



May 2017

Vol. 19 No. 5

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 21, 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,

Wow, what a great field trip. We had such a good turnout! I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. For those who did not make the trip, if you have never been to Bayou Bend you should put it on your list of things to do in Houston. The landscape nestled inside the city is just beautiful. You forget you're surrounded by three million people. The home shows off the best of the United States over the previous 200 years. The ferns were beautiful. What we lost in variety we made up for in volume but still had about eight different ferns.

I would like to extend my apologies to Carolynne White whom I forgot to include in last month's newsletter for her help with the membership table at Mercer Arboretum. Carolynne is one of our newest members having just joined early this year and already stepping up and volunteering to help out the Society. Thank you!

Can you believe our humble Society has over a 100 members? It seems like yesterday we were starting up our new society. How we have steadily grown as we approach our twentieth year. I would like to thank all our founding members who have been a part of this from the get go and for all those who have stayed with us as we move forward every year. As some societies are seeing a decline in membership, ours keeps forging ahead as ferns become even more popular these days. I want to personally thank everyone for their contributions. We all play a part and yours has not gone unnoticed.

May brings Joan Hudson to us once again to speak on a topic we have not covered at our meetings. Joan will be talking to us on "*Psilotum nudum*". This is a very primitive fern that is so unique it makes you take a second look. Read more in the VP note.

In June, Larry Rucker will be talking to us on *Platycteriums*. This presentation is going to cover the

staghorn fern genus, where they come from, how to tell them apart, and some great horticultural advice. Don't miss this opportunity to explore the world of the staghorn fern!

Adam Black will be speaking to us about the "Ferns of New Caledonia" in July. He will have just returned from his trip there and all his pictures and information will be hot off the press.

Our Summer Party and Plant Exchange will be in August at Malcolm McCorquodale's home. We will be scaling back the number of plants to swap to three per member.

In September, Alejandra Vasco will be teaching us how to press our ferns.

For the rest of the year see our calendar. All I can say is Fun, Fun, Fun!

Board members, we will have a board meeting after the May meeting. Sorry we will try to make it short.

The weather has been wonderful with all these cool mornings. The humidity has been on the low side so more watering has been needed, but the ferns seem to love this year so far. I know I do!

Happy ferning and see you at the meeting!

Darla



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting after the regular membership meeting on May 21, 2017 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



"*Psilotum nudum* Morphology and Reproduction" by Joan Hudson

Joan Hudson is a biology Professor at Sam Houston University. Her love is ferns. She will be talking to us on *Psilotum nudum*, known as the whisk fern or skeleton fork fern. It really does not look like a fern at all with its very primitive look and no leaves. In fact, the name means "bare naked".



This fern has a very wide distribution being found in the tropical and subtropical parts of Africa and the Americas, as well as Asia, Australia, Hawaii, southern Japan, New Zealand, and a few places in Europe. It also predates the dinosaurs.

How did this fern with no leaves or roots just a vascular system survive 400 million years? Joan is going to explain just how they have managed to survive the test of time.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



Please Welcome Our New Members:

Ken Young



Up and Coming Attractions:

2017:

- May 21: "*Psilotum nudum*: Morphology and Reproduction" by Joan Hudson
- June 18: "*Platycteriums*: The Staghorn Ferns" by Larry Rucker
- July 16: "Ferns of New Caledonia" by Adam Black
- Aug 20: Summer Party & Plant Exchange at Malcolm McCorquodale's home
- Sept 17: "Pressing Ferns" by Alejandra Vasco
- Oct 15: "The Separation of Generations: The Ferns that Never Grow Up" by Jerald Pinson
- Nov 19: "Making Pressed Fern Decorated Boxes" by Jan Kramer
- Dec 10: Holiday Party – 1 PM at Mary McConnell's home

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



2017 Membership 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.



Cheilanthes eckloniana

(also known as *Notholaena eckloniana*)

Family: Adiantaceae
Genus: Cheilanthes ky-LAN-theez
Species: eckloniana ek-lon-ee-AY-na
Synonym: *Notholaena eckloniana*

This fern is from Southern Africa and lives in the desert areas. It likes part to full sun and is ground hardy and evergreen for our area. It grows to about 12" tall. The plant has a short rhizome and can be divided from offshoots.

This fern is new in the trade and we will have one for each paid membership attending the May meeting thanks to Casa Flora and our new member Michael Lorfin, President of the Dallas Fern Society. I would like to thank them both.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



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



Refreshments:

Refreshments for May will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Beth Ayer
Savory:	Darla Harris, Ruth McDonald
Desserts:	Marsha Livingston
Service ware:	Raini Cunningham, 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 2017. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society April 9, 2017 Field Trip

The April Field Trip was to Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens and Joshua's Native Plants & Garden. The tour began at Bayou Bend at 1 PM with Darla Harris and Larry Rucker as our guides. The gardens were beautiful with ferns planted in various areas and statues placed among the foliage. After completing the garden tour we visited the home on the property filled with antiques and many interesting items.

Following our visit to Bayou Bend we drove to Joshua's for a little browsing and shopping. It was a beautiful day for a field trip and very enjoyable.

Attendance: 20 members were present.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee
for 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 June Newsletter is June 1, 2017.
Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



Upcoming Events in the Houston Area:

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:
May 16, 2017

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:
June 1, 2017

Bromeliad Society Show & Sale

May 19	Sale	noon - 4pm
May 20	Show	2pm - 5 pm
	Sale	9am - 4pm
May 21	Show	11am - 4pm
	Sale	11am - 3:30pm

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

22306 Aldine Westfield Rd,
Humble, TX 77338

Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc.



**Field Trip – Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens
and Joshua’s Native Plants & Garden
by Darla Harris and Larry Rucker**





Photo by Judith Neufeld





