

July 2017

Vol. 19 No. 7

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 16, 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 an undertaking, *Platyserium*. With all there is to learn about the staghorn fern it is difficult to know where to begin. Larry Rucker took this on and did an amazing job of covering as much as you can in an hour and a half. We learned about the three distinct divisions of staghorn ferns, the Malayan-Asiatic species, the African-American species and the Javan-Australian species. We were fortunate enough to have growers in our society who brought examples of these different groups. We discussed culture and environment. Unfortunately we ran out of time before Larry could show us how to put your ferns into the different divisions using cross sections. Maybe next time we can cover this. Many thanks go out to Jere Noerager, Patrick Hudnall, Frank and Cherie Lee, and Larry for bringing so many ferns to display.

I have been traveling so much lately that I will be glad to be home for awhile. I went to Miami for their show and sale, to Los Angeles for their show and sale, to Fort Worth for the Botany Conference, and to San Francisco for a talk for Dr. Carlos Sanchez on the ferns of Cuba. They were all great and I have learned so much! I hope to share some of this information with you in the future.

What do we have coming up? Lots! This month we have Adam Black who is going to speak to us on the ferns of New Caledonia. Please see the program note for more information. We have our Summer Party and Plant Swap at Malcolm McCorquodale's home next month. Remember only 3 plants per member for the swap. Look for more information in the next newsletter. Please think about what you would like to bring for food and let Ruth McDonald and/or Raini Cunningham know.

For our meetings, please try to help out with refreshments. Remember, we have over 100 members

now and we almost always have 30 or more people at our meetings. It is so nice to have something to snack on or to drink during the meeting. It takes us all to make this happen, so please just bring whatever you can to help balance out our snacks. This is not meant to be a burden but a labor of love for our members so let's share the experience. If you make something that you really do well, bring it so we can all enjoy it! Drinks should be enough for everyone to have something and one person should not have to bring all of it so let's join forces.

Raffle is going great! Thank you everyone who donates items for the raffle and for those who chip in to win. This goes to pay for our projects and I think we all enjoy doing projects and taking something home that we made at a meeting. This is for fun, learning, and just enjoying each other's company. So let's all bring those extra plants, not just ferns, and anything else we can donate to help support our Society. Our membership fee does not pay for everything, so let's keep the gift of giving going!

Thank you for all that you do, month after month!  
See you at the meeting!

*Darla*



### **July's Program - New Caledonia**

New Caledonia is a collection of islands in the southwestern Pacific Ocean about 750 miles off the east coast of Australia and about 1050 miles north of New Zealand. The island of New Caledonia is the largest of the islands, about 310 miles long and 31 miles wide, with a central mountain range that has an elevation of about 5250 feet.

Geologists believe New Caledonia is part of a fragmented shelf that was once part of Australia and over time has gone through several dramatic geological

events to make it the island it is today. They have found evidence of marine sedimentation that indicates the island has gone through periods of being submerged in deep water.

These events have caused scientists to examine why the island is made up of so many endemic plants that are restricted to a single mountain or group of mountains. They have been using DNA molecular testing to compare plants from one region to another to see how one clade of plants compare to another that is a more distantly related group.

Bottom line is this island area has some of the most diverse group of plants and ferns of any place this small and isolated and is a very exciting place to both visit and research.

Adam Black has just returned from there and is going to share the diversity of “Ferns of New Caledonia” at our meeting this month. Adam is an excellent speaker with a very broad knowledge of this subject matter. This is a fern lover’s paradise and a place I hope to see myself one day.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



**Up and Coming Attractions:**

**2017:**

- 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



**Please Welcome Our New Members:**

**Michael Moody, Sandra Riggsby,  
and Ken Warren**



**Refreshments:**

Refreshments for June were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Raini & Bret Cunningham, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Rodolfo Reyes, and Brenda Wilson

Refreshments for July will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Beth Ayer
- Savory: Darla Harris, Ruth McDonald, Beth Whitley
- Fruit: Ruth McDonald
- Dessert: Cherie Lee, Brenda Wilson
- Service ware: Raini Cunningham, Ruth McDonald

Please let Raini Cunningham, [bnrc@xmission.com](mailto:bnrc@xmission.com) / 801-891-2254, or Ruth McDonald, [rmcdonald0@gmail.com](mailto:rmcdonald0@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!



