

October 2017

Vol. 19 No. 10

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, October 15, 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,

I'm sorry some of you were not able to attend this most informative and fun meeting. Alejandra did an excellent job explaining why we need pressed ferns for herbariums. She then provided detailed verbal and written instructions on the art of pressing a fern as well as hands on instructions on how to preserve different types of ferns. We then tried our hand at pressing four different ferns. First one was *Thelypteris*. I brought three different ones (*T. dentata*, *T. kunthii*, *T. ovata*) so you will need to compare yours to *The Fern Grower's Manual*, the internet, or bring them to the next meeting and we can look at them. The second example was *Selaginella plana* (Cypress Spikemoss). The third example was *Selaginella uncinata* (Peacock Blue Spikemoss). The fourth was *Macrothelypteris torresiana* where we learned how to put down a very large fern. Alejandra also showed us how to press a tree fern without killing the plant and how to press rhizomes like a Rabbit's Foot Fern. We learned how to fold the frond so we could get both the front side and the fertile side of the same frond. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the experience and no one was in a hurry to leave. I would like to thank Larry Rucker for making our ten presses. For those who plan on doing more pressing, look for two belts that can be tightened to any length to hold your press together better.

I would like to welcome three new members to our society and I hope you all enjoyed the project. We have a nice, friendly society and for that I would like to thank everyone. Good food, good conversation, and a true caring attitude towards each other makes for enjoyable meetings.

Our October meeting will be on fern gametophytes and consist of a PowerPoint presentation with hopefully some live examples of the presentation. See the program note for more information on the meeting.

Our November meeting will again be a hands-on project using the pressed ferns that we did plus a few more that I will bring. We will each have a nice botanical picture to take home. There will be more details on this meeting in the next newsletter.

It's that time of year again when we select our officers for 2018. I will be appointing a chair person to head up the committee and the membership will vote for two members to work on this committee with the chair person. I want to thank everyone in advance for all your support in this process. It is what keeps our society going. New blood is always a good thing to introduce different ideas to keep our society interesting, educational, and entertaining. Our membership continues to increase while many societies are declining so let's keep working together to continue growing our great organization.

We will have a board meeting following the program in October. If you have anything to add to the agenda, please let me know by the 10th. If any of the board members are not going to be able to make the meeting, please let me know ahead of time.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in October. In the mean time, I wish you happy ferning.

Darla



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting after the regular membership meeting on October 15, 2017 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



October Program Note

“A Natural History of Fern Gametophytes”

