

April 2017

Vol. 19 No. 4

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Field Trip: Sunday, April 9, at 1:00 p. m. – Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens,  
6003 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77265**

**A message from our President:**

Hi Everyone:

Spring is here. I'm so happy. This is my favorite time of year. I love to see all the new fiddleheads popping up in the fern gardens, the flowers, and the return of the butterflies and birds. It all combines to showcase nature at its best!

I would like to welcome all our new members and our returning members for a fun year learning about and acquiring more ferns. If all our members get their dues in, we will have over a hundred members with a very strong core group and regular attendees.

We are off to a great start this year already having two hands on projects and a great out of town speaker, Chad Husby, talking to us about *Equisetums*, the horsetail fern. I know I learned a lot from his presentation.

April is our field trip to the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens. Larry Rucker and I made a visit there to check it out and it is going to be a great field trip. They have several beautiful ground ferns for us to see and the grounds as a whole are well planted and maintained. Read more about it in Larry's VP note. **Reminder the field trip is a week early!!!**

I want to thank everyone for their participation in both the Raffle and Refreshments. These are two important parts of our meeting and make it fun and enjoyable. The great thing about these is it also allows everyone to have a contributing part by bringing something for the raffle and/or refreshments. If you have extra of something fern or non fern, bring it in for the raffle. This is our fund raiser and helps us pay for speakers and projects and sharing is always a nice thing to do.

Mercer Botanic Gardens March Mart showed us just what an interest in ferns there is out there. I would like to thank Beth Ayer, Marcia Livingston, and Beth's husband for manning the Fern Society membership

drive booth this year. As you can see from the list of new members, they were very busy and successful. On a personal note, I would like to thank Cherie and Frank Lee and Larry Rucker for helping me at my fern booth. We had a very successful sale and the general public got to see some new and different ferns. It was great to see so many people excited about ferns.

I just got back from a day trip to the Texas Hill Country where we saw lots of native ferns right along the country roads. March showed off the Bluebonnets well and it's amazing to see ferns and cactus growing side by side. So we might want to consider an overnight field trip next year, visiting the Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin one day and having a field trip on the other day. We want to plan this ahead of time so everyone can work on their schedules to be able to participate in this weekend of ferns. We will talk more about this at the May meeting.

Joan Hudson will be giving a presentation on *Psilotum nudum* and its very unique structure at our May meeting. It is a plant like no other and she will teach us all about this very primitive fern. I'm looking forward to seeing and hearing all about this.

Don't forget, if you're going to attend the April field trip, please let Larry know so we have an accurate head count. His contact information is included in his VP note.

Hope to see you at Bayou Bend.

Darla



**FIELD TRIP SUNDAY APRIL 9 AT 1 PM**  
**Please RSVP to Larry Rucker if attending**  
**NO REGULAR MEETING IN APRIL**



## Field Trip to Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens and Joshua's Native Plants & Garden

Dear FERNIES,

Darla Harris and I had a great time last Thursday (3/23/17) at Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens. It had been 30 years since my last visit and I had forgotten

how beautiful the house and gardens really are. On Sunday the 9th of April we will be taking our 2017 field trip there. The address is 6003 Memorial Drive and we will meet in the parking lot at 1 PM. The lot is on the south side of Memorial Drive at Westcott Street. The price of admission is \$12.50 for adults or \$11.00 for seniors. This includes both house and ground tours.

Once we finish the Bayou Bend excursion we will head north into the Heights to visit Joshua's Native Plants & Garden. This is a plant nursery and garden antique place. He also carries lots of ceramics and fountains. The address is 502 W. 18th Street at Nicholson Street. Maps to both locations are located at the end of the newsletter.

**If you are planning on attending, please RSVP by texting me at 832 453 2992 or by emailing me at [herbie39L@att.net](mailto:herbie39L@att.net).** I hope all of you will take time and come with us on this field trip.

