



March 2018

Vol. 20 No. 3

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Field Trip: Sunday, March 18 – “Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites”
Meet at Weikel's Bakery, 2247 W. State Highway 71, La Grange, TX 78945 at 10:00 a. m.**

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone!

I hope all who were able to attend the February meeting enjoyed learning a little more about bird's nest ferns and love the new addition to their fern collection. We are off to a fun start this new fern year with two projects right off the bat. This month we will have a wonderful field trip. If you are able to join us, please email me at darla@fernplantation.com and include your cell number so we will know to expect you. We do not want to leave anyone behind if you are just running a little late. If it is easier for you, my cell is 281-733-5564 so you can call or text RSVP instead. Please feel free to load this number in your phone so you can contact me anytime for questions you might have now or in the future. Please read the program note where Larry Rucker and Adam Black explain more about the field trip. This is going to be a fun and exciting trip! I have never been there before and I'm really looking forward to seeing everything. Let's hope for wonderful weather, but rain or shine, I'll be there.

We currently have 79% renewal for this year's membership. If you have not renewed, please do so before the newsletter and directory cutoff date the end of March. We value all our members and hope you are enjoying your newsletter and our monthly meeting if you are local. With a renewal rate of only \$10.00 for a member or \$15.00 for a family, it is a pretty good value in today's world.

Our April meeting should be a very interesting meeting on *Platyceriums*, by Don Callard, one of the best staghorn growers in southern California. We will have something nice for the silent auction as well as nice raffle plants related to the topic. We will also try to have some nice examples of staghorns for everyone to view. There will be more on this in the April newsletter but I wanted everyone to be sure to mark their calendar for April 15th.

We have planned a comprehensive program on growing from spore for the May meeting. We have had some mix results on our last couple of attempts at trying some new methods. This is disappointing and I know everyone wants to have success at growing from spore. Thus, we will be putting together a talk and supplies for a good shot at growing from spore. I will put more information in the April newsletter so you will have time to get your lighting set up and ready for your spores on day one. This will help in the process as they require 14-16 hours of light to get off to a good start. I was asked at the last meeting if I had any success on the ones we did in October. I had answered no, but I checked again and found I did have some growing on the one marked #1 the *Dryopteris wallichiana*. The one in the petri dish was a total failure with what looked like contamination. Let's keep our fingers crossed that #3 still comes up. Let me know how yours are doing. Growing from spore does not give overnight results. It takes time and commitment to allow them to do their thing.

Upcoming talks are on the 'Ferns of Nepal' and on 'Marsilea, The Clover Water Fern' with its very unique reproduction from spore. This will be a live showing of germination. We are still working to confirm dates for these two out of town speakers. Once this is done, we will fill the remaining months. We will keep you posted!

It's almost Spring! I can't wait to get the yard back together after this hard winter. If you make it to March Mart at Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens on March 17th, come by and say "Hi". I will have a fern booth there and Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston will have a membership drive table. If you want to help, let any of us know!

See you in La Grange!!

Darla



FIELD TRIP SUNDAY MARCH 18 AT 10 AM

Please RSVP to Darla Harris if attending

NO REGULAR MEETING IN MARCH



March Field Trip

**“Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery State
Historic Site”**

Hi fern buddies,

It's spring time again and we are going on a field trip. This time we are going west to La Grange, Texas. The trip from Houston takes approximately two hours so be sure to leave yourself plenty of time.

We are meeting at Weikel's Bakery, 2247 W. State Highway 71, La Grange, TX 78945 on March 18th at 10 AM.

La Grange is a small Czech community founded in 1837. It is the county seat of Fayette which was named after the Marquis de Lafayette. The town is named after his chateau.

Adam Black from Peckerwood Gardens will be our guide once we leave the bakery. Our destination is Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes and it might be wise to wear a hat. You may want to have some bottled water and even an umbrella in case of a spring shower. There are five trails on site but our fearless leader knows where our elusive ferns are hiding. If the walk becomes too much for anyone, you can relax at the picnic tables.



The historic site is on a bluff overlooking the Colorado River and is quite beautiful. During the Texas fight for independence against Mexico, some Texans were captured and were told to draw a black or white bean from a bag. The men who drew out the black beans were shot and were later interred at this site.

After this part of the trip, we will head back to La Grange for lunch at Sealand Seafood and Steak, 2359 W. State Highway 71. After lunch you may want to take a look around town. The court house is a limestone Romanesque jewel. It was built in 1891 and has been restored but is not open on Sundays. The original jail is still there along with the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center and The Texas Quilt Museum. There are also various shops scattered around town. Guys, I'm sorry but due to the interference of a Houstonian named Marvin Zindler, the Chicken Ranch is no longer open.

I think we will have a great time so I hope you can make this trip. La Grange is a perfect example of small town Texas if you have the time to get off I-10.

Hope to see you there.

Submitted by Larry Rucker

From our guide Adam Black:

Will Fleming first took me to Monument Hill State Park, La Grange, TX. Due to the rock outcrops, it has a lot of disjunct easternmost extents of things otherwise found in the hill country. Several *Pellaea*, *Cheilanthes*, *Adiantum*, and surely more genera are in the forest. The area has a mix of open sunny rocky areas and moist shady woodlands with streams. This is a really neat place with some nice views above the river and an historic building too.





Up and Coming Attractions:

2018:

Mar 18: "Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery
State Historic Site"
Guided by Adam Black

Apr 15: "Platyseriums"
by Don Callard

May 20: "Growing from Spore"
by TBD

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



2018 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2018 membership are now being accepted. Thank you to the 79% 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 Donors

Thank you to our Raffle Donors: Biruta Claunch, Bret Cunningham, Darla Harris, Jan Kramer, Cherie Lee, Malcolm McCorquodale, Fred Robinson, Faye Stansberry, and Carolynne White



Refreshments:

Refreshments for February were generously furnished by:

Ruby Adams, Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Raini Cunningham, Joy Hudson, Cherie Lee, Susan Peacock, Faye Stansberry, Donna Williams, Brenda Wilson, and anyone else who may have forgotten to sign the list.