by Jerald Pinson

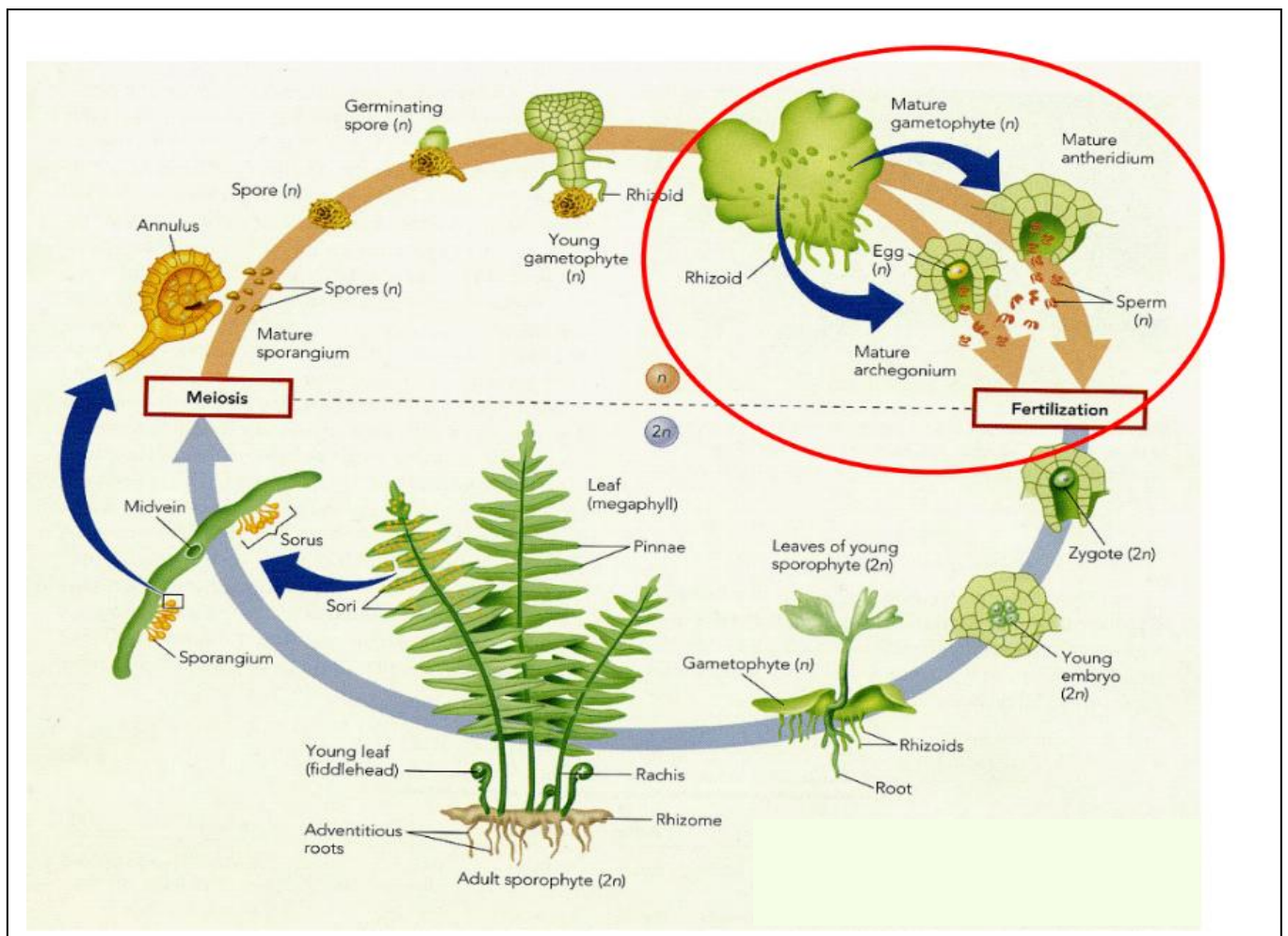
Jerald Pinson is a PhD candidate with the Sessa lab at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He is interested in the evolutionary and natural history of plants, particularly ferns. He is currently conducting molecular research on ferns with long-lived gametophytes that are able to forego the production of a sporophyte.

Why do I need to know the history of a fern gametophyte? Good question. Without spoiling the talk, let me try to answer your questions. The fern life cycle is made up of sporophyte (fern) and gametophyte (reproductive stage) which are both free-living multi-generational parts of this cycle (the chicken and the egg). The spore starts the

beginning of the developmental process that produces a gametophyte. Most ferns produce a cordate, or heart-shaped, gametophyte but there are other shaped gametophytes as well. If you know which ferns produce which type of gametophytes, you can look at a gametophyte and have a good idea what fern it might be.

Gametophytes have both male and female parts. Some ferns need two gametophytes to cross for fertilization while other ferns can self fertilize. There are also some apogamic ferns where the spore acts more like vegetative reproduction and does not need fertilization at all. These all lead to the reason why ferns have managed to stand the test of time, even though they are a rather primitive plant.

