



February 2018

Vol. 20 No. 2

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 18, 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,

What a great meeting! I have heard such good feedback on both Lisa George's presentation on *Selaginella* and the fun project of mounting the *Selaginella kraussiana* 'Gold Tips' led by Larry Rucker. Lisa discussed how ferns and lycophytes differ mostly in the structure of their leaves and spores. She explained that the genus *Selaginella* was in the lycophyte family and covered both hardy and tropical types of *Selaginella* as well as their very diverse growing conditions from the rich moist tropical forest to the harsh dry conditions of the desert. She covered the Texas natives and had some examples like *S. lepidophylla* that can tolerate no water for an extended length of time but rehydrate to a beautiful lush green in just a short few hours. Some lucky members got to take home some cool lycophytes that Lisa donated to the raffle.

Lisa was followed by Larry Rucker who discussed his growing experience with the project plant and warned us to keep it moist but not too wet and not to over fertilize it. He then instructed us on the project and made sure everyone ended with a successful mounted *Selaginella* to take home. Excellent job by both Lisa and Larry!

This month will be another hands-on project and short talk on bird's nest ferns. We will have all the materials once again, but this time the fee for members is \$5.00 and non-members \$15.00 to defray part of the cost of the project. See the program notes for more information.

At the January meeting, we discussed the conflict of our March field trip on our normal scheduled meeting date with the South by Southwest Festival in Austin. We have not resolved the field trip conflict as of this date. We will send out an email to everyone as soon as we know something. If you are planning on attending,

please send me an email or text message and let me know at darla@fernplantation.com.

We have lots of great programs we are working on for the rest of the year but have not been able to get the dates down just yet. If you have anything you would like to learn more about, please get with Larry Rucker so we can try to get it worked in. We do need two volunteers for the society parties in August and in December, so please let Ruth or Raini know if you would like to volunteer.

Don't forget to renew your membership. If you would like to renew for multiple years, our Membership / Treasurer would be happy to work with you on that. I know sometimes we get busy and forget.

We have a newly donated book in our library and would like to thank our member Joanne Sharpe for this generous gesture. Please read more under the book review.

I know everyone is ready to get their yards back in order after this rough winter but just remember, winter is not officially over so don't make your ferns vulnerable to another freeze just yet.

Take care everyone, and hope to see you at the meeting!

Darla



February Program Note

"Bird's Nest Ferns"

by Darla Harris and Larry Rucker

This month we are going to have a presentation on bird's nest ferns by Darla Harris followed by a project lead by Larry Rucker.

The presentation will include how to identify the different varieties by looking at their fronds. This will help you determine just how to grow them and how

much cold they can handle. In nature, bird's nest ferns grow mostly in tropical and sub-tropical areas of the world as epiphytes on tree trunks and limbs but can also grow on rocks.



Bird's nest ferns are in the genus *Asplenium*, however, this is a huge group of over 650 ferns of all shapes, types, and growing conditions. In the future, this group will most likely be broken into smaller groups based on DNA, molecular studies. We are only going to be looking at one group of this family, specifically the ones most easily found here in the United States. Nurseries have been selling many of these ferns under the wrong names so we want to try to correct this in our own collections. I will bring as many examples of the different bird's nest ferns as I have available.



Submitted by Darla Harris



Hello fernies. This month you will find out a secret on how to grow bird's nest ferns and if you follow it, this will become one of the simplest of ferns to grow. We will also be mounting *Asplenium antiquum* 'Victoria' in a half basket after the presentation which should give you another great plant to take home. All the materials will be provided but this time the fee for members is \$5.00 and non-members \$15.00.



Don't forget to bring a raffle plant if you still have any alive after this winter. See you there.

Submitted by Larry Rucker



Up and Coming Attractions:

2018:

Feb 18: "Bird's Nest Ferns"
short talk by Darla Harris
"Mounted Bird's Nest Project"
by Larry Rucker

Mar TBD: TBD

Apr 15: "Platyseriums"
by Don Callard

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



2018 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2018 membership are now being accepted. Thank you to the 70% of our members who have already renewed. If you have not 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.



January Raffle & Silent Auction Donors

Thank you to our Raffle Donors: Lisa George, Darla Harris, Frank Lee, and Faye Stansberry

Thank you to our Auction Donor: Patrick Hudnall



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 28, 2018. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



Refreshments:

Refreshments for January were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Raini Cunningham, Midge Gorman, Cherie Lee, Malcolm McCorquodale, Ruth McDonald, Jim Migliavacca, Lee Rowell, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, Donna Williams, Gary Woolridge, and anyone else who may have forgotten to sign the list.