**Statement of Income & Expenses**

**April 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	
Membership dues	\$ 250.00
Raffle Income	160.00
Donations	35.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.67</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 570.68</b>

<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	
Newsletter/Directories	\$ <u>46.92</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 46.92</b>

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

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

**Balance 6-30-2017: \$9,053.30**

**Net Gain Loss for 2nd Qtr: \$ 398.75**

**Net Gain Loss for 2017: \$ (181.27)**

Submitted by Beth Ayer, Treasurer

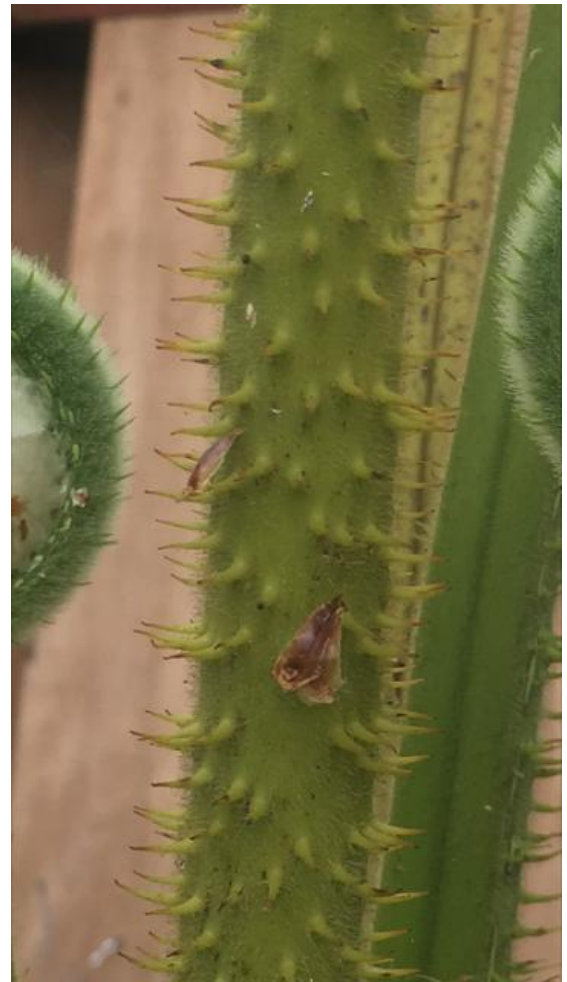


## *Cyathea divergens*

This is a beautiful tree fern with a distribution area that includes Mexico and most of the countries of Central and northern South America. The fern pictured is growing in a garden located southwest of San Francisco where there is a micro-climate cloud forest zone. The temperature there almost never gets below freezing and the highs are rarely above the upper 70's. In addition, a fog often rolls in and there is a seasonal rain fall. In nature, these ferns are found in a submontane rain forest at an elevation of 3200-9000 feet.

This is a medium growing tree fern with a trunk size of about 32 feet tall and fronds reaching about 5 feet long. It has a slender trunk of 2-4 inches that is straw colored to light brown and has little spines up and down the trunk.

This tree fern would be a challenge for us to grow in our Houston area without having climate control but none the less, it is a beautiful tree fern.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting - June 18, 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 Jan Kramer will lead the November meeting. Jan talked about the project and showed examples of pressing ferns on boxes and canvas. The September meeting will be teaching how to start a herbarium. We will be pressing fronds so please bring your own press or any large book to press the ferns or contact Larry or Darla if you want Larry to provide you with the materials for a press. Next month's speaker is Adam Black from Peckerwood Gardens who will speak about ferns from New Caledonia.

**Program:** Larry gave a comprehensive program on "Platyneriums-Staghorn Ferns". He showed many examples of these ferns from different parts of the world. He focused on their structure, growing conditions, and maintaining these ferns. He frequently referred to Roy Vail's book "Platynerium Hobbyist's Handbook".

