



January 2018

Vol. 20 No. 1

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 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! "Happy New Year"

Welcome to 2018 and a new year in ferns! We are starting this year off with very cold weather. I hope everyone was ready and that all your plants survived this cold snap. I hope I was ready. We will know in the spring how everything fared.

What a great party we had at Mary McConnell's house. The food was wonderful and the gift exchange was fun. I really enjoyed getting to talk to folks that I don't always get a chance to talk with at the busy meetings. We missed those who were unable to attend and hope we will see you at the January meeting. We will be looking for two members to host our summer social and our end of the year party for 2018. Let Larry Rucker or me know if you would like to do this for the Society.

We have part of the year's meetings already planned and set. We talked about the field trip we have planned in March for an overnight in Austin. We have run into a conflict on dates. We are looking at changing the date of the field trip to the 24/25 of March. That would be the fourth weekend. We will talk further about this at the January meeting and decide what is best for everyone.

Our January meeting is a hands-on meeting so be prepared to play with moss and a fern. We will have a short talk on *Selaginella* and then we will be planting one in a basket. There will be one per paid membership. The cost is \$10 for non-members.

Remember it is time to pay your dues if you have not already. Please see Beth Ayer or Marcia Livingston and keep your membership active. I hope we continue with our membership growth this coming year. It is really nice getting to know more people who love ferns.

Our February meeting will also be a project on bird's nest ferns. There will be a short talk on them to

start the meeting and then we will plant them in a side mount basket. So for two meetings in a row we will learn more about two types of ferns and ways to grow them.

In April we have an out of town speaker coming to talk to us on Staghorn ferns. He has grown them for many years in California and will have lots to tell us. He spoke to our group about 8 years ago and was very well received. It should be great!

We need your help with refreshments this month. We had the party last month so the signup sheet did not get passed around. If you know what you can bring, please let Ruth McDonald or Raini Cunningham know. Otherwise, surprise us.

See you at the meeting,

Darla



January Program Note

“Ferns and Lycophytes - *Selaginella*”

by Lisa George and Larry Rucker

For those who have been learning about Fern Allies for a number of years have now learned the term Allies is no longer used but rather the name Lycophytes is used which includes *Selaginella*. We are going to be talking about *Selaginella* at our meeting. This genus is made up of over 700 species, most growing as epiphytes with others growing as terrestrial plants on the forest floor. There is a very wide distribution of *Selaginella* with most being from the tropics, but some also grow in the Arctic. Most are moisture loving but there are those that grow under very dry conditions. They are grown for all the wonderful colors, textures, and different types of growing habits.

Part 1: We will have a 20-30 minute talk/PowerPoint and examples of several *Selaginella* to view presented by Lisa George.

Part 2: We will be working with a cold/heat hardy *Selaginella* that grows as an epiphyte. We will be mounting it in a half basket in moss. Larry Rucker had one growing on a large two foot by three foot wall mounted half basket that was just beautiful. We will be doing a smaller version, but feel free to try a larger one on your own. It is truly magnificent. The hands on class will follow the talk and be presented by Larry Rucker.

We will have materials for 30 projects. Please take only one project per paid membership. There is a \$10 fee for non-members.



Photo by Malcolm McCorquodale



Up and Coming Attractions:

2018:

- Jan 21: “*Selaginella*”
short talk by Lisa George
“Mounted *Selaginella* ‘Gold Tips’ Project”
by Larry Rucker
- Feb 18: “Bird’s Nest Ferns”
short talk by Darla Harris
“Mounted Bird’s Nest Project”
by Larry Rucker
- Mar 17/18: Field trip to Austin Zilker Botanic Garden
and Fern Viewing in Field West of Austin
- Apr 15: “*Platyserium*”
by Don Callard

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



Statement of Income & Expenses October 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

<u>INCOME</u>	
Membership Dues	\$ 520.00
Raffle Income	163.00
Club Store	25.00
Donations	10.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.60</u>
Total:	\$ 718.60

<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Program	\$ <u>185.52</u>
Total:	\$ 185.52

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

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

Balance 12-31-2017: **\$9,283.77**

Net Gain Loss for 4th Qtr: **\$ 533.08**

Net Gain Loss for 2017: **\$ 49.20**

Submitted by Beth Ayer, Treasurer



Lemmaphyllum microphyllum

A novelty fern from Eastern Asia (Japan, South Korea, China, and Taiwan), there are six species in the genus *Lemmaphyllum*. *L. microphyllum* is grown mostly in terrariums, small pots, or small hanging baskets due to its small size. In nature, these are epiphytes and grow on tree ferns, trees, and rocks.

They have small, creeping rhizomes that are very thin almost string like. The leaves are thick and could remind you of a succulent even though they are smaller than a dime. They have dark shiny green leaves with fertile leaves and sterile leaves, making them dimorphic, meaning the two leaves look different from each other. The sterile leaf is ovate to almost round. The fertile leaf is elongate and stands above the other fronds to help with spore dispersal. The sori form two lines, one on either side of the midrib. Even though the sori lack indusia, it is protected by umbrella-shaped hairs.

The only down side I have had with growing this fern is that it grows very slowly. The surprising thing about this tiny fern is that it is pretty cold hardy and can go below freezing without damage so it is worth growing inside or outside.



Sterile leaves



Fertile leaves

Submitted by: Darla Harris



Refreshments:

Refreshments for January will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer
Savory: Beth Ayer
Desserts: Cherie Lee
Service ware: 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 2018. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



2018 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2018 membership are now being accepted. Thank you to our members who have already renewed. 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.



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Holiday Party – December 10, 2017

This year's Holiday party was hosted by Mary McConnell at their home in Houston. Thirty-one members attended and everyone had an enjoyable time: great people and great food. The gift exchange was full of surprises with a wide range of gifts including live plants and other gardening items.

We missed those of you who couldn't make it, maybe next year.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee for Secretary Diane Hudnall



2018 Officers and Committees:

President: Darla Harris
Vice President: Larry Rucker
Secretary: Donna Williams
Treasurer: Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large: Jacqueline Smith
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



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 February Newsletter is January 30, 2018. 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:
January 16, 2018

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:
February 1, 2018

**Holiday Party – December 10th
Hosted by Mary McConnell**



Our hosts Mary McConnell and Claude