Submitted by: Larry Rucker



### Up and Coming Attractions:

2017:

- Apr 9: Field Trip – Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens and Joshua's Native Plants & Garden  
by Darla Harris and Larry Rucker
- May 21: “*Pilotum 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 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.



### Please Welcome Our New Members:

**Debbie Banfield**  
**Anita & Ed Fraini**  
**Roger & John Livingston**  
**Michael Lorfing**  
**Valerie & Jason Martin**  
**Abbye & Richard Owen**  
**Lee & Gordon Rowell**  
**Frances Walker**

**Statement of Income & Expenses  
January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017**

**INCOME**

Membership dues	\$ 430.00
Raffle Income	140.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.68</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 570.68</b>

**EXPENSES**

Speaker	\$ 500.00
Website	220.46
Newsletter	46.75
Federation Dues	33.00
Program Expenses	<u>350.49</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,150.70</b>

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

**Balance 3-31-2017: \$8,654.55**

**Net Gain Loss for 1st Qtr: \$ (580.02)**

**Net Gain Loss for 2017: \$ (580.02)**



**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  
General Meeting  
March 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 Harris opened the meeting and mentioned that Mercer March Mart went well. Frank Lee informed us that the Library is available at the back counter. Darla also mentioned that next month's meeting will be 1 week early, Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at "Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens" 6003 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77265 off Westcott. It is the only formal garden open in the state of Texas and has a mansion on 14 acres. Darla asked that you let Larry Rucker know if you are coming next month so we do not leave anyone behind when we leave on the tour.

Darla reminded everyone to sign-up for refreshments for May. She also talked about the field trip next year and noted that it may be an overnight trip. Cherie asked if anyone has input to April's newsletter to email her by Friday.

**Program:** Chad Husby, PhD spoke about "The Enigmatic Horsetails, Ancient Plants of the Modern World". Chad works at the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Coral Gables, Florida. The program focused on the genus *Equisetum*.

**Attendance:** 30 members attended, 3 visitors and the speaker

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

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



**Refreshments:**

Refreshments for March were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayers, Martha Burg, Raini & Bret Cunningham, Midge Gorman, Diane & Pat Hudnall, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Donna Williams, and Brenda Wilson

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!



## ***Drynaria rigidula* 'Whitei'**

Family: Polypodiaceae

Genus: *Drynaria* dry-NAR-ee-uh

Species: *rigidula*

Cultivar: 'Whitei'

*Drynaria*, known as the basket fern, is made up of about 16 species and comes from tropical Africa, Asia, Australia, and Islands of the Pacific. They are characterized by having two types of fronds, fertile foliage fronds and sterile fronds that make up the nest. The fertile fronds are green and long while the sterile fronds are normally short with a totally different type leaf and turn brown. The sterile fronds collect leaf matter that protect the rhizomes and can help retain moisture for the plant.

*Drynaria rigidula* has been seen growing on rocks in Australia, but also high in the tree tops, sometimes as high as 100 feet, and over winter can be the home of the amethystine pythons. This fern is the only species with 1-pinnate foliage fronds. The sori are arranged in two rows along the main vein of each lobe. This is true with the cultivar 'Whitei' that has a serrated or cut leaf look to the pinnae.

The fertile foliage fronds are large and dark green. The smaller brown sterile nest fronds are clustered at their bases. At the bases of the frond lobes or underside of the fronds, nectar rich in amino acids and sugars is produced which may attract ants.

This fern can be grown from spore, from vegetative reproduction by apomixis, or from a division of a larger plant from rhizome cuttings. It makes a beautiful hanging basket but can also be mounted on a board where it will still form a basket.

I personally have never seen ants or snakes in my plants. They are easy to grow but protect from a freeze. They like evenly moist medium and once mature, can store water in the basket part of their fronds.

This entire family is worth growing.

