to leaf out, things that froze to the ground are spouting, and the ferns are pushing their new fiddleheads. Is spring here? That is the million dollar question for those of us who live in the Houston area. When is that last freeze? Let's hope that one bad night was it for us this year. I'm starting to bring the hardiest of my tropical plants out and hope we don't get a March or April surprise freeze. I will wait a little longer on my tender things like the plumerias. The temperature has been a little warm but in July, we will look back at these 80 degree days longingly. This is such a great time of the year to divide your plants and don't forget to bring some extras for raffle.

I would like to thank Biruta Claunch for a wonderful job on presenting the Terrarium Program. She had great tips and fun things to bring our terrariums to life. The love she has for the miniature gardens was evident. When you have a passion for something it really comes through and it definitely did! I enjoyed Biruta's new and different prospective. This was her first time to take the lead on a presentation for our Society and I'm sure she will be there again for us in the future. The feedback was very positive! Home Run!

This month we will have a guest speaker, Chad Husby, from Miami, Florida. Chad is known as the *Equisetum* expert and we are looking forward to hearing all about these ferns with such a rich history. Yes, they have a very long history dating back in the fossil records 350+ million years. They are the giant ferns of yester years. Now you might ask, are they really ferns? They don't look like what we normally think of as a fern even though they have the spore and vascular system that is typical of a fern. So what has DNA testing decided on these awesome plants? Come listen to Chad and he will answer that question and share so many other interesting

facts about these unique plants that he has been studying for many years. Our meeting will be held in the back room this month.

The Field Trip is in April! It looks like it will be to Bayou Bend. Larry Rucker checked it out and said this is the winner for this year's field trip. Since our normal meeting date falls on Easter Sunday this year, we took a vote at the last meeting and decided to move the field trip up one week. Yes, we know that is Palm Sunday but Sunday was still better for most of our members. Larry will have all the details on time and meeting place at the March meeting and in April's newsletter.

Those who ordered T-shirts but have not picked them up, I will have them at the March meeting. That way we can wear them on the field trip.

We have lots of fun and educational things planned for the Society this year. Hope to see you at the meetings.

It's that time when the dues need to be paid! We will be putting our Membership booklet together in early April so if you have not paid by March 31st, you will not be included and you will be dropped from the membership roll per the Society's bylaws. Sorry, but we have to have a cutoff point and we cannot take a verbal, we have to have the paid membership. I'm sure you understand, we want to keep all our members, but we have to follow our bylaws as well. You can rejoin anytime throughout the year, you will just miss being in the membership book. Thank you!

*Darla*



**Please Welcome Our New Member:**

**Joanne Sharpe**



## "The Enigmatic Horsetails: Ancient Plants in the Modern World"

by Chad Husby

Chad Husby, Ph.D. is the Botanical Horticulturist at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida. His work focuses on international plant exploration to enhance the Garden's collections and to find worthy new plants to share with the public. In addition, he collaborates with the science and education programs at the Garden. He received his undergraduate degree from Alma College, a Master of Applied Statistics from Ohio State University, Master in Horticulture from Virginia Tech and Ph.D. in Biology from Florida International University. His dissertation was on ecophysiology and biomechanics of *Equisetum giganteum*.

Chad will be talking to us on the *Equisetum giganteum* and I'm sure he will also talk about the Canelos, Ecuador expeditions in the late 1860-1870 where two different botanists claimed to have seen horsetails as tall as 20 feet and each stem as big as your wrist. Were these just exaggerations or do we truly not know what lurks in the Amazon?

The horsetail is truly a unique fern that does not look like a fern at all and has some characteristics that are unique to this fern. This will be a PowerPoint presentation but we will have some horsetails to look at as well. Please join us for this wonderful presentation.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



### 2017 Membership Dues by March 31st

Please get your 2017 dues in by March 31<sup>st</sup> so you will be included in the 2017 directory and continue to receive the newsletter. Please review the 2016 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:

### 2017:

- Mar 19: "The Enigmatic Horsetails:  
Ancient Plants in the Modern World"  
by Chad Husby
- Apr 9: Field Trip – Bayou Bend
- May 21: "*Psilotum nudum*:  
Morphology and Reproduction"  
by Joan Hudson
- June 18: "Staghorn Ferns"  
by TBD
- July 16: "Pressing Ferns"  
by Alejandra Vasco
- Aug 20: Summer Party & Plant Exchange  
at Malcolm McCorquodale's home
- Sept 17: "The Separation of Generations:  
The Ferns that Never Grow Up"  
by Jerald Pinson

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



## 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



## *Hypolepis*

Family: Dennstaedtiaceae

Genus: *Hypolepis* hy-poh-LEP-iss

The *Hypolepis* is a terrestrial fern that is found in nature in both the Old World and New World. With over 50 species, it is wide spread in both the Tropical and Sub-Tropical regions of the world. This fern grows from a long underground rhizome and shoots up new fronds along the way, similar to the way bamboo sends up new shoots. Thus, it is best grown in a container unless it has room to spread. Once established in the ground, you can mow down any unwanted fronds. This is a large fern growing between three and four feet tall. It likes to be in medium moist soil and bright light. I have seen some growing in nearly full sun.