Refreshments for February will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer
Food Items: Biruta Claunch, Lee Rowell, and Donna Williams
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 2018. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



Book Review

Fern Ecology

Edited by Klaus Mehlreter, Lawrence R. Walker, and Joanne M. Sharpe

Published by Cambridge University Press, 2010

We have a little gem of a fern library, but it has been enriched by the addition of *Fern Ecology* donated by one of the co-editors and member of TGCFS, Joanne Sharpe. In the preface, she and her colleagues describe how the book is an effort to answer questions such as the effect of fern habitats, the interaction between ferns and other organisms, the challenges of fern management, as well as ecosystem nutrient cycles. To this end, they introduce the reader to worldwide research on these and other issues. The writing styles are accessible and the illustrations, glossary, extensive references, and index are invaluable. Whether you are a fern expert or a novice, Joanne's wonderful gift helps us appreciate all the more this fascinating group of plants which brings us together as a society. Check it out!

Submitted by: Ruth McDonald



Campyloneurum phyllitidis

Campyloneurum is one of the many strap ferns with about 50 species all from the tropical Americas including Florida natives so they are New World ferns. Almost all of the *Campyloneurum* are epiphytes and are grown in collections mounted or in baskets.



C. phyllitidis is a zone 9 fern so could be grown outside in our area provided we don't have a hard winter freeze like this year. It has a medium wide frond (about 2"-3") and forms a short-creeping rhizome. It grows in a cluster and shoots its fronds out in a very nice arching manner reaching about 12-15" long. The frond itself has a very narrow stipe or stem then widens out to about 3' long and then tapers off to a point at the end. On the back of the frond the sori are lined up in rows with four on either side of the midrib and they rest inside the veins. There are also crested ones in cultivation. They prefer growing conditions on the drier side of moist and do best under medium light. They also grow well from spore. These are beautiful light yellow green ferns and are well worth growing.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
General Meeting – January 21, 2018

The January meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by President, Darla Harris.

General Meeting: Darla announced that the field trip scheduled for March has encountered a problem because of the South by Southwest Festival occurring at the same time. She discussed several options and asked for a show of hands for those who would be able to attend on various dates. She will bring this up again at the February meeting for a definite commitment.

The February meeting will be a “hands-on” presentation on bird’s nest ferns. Darla will give a short talk after which Larry Rucker will lead a workshop on mounting these ferns. In April we will have a guest speaker.

A signed copy of a new book on fern ecology has been donated by the author to our library. It should be here by next month’s meeting.

Mary McConnell passed around a petition signature sheet for changing the name of the park across the street from her house.

Darla announced that we will have periodic silent auctions, in addition to the monthly raffle, to help bring in additional club monies. The item this month was an “Old Man Palm” brought in by Patrick Hudnall.

Darla asked for hosts/hostesses for the parties in August and December. She also reminded us to sign up to bring food to the meetings.

Program: The program for January was on *Selaginella*. It was presented by Lisa George who gave a very informative talk and slide show. This was followed by a hands-on project led by Larry Rucker who demonstrated how to mount *Selaginella* ‘Gold Tips’ in a basket.

Lisa told us that *Selaginella* (also known as “Spike Moss”) is not really a fern or a moss but a lycophyte. There are 700 species in this one genus, 39 are in the United States and 15 occur in Texas. She showed slides of many different, beautiful *Selaginellas* and talked a bit about each one’s primary characteristics. There is a lot of diversity in this group of plants. She also had live specimens on the tables for all to pass around. These plants should not be fertilized as they can easily burn. They like a lot of moisture, but must not be overwatered.

Larry then passed out beautiful baskets, moss, fishing line, and large hooks and proceeded to show us

how to mount our own *Selaginella* ‘Gold Tips’. Each person got a plant and all the equipment to pot the baskets.

The raffle and silent auction followed this project. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Attendance: 34 members

Raffle: The raffle brought in \$74 and the silent auction brought in \$30.

Respectfully submitted by: Donna Williams, Secretary



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 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:
February 20, 2018

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:
March 1, 2018

January Program
“Ferns and Lycophytes - *Selaginella*”
by Lisa George and Larry Rucker



Program Speaker Lisa George



Project Leader Larry Rucker



***S. uncinata* – Peacock Spikemoss**



***S. erythropus* ‘Sanguinea’ – Ruby Red**



S. lepidophylla – Resurrection



S. corallina – Rock Sp.



S. plana – Cypress Spikemoss



S. braunii – Arborvitae



S. stauntoniana



S. kraussiana – ‘Gold Tips’



Completed Project
***S. kraussiana* – ‘Gold Tips’**



Silent Auction Winner – Jim Migliavacca
‘Old Man Palm’ Donated by Patrick Hudnell