



August 2017

Vol. 19 No. 8

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, August 20, at 2:00 p. m. – Malcolm McCorquodale’s Home, 2905 Drexel Drive, Houston, TX 77027 - Phone: (713) 621-6217 home; (832) 279-3873 cell

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

It's party time and our annual plant swap! Fun, fun, fun... this is always a good time to really get to know all the members. I know for me, I am able to talk to everyone and not have the interruptions of preparing for the meetings.

This year we will be meeting at Malcolm McCorquodale’s home with its nice yard and lots of beautiful plants. Malcolm is a member of several plant societies in the Houston area so he has lots of different plants to see. We will be sending out an updated refreshment list in the next week so please look it over, see what you might add, and let Ruth McDonald or Raini Cunningham know. Also, please see the Program Note in the Newsletter for more information on the plant swap rules. This is always fun so please plan on participating by bringing up to 3 plants/plant related items per member.

I would like to thank Adam Black for a wonderful presentation on New Caledonia ferns and other plants of interest on the island. We have a few pictures and names of the plants at the end of the newsletter. For those who would like to hear more about a large variety of plants, Adam often speaks at Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation in Hempstead, TX. Please visit the website www.peckerwoodgarden.org/ and consider joining and supporting this rare garden.

Larry Rucker will be making plant presses for the September meeting and must have a count. We will have a signup sheet at the party but if you are not planning to attend, please email Larry or me to let us know you want one. The cost of each press is expected to be around \$5.00 so the society will be making one available per membership, but a donation is always appreciated. Larry will be cutting these to standard herbarium size and will not have any extras at the meeting.

Our September speaker will be Alejandra Vasco who is currently working at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas which has one of the largest herbarium collections in the U.S. She will be speaking to us on why it's important to keep a good record of plants through herbarium specimens and will show us the process to insure a good specimen is collected and pressed. It's amazing how collected plants have really helped science understand what was growing or being grown in the past. They have examples dating back over a hundred years in different areas of the United States that have helped scientists study the changes areas are experiencing.

A herbarium can also help you identify changes in your own plant collection. We know our plants and we are often the first to see a change. Many amateurs have discovered new hybrids. Then there is always the pressing of plants for crafts. We will be using these pressed ferns at our November meeting when we will be mounting them on an artist canvas. This should be a fun and educational meeting.

I would like to once again thank everyone who has contributed to the refreshments and raffle plants. They make a huge difference to our society!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the party.

Darla



Summer Party & Plant Exchange

Don't forget our Summer Party & Plant Exchange at Malcolm McCorquodale's home August 20th at 2:00 PM. Please let Raini Cunningham, bnrc@xmission.com / 801-891-2254, or Ruth McDonald, rmmcdonald0@gmail.com / 979-530-6186 know what refreshments you plan to bring.



August Program Note - Plant Exchange

It's TIME.... for our annual Plant Swap. Our August Party will be our plant swap and the rules are as follows: each member may bring up to **three** plants or plant related items. Please bring established plants and no cuttings to trade. We will give out a number to each participating member and draw to see who gets to select first. After that, the person who picks next will be the one who brought the item selected by the first person. The third person to pick will be the one who brought the item selected by the second person and so on until everything is chosen. So you want to bring something that everyone wants so they will choose your item and then it will be your turn to choose. Your items do not have to be ferns, but ferns are always good. Any plants, or plant related items are welcome. This is always fun and getting to take home some new treasures makes it extra special.

Due to the Plant Swap, there will be **NO RAFFLE**.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



Up and Coming Attractions:

2017:

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



July Raffle Donors:

Thank you to our Donors: Adam Black, Biruta Claunch, Craig Jackson, Ruth McDonald, Jim & Linda Migliavacca, Larry Rucker, Jacqueline Smith, Wally Ward, and Donna Williams



Please Welcome Our New Member

Fernando Orellana

& Our Renewing Member

Wally Ward



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 July were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Darla Harris, Craig Jackson, Cherie Lee, Hannah Martin, Ruth McDonald, Betsy Robinson, Larry Rucker, Rosalind Speed, and Donna Williams

Please let Raini Cunningham, bnrc@xmission.com / 801-891-2254, or Ruth McDonald, 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!



Adiantum formosum
Australian maidenhair

Family: Pteridaceae

Genus: Adiantum ad-ee-AN-tum

Species: formosum for-MOH-sum

This is a very lacy, giant maidenhair fern found in Australia and New Zealand. It reaches as tall as 48 inches with very black stems 36 inches tall. In nature this fern can grow to be 7 feet tall.

Like most maidenhair, it likes to grow in moist areas in high humidity. In its natural habitat it grows in eucalyptus forests and forms very large colonies. It spreads by long - creeping rhizome that can go as deep as 24 inches underground. This is a good candidate for container gardening.



Liking warm weather, it has a very fast summer growing season and often goes dormant over winter. It can take a light freeze that is not too long in duration, but prefers about 40F degrees for its cold period.

This is a beautiful fern to add to your collection of ferns.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the September Newsletter is August 29, 2017. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting - July 17, 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 discussed the August party and plant exchange. She mentioned that tickets would be handed out and one drawn to determine who would get the first pick in the plant exchange. Subsequent picks would be based on who brought the plants selected.

The September meeting will be teaching us how to start a herbarium by Alejandra Vasco. We will be pressing fronds so please bring your own press, any large book to press the ferns, or contact Larry Rucker if you want him to provide you with a press. Each press will cost the society about \$5 so the limit is one per membership. Donations for the press are always appreciated.

In October our speaker will be Jerald Pinson, a gametophyte expert. In November, Jan Kramer will lead us in a project putting our pressed ferns from September on canvas. Jan mentioned that pressed *Adiantum* (maidenhair) and *Selaginella* work well.

Ruth McDonald discussed her work putting the library list on line. A link will be added to our website when it is ready. Books are currently available for checkout at the back of the room.

Darla discussed some of her recent trips to Dallas, Florida, California, etc. to attend fern shows and sales. Ruth McDonald asked her to include dates of future shows and sales in the Newsletter.

Program: Adam Black, Director of Horticulture at Peckerwood Garden spoke on the ferns of New Caledonia. Originally separated from Australia then submerged in the ocean before resurfacing, New Caledonia is a biodiversity hotspot with limited influence from the surrounding area. Adam showed wonderful pictures of the area and ferns.

Attendance: 31 members and 1 visitor attended

Raffle: \$91 raised selling raffle tickets

Submitted by: Cherie Lee for
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.



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 or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



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:
August 15, 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:
September 7, 2017

**“Ferns of New Caledonia”
by Adam Black**



**Adam Black - Director of Horticulture
Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation**

Some wonderful photographs taken by Adam

Right: Chalky blue "filmy ferns" coat the trunks of trees in middle elevation cloud forests



Below: The high elevation moss forest





The strange *Dipteris conjugata* lends an otherworldly feel to the New Caledonian mountain sides



Blechnum obtusatum mimics a miniature tree fern with a foot-high trunk



The new fronds on the *Blechnum chauiodentum* emerge a striking red color before transitioning to green



Blechnum subcordatum demands attention with its lavishly complex fertile fronds

Summer Party – August 20th at 2 PM
Malcolm McCorquodale's Home
2905 Drexel Drive, Houston, Texas 77027
Home phone: 713-621-6217 Cell phone: 832-279-3873