This fern has hairs rather than scales and looks similar to a tomato plant with the whitish fuzz up the stems. With big triangular fronds it is a lovely addition to the garden.



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.



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern society General Meeting February 19, 2017

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 by asking who would be interested in creating their own Herbarium. A Herbarium is a collection of pressed plants to help identify plants in your collection. She mentioned that Larry Rucker developed an inexpensive way of making a plant press and was willing to make presses for those interested. Darla asked for a head count and about 10 raised their hands. The Herbarium class will be held in June or July. The focus of the class will be on practicing how to press plants. As a follow-up to the Herbarium class Jan Kramer has offered to lead a hands-on project decorating a box with pressed plants.

Darla announced that the April field trip is currently being planned. The most likely location is currently Bayou Bend. She asked the group for the best day and Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> had the strongest show of hands. The actual date and location will be announced at a later date. Darla also mentioned that the Society will have a booth at Mercer March Mart on Friday and Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed especially for Saturday. Please let Beth Ayer know if you can help.

Darla reminded everyone that there would be a board meeting after the regular meeting. She also reminded the group to sign up for refreshments on the sign-up sheets at the back of the room.

**Program:** Biruta Claunch led the presentation on how to create terrariums providing lots of examples and ideas to the group. She brought examples of different types of things she has put in her terrariums to create

new and unique looks. Darla Harris discussed the medium being supplied and the ferns available.

**Attendance:** 29 members attended

**Raffle:** \$70 raised selling raffle tickets

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern society Board Meeting February 19, 2017

The Board meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by President Darla Harris.

### Income and expenses:

Balance of \$9,235 as of January 1, 2017.

### Meeting:

Darla called the meeting to order and discussed finances. She mentioned the \$30.00 dues to the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs which we joined to retain our non-profit standing. She then discussed passing a budget for the vice president so he could schedule talks and field trips without having to obtain Board approval before making any expenditure. Darla suggested a budget of \$1,000.00. Diane Hudnall motioned to approve the \$1,000.00 budget and Terri Dolney seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved.

The board discussed upcoming events including the timing of the annual field trip. After reviewing the calendar of events, April ended up the best month for our field trip this year. The board also discussed the option of an out of town field trip next year to San Antonio or Austin. It was decided that Darla would bring the idea up for a show of hands at the next month. The board discussed hiring a bus and driver, renting a large van or letting each member determine how to get there and back. All aspects of the out of town field trip will be brought up to the members next month.

The membership books will be ready to pass out in May. Beth Ayer noted that 60% of the members have paid their 2017 dues. Based on the bylaws, if members do not pay their dues by the end of March they will lose their membership status, not be in the membership book, and stop receiving the newsletter.

**Attendance:** Beth Ayers, Terri Dolney, Darla Harris, Diane Hudnall, Cherie Lee, Larry Rucker, and Johnny Williams

Submitted by:

Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



### Refreshments:

Refreshments for February were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayers, Raini & Brett Cunningham, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Larry Rucker, Donna Williams, and Brenda Wilson

Refreshments for March will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer  
Savory: Beth Ayer, Ruth McDonald  
Desserts: Diane & Pat Hudnell  
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!



### Editor's Comments

**Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 24, 2017. Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



### Upcoming Events in the Houston Area:

#### 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:  
April 6, 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:  
March 21, 2017

#### Mercer Botanic Gardens



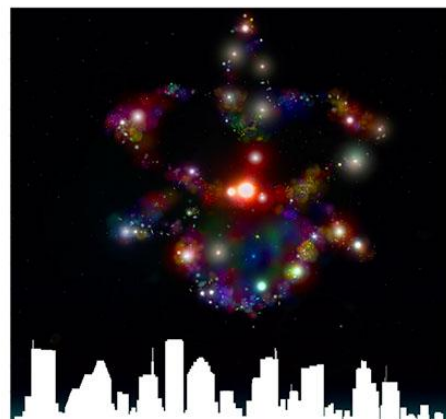
#### March Mart 2017:

Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18, 2017

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

22306 Aldine Westfield Road  
Humble, TX 77338

the HOUSTON ORCHID SOCIETY presents  
**Orchids In Space**  
2017 Spring Show & Sale



Museum of Natural Science  
5555 Hermann Park Drive

April 1-2, 2017  
SATURDAY 9 AM to 5 PM & SUNDAY 9 AM to 4 PM

**“Building a Terrarium”**

by  
and

**Biruta Claunch**

**Darla Harris**



*Asplenium trichomanes*  
“Maidenhair Spleenwort”

*Doryopteris cordata*  
“Antenna Fern”

*Hemionitis arifolia*  
“Heart Fern”







**Raffle Items**