**Attendance:** 32 members and 5 visitors attended with two of the visitors joining the society.

**Raffle:** \$90 raised selling raffle tickets

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



### 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.



## June Raffle Results:

**Thank you to our Donors:** Beth Ayer, Raini & Bret Cunningham, Will Fleming, Darla Harris, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, and Cecil Strange



## 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.



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



## Editor's Comments

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

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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**Upcoming Events in the Houston Area:**

**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:  
August 15, 2017

**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:  
August 3, 2017

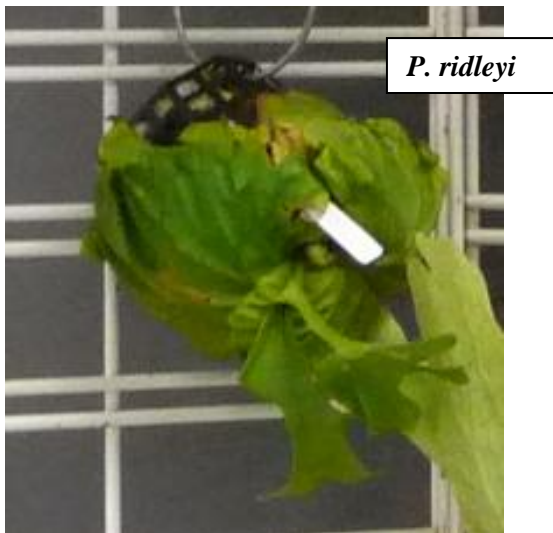
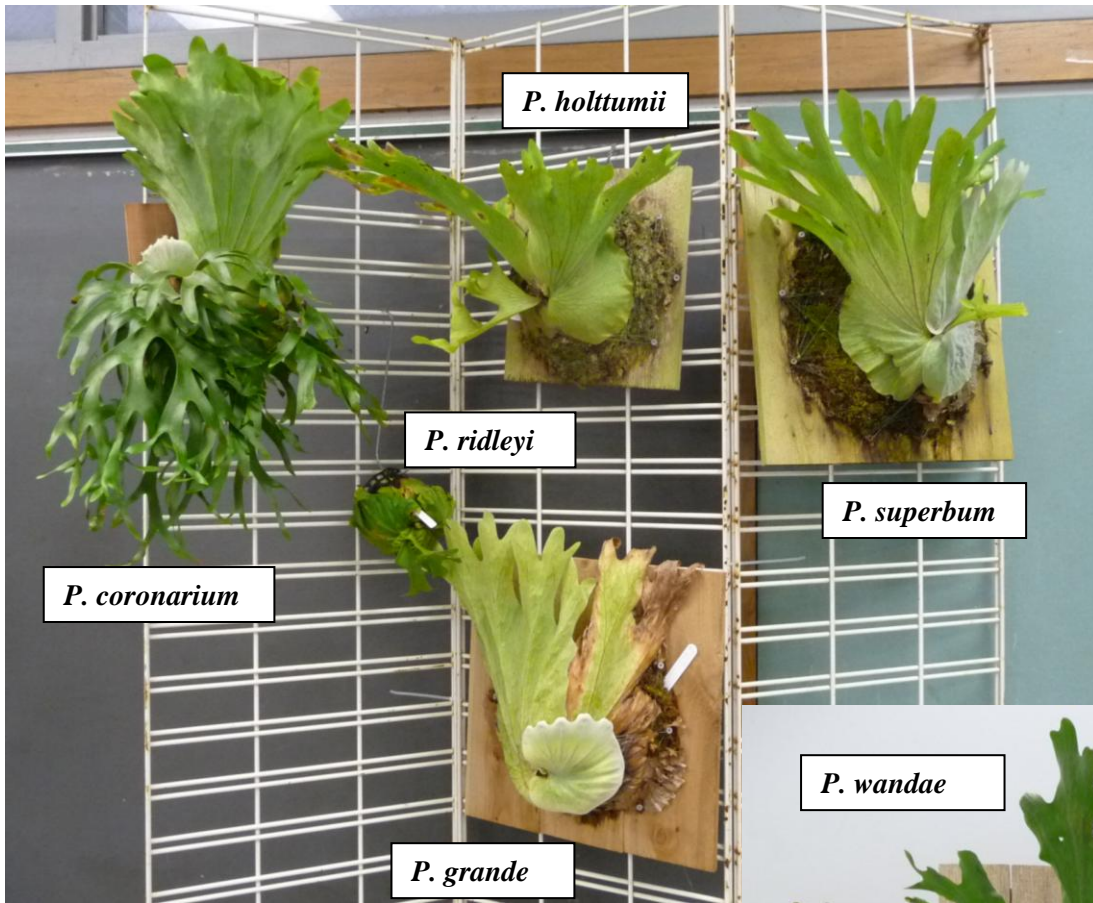
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**“Platyceriums: The Staghorn Ferns”  
by Larry Rucker**