There will be no refreshments in March due to the field trip.

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!



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



Editor's Comments

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

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



Winter Hardy Ferns for the Houston Area

Now that we have gone through two years of hard freezes, we are looking for plants for our yards that can take the extreme weather this part of Texas can experience. One thing you need to consider is what your ferns are planted under. I have found if I plant my borderline ferns, the zone 9 ferns when I'm probably in zone 8, under evergreen type trees they do better. For example, the Vegetable Fern (*Diplazium esculentum*) planted in partial shade under deciduous trees will freeze down and not come back in a colder than normal winter. However, the ones I planted up under a large cedar tree that keeps its leaves are coming back and are about two inches tall already. It helps keep the frost off and it seems to really make a difference. Other ferns that I have found this to be true for are: Japanese Beech Fern (*Thelypteris decursive-pinnate*) and Maidenhair 'Peaches and Cream' (*Adiantum macrophyllum*).

There are a lot of the Texas natives that do very well in our area. Many of them will lose all their leaves but will do a fresh new flush of crosiers once the weather stays warmer. Some wonderful ferns that fall under this category are: the American Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis spectabilis*), Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), and Southern Wood or River Fern (*Thelypteris kunthii*). Other non-native ferns that also do well are Blue Star Fern (*Phlebodium aureum*), Brazilian Tree Fern (*Blechnum brasiliensis*), and Mother Fern (*Woodwardia orientalis*).



Blechnum brasiliensis



Woodwardia orientalis



Cyrtomium fortunei

For those wanting evergreen ferns that can take anything our winters or summers can dish out, here are some examples: Shiny Bristle Fern (*Arachniodes davallaeformis*), East Indian Holly fern (*Arachniodes simplicior variegata*), Japanese Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*), Fortune's Cold Hardy Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium fortunei*), Autumn Fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*) Korean Rock Fern (*Polystichum tsus-simense*), and Leatherleaf Fern (*Rumohra adiantifomis*). Also, Krauss Spikemoss (*Selaginella Kraussiana*), the green and the gold tip, both do well.



Dryopteris erythrosora

These are a few of our readily available ferns that work well for the Houston area. Happy plantings.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting – February 18, 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 March field trip has been changed to a different location. It will be Sunday, March 18, (our usual meeting day) but we will be going to Monument Hill State Park near La Grange. She will do a write-up with more details. Adam Black will be guiding the tour.

The April program will be at our usual Judson Robinson location and we will have an outside speaker, Don Callard, who will speak on “*Platycterium*”. Because we won’t have our usual March meeting, Darla asked for food volunteers to sign up now for the April meeting.

Darla then asked for members to offer ideas on programs for upcoming meetings. Please let her know if you have a suggestion.

Program: The program for February was on “Bird’s Nest Ferns” given by Darla Harris and Larry Rucker. Darla gave a short talk which was followed by Larry guiding us in mounting a bird’s nest fern in a basket.

Darla told us that bird’s nest ferns are epiphytic and in the genus *Asplenium*, and she showed us several different examples. They require very well-drained conditions. If they wilt from being dry they can be revived with a little water but if they get too wet, they will completely die. There is no reviving them at that point! They must be potted or mounted in very well-draining medium such as the sphagnum moss we are using today. She told us that there are three types of

bird’s nest ferns we are likely to come across at local garden centers. These are *Asplenium nidus*, *Asplenium australasicum*, and *Asplenium antiquum* (our project plant). She passed out fliers with cross sections of different types and then passed around some cut leaves so we could try to identify them by looking at the cross section.

Larry and Darla then passed out beautiful plants, silver baskets, moss, fishing line, and large hooks and proceeded to show us how to mount our own bird’s nest fern, *Asplenium antiquum* ‘Victoria’.

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

Attendance: 31 members

Raffle: The raffle brought in \$77.

Respectfully submitted by: Donna Williams, Secretary



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.



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:
March 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:
April 5, 2018

**February Program
“Bird’s Nest Ferns”
by Darla Harris and Larry Rucker**



**Program Speaker Darla Harris
with *Asplenium antiquum* ‘Victoria’**



**Project Leader Larry Rucker
with *Asplenium nidus* ‘Lasagna’**



***Asplenium nidus* ‘Lasagna’**



***Asplenium antiquum* ‘Crissie’**



***Asplenium antiquum* ‘Leslie’**



Asplenium nidus 'Crispum'



Asplenium antiquum 'Victoria'



March 18th Field Trip 10 AM

“Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites”

Meet at Weikel's Bakery, 2247 W. State Highway 71, La Grange, TX 78945

From Houston: approx. 1hr 30min
I-10 W to TX 71 W in Columbus.
Take exit 695 from I-10 W.
Follow TX 71 W to La Grange

From Galveston: approx. 2 hr 20 min
I-45 N to I-10 W
I-10 W to TX 71 W in Columbus.
Take exit 695 from I-10 W.
Follow TX 71 W to La Grange

From Tomball/Spring/The Woodlands:
approx. 1 hr 50 min
TX-99 W to I-10 W to TX 71 W in Columbus,
Take exit 695 from I-10 W.
Follow TX 71 W to La Grange
or
TX-99 W to US 290 W to Texas 237 S to TX-159 W
to TX-71 W
Follow TX 71 W to La Grange

All:
On west side of La Grange, exit TX 71 toward FM 609
Turn left onto TX-71 Bus W then left onto
TX-71 Bus E
Destination on the right