Submitted by: Darla Harris





Up and Coming Attractions:

2017:

Oct 15: "A Natural History of Fern Gametophytes"
by Jerald Pinson

Nov 19: "Mounting Pressed Ferns on Artist Canvas"
by Jan Kramer

Dec 10: Holiday Party – 1 PM
at Mary McConnell’s home

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



**Statement of Income & Expenses
July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017**

INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 40.00
Raffle Income	123.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.72</u>
Total:	\$ 163.72

EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$ 83.17
Speakers	\$ 332.00
Club Store	\$ 25.00
Bank Charges (checks)	\$ <u>26.16</u>
Total:	\$ 466.33

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

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

Balance 9-30-2017: \$8,750.69

Net Gain Loss for 3rd Qtr: \$ (302.61)

Net Gain Loss for 2017: \$ (483.88)

Submitted by Beth Ayer, Treasurer



September Raffle Donors:

Thank you to our Donors: Frank Lee, Hannah Martin, Ruth McDonald, Larry Rucker, and Faye Stansberry



Please Welcome Our New Members

**Ruby Adams, Glenda Perry,
and Alejandra Vasco**



Refreshments:

Refreshments for September were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Judith Neufeld, Brenda Wilson, and anyone else who may have forgotten to sign the list.

Refreshments for October will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer
 Savory: Ruth McDonald
 Dessert: Cherie Lee
 Service ware: Ruth McDonald

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!



2018 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2018 membership are now being accepted. 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.



Diplazium proliferum

Diplazium is a small group of ferns that grow in the Tropical to Sub-tropical climates of both the Old World and New World areas of the world. It is made up of 33 species (this number may go up) all being terrestrial with rhizomes varying from erect to a long creeping one. They grow best in constant moist, cool, humid conditions however, some have adapted to both warmer and cooler climates.

Diplaziums are a great back-drop fern due to their size which ranges from two and a half to three feet tall. They vary in their leaf structure from a simple and entire frond (like a bird's nest fern frond) to a four-pinnate-pinnatifid frond (like an Australian tree fern). Their rachis (stem) groove is U-shape and the sori (spore) pattern is linear along the vein.



Rachis groove is U-shaped



Frond veins



Sori pattern linear along the veins

Some closely related ferns are the *Athyrium*, like the Japanese painted fern, and *Deparia* which is not grown much in our area even though it is ground hardy for us. (I'm currently testing some so I'll let you know how they do.)

Diplazium proliferum is native to Africa, Madagascar, and from Malaysia to Polynesia. It is a tropical fern and thus needs protection from freezes. It does not like to dry out and prefers to grow in medium light in humid conditions. It grows on a large upright rhizome that gets four or five inches tall. The fronds are large and the overall plant size is about two and a half feet tall. The stems are very strong and can become almost trunk like. This is a good thing because it is a mother fern forming buds (babies) along the midrib which can be propagated easily. The veins are netted and you can see the fronds are one-pinnate with coarsely serrated or lobed edges.

This is a lovely fern with nice dark green foliage, definitely worth being in your fern collection.



Buds (babies) along the midrib



Diplazium proliferum

Submitted by: Darla Harris





**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
General Meeting - September 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 welcomed our three new members. She reminded members to sign up to bring refreshments to our meetings.

In October our guest speaker will be Jerald Pinson, a gametophyte expert. In November, Jan Kramer will lead us in a project putting our pressed ferns from the meeting today on canvas.

Darla discussed the forming of the upcoming Nominating Committee. As President, she will select one member to be on the committee and then the membership will elect two additional members at the October meeting. This committee will put together a slate of officers for the membership to vote on at our November meeting.

Darla thanked Larry Rucker for putting together presses for our meeting and Brenda Wilson for bringing newspaper to use in them. We also thanked Darla for cutting the cardboard for the presses.

Program: The September meeting was presented by Alejandra Vasco. Alejandra discussed the importance of herbariums for research, for a record of where plants grow or used to grow, and for any other distinguishing information such as when plants are fertile/flower. She also discussed the data normally included with the specimens. Alejandra then demonstrated how to press fronds, to fold large fronds for pressing, and to collect rhizomes for pressing. Darla handed out fronds and everyone had the opportunity to try their hand at folding and pressing ferns.

Attendance: 19 members (including 3 new members) attended

Raffle: \$32 raised selling raffle tickets

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM

Submitted by: Cherie Lee for
Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



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



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.



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the November Newsletter is November 1, 2017. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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:
October 17, 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 meetings are:
October 5, 2017 & November 2, 2017

**September Program
“Pressing Ferns”
by Alejandra Vasco**



Our speaker Alejandra Vasco