**Our Speaker  
Larry Rucker**



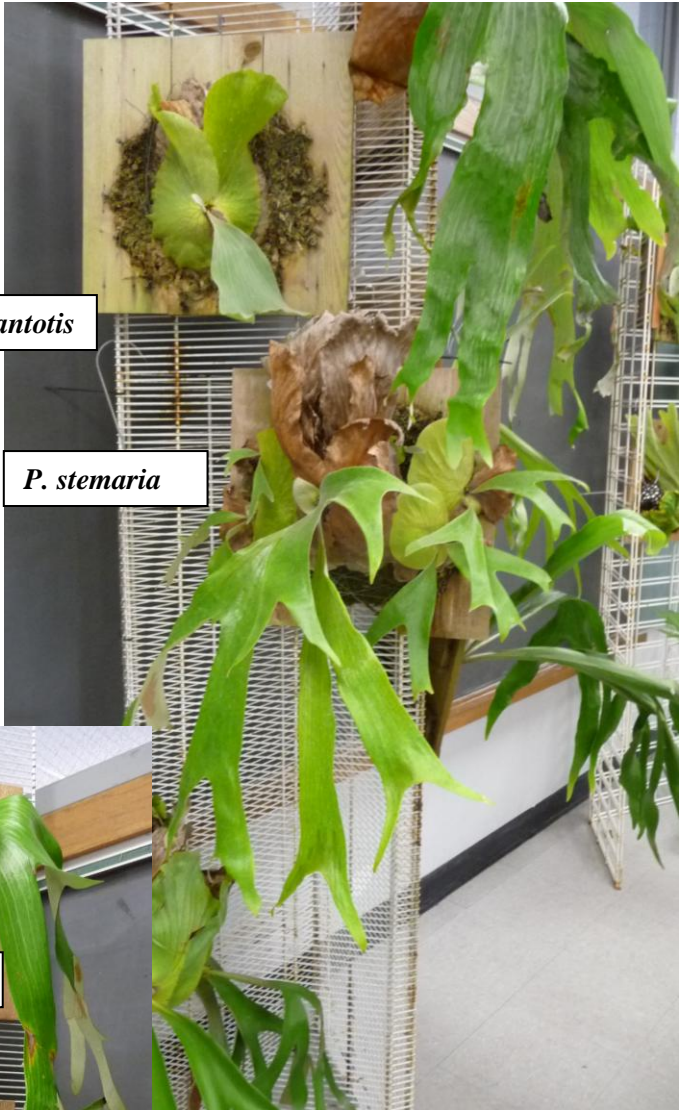
Malayan-Asiatic species



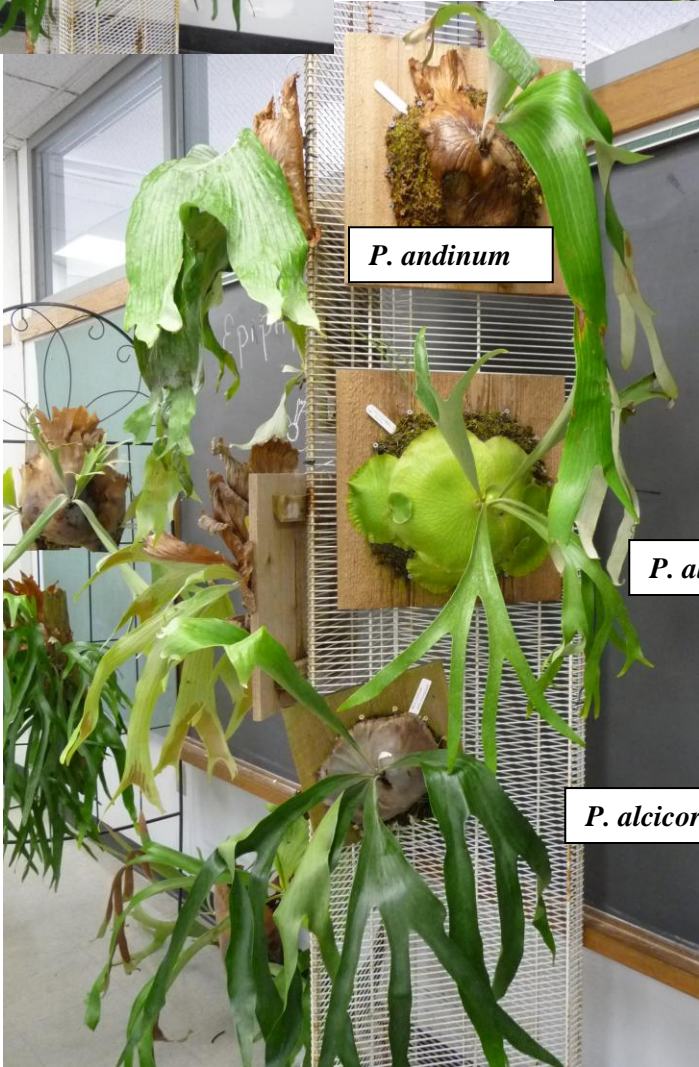
African-American species



*P. elephantotis*



*P. stemaria*