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 [rmcdonald0@gmail.com](mailto:rmcdonald0@gmail.com) or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



## Editor's Comments

**Deadline for the May Newsletter is May 1, 2017.  
Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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## 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:  
May 16, 2017

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

## Bromeliad Spring Sale

**Saturday  
April 29, 9am-3pm**

**West Gray  
Multi-Service Center  
1475 W. Gray St.  
Houston 77019**

**Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc.**

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**“The Enigmatic Horsetails:  
Ancient Plants in the Modern World”  
By Chad Husby**



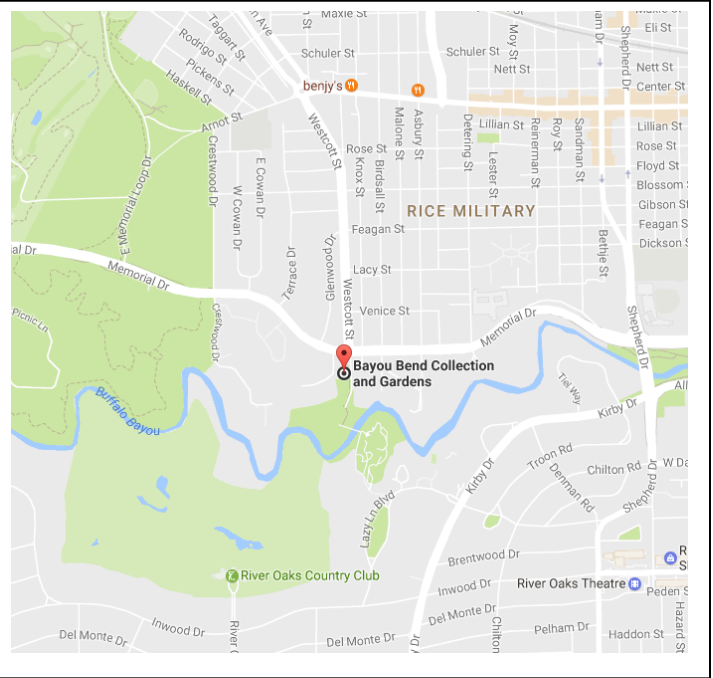
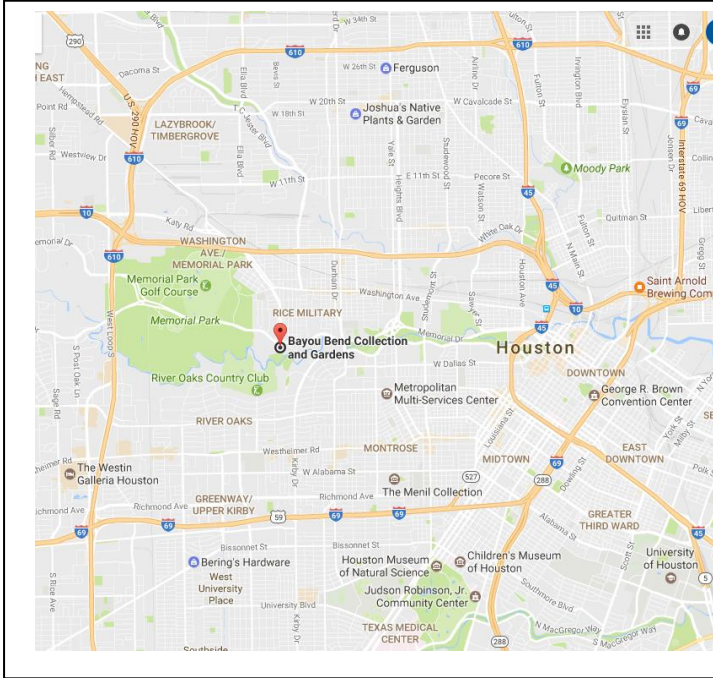
*Equisetum hyemale*



*Equisetum scirpoides*

## April 9<sup>th</sup> Field Trip 1 PM

### Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens 6003 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77265



### Joshua's Native Plants & Garden 502 W 18th St, Houston, TX 77008