*P. andinum*

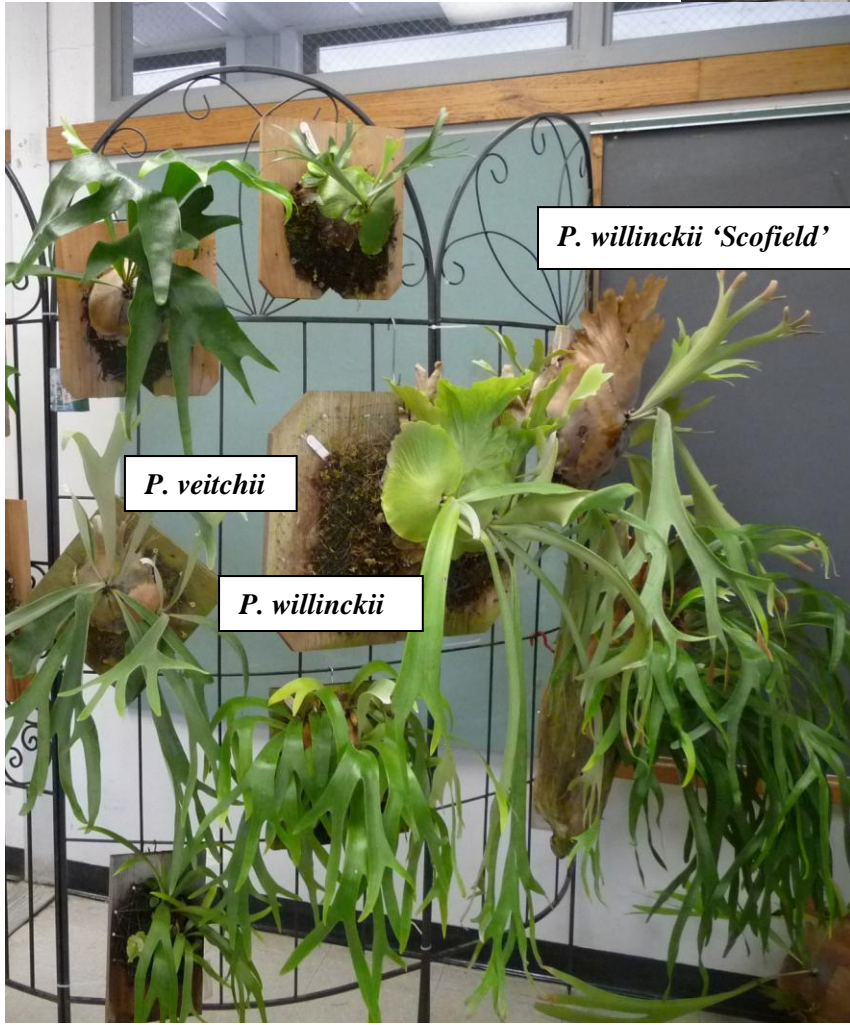
*P. alциorne Africa*

*P. alциorne Madagascar*

Javan-Australian species



*P. hillii* cultivars



*P. willinckii* 'Scofield'

*P. veitchii*

*P. willinckii*