



May 2018

Vol. 20 No. 5

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 20, 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:

May Program

Hi Everyone,

“Hardy Ferns” by Darla Harris

What a great spring we have been having! Could use a little more rain but after all the flooding in the past three years, let's be careful what we ask for. I know many have lost a lot of plants in their gardens due to all the severe weather we have been having including the colder than normal winter. Seriously, snow three times in Houston, Texas in one winter season! Since we have had to move our May meeting program on spores to June due to a scheduling issue, I will be talking to you about ground hardy ferns for the Houston area instead. More information on this can be found in the Program Note.

What are hardy ferns? For us in the Houston area, it's ferns that can take both our heat and our cold weather and survive without having to be protected. There are some ferns that are right on the margin of our hot summers or our colder than normal winters but may work for us if we give them a little extra care. Within the hardy fern group we have clumping ferns and ferns that spread and fill in an area. We also have ferns that are evergreen and stay up year round and we have those that go down in winter to push all new growth in the spring. All of these can work in our gardens, even if your garden is in containers rather than planted.

I would like to thank Don Callard for making the trip to Houston to talk to us about *Platyseriums*. It was a great talk, teaching us about how they grow in the wild and in the home garden. It was interesting to learn that even the big Botanical Gardens can have issues growing some of these rare gems. The nice thing was to learn it can be done, starting off with the easier ones like the *P. bifurcatum* and *P. veichii*.

Most ferns really like to be protected from direct sunlight, especially the west sun, but there are ferns that can take a lot of sun. Some can even take that west sun with the proper amount of water. Other ferns can take deep shade like under those live oaks. Most ferns fall somewhere in the middle, liking morning sun with dappled midday to afternoon sun. I will be bringing about 25 different hardy ferns that work in our area. We will have a hands-on discussion of these ferns including how tall they will grow, what soil conditions they prefer, and any other questions you might have. These will be priced for sale if you see something you would like to take home with you.

In June, Patrick Hudnall and Dr. Joan Hudson will be showing us how to grow ferns from spores including a complete hands-on experience for our members. There will be more information on this in next month's newsletter.

It has been a very busy month for me so I'm going to keep this short and it's already late getting to Cherie for editing. I hope next month goes better.

Submitted by Darla Harris

Take care my fern friends!!

Darla

Please Welcome Our New Members

**Ceil & Rick Dow, Carol Smith,
and Barbara Stewart**

Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting after the regular membership meeting on May 20, 2018 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



Up and Coming Attractions:

2018:

- May 20: "Hardy Ferns"
by Darla Harris
- June 17: "Growing from Spore"
by Joan Hudson and Patrick Hudnall
- July 15: TBD
- Aug 19: Summer Party
at Jere Noerager's home

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



2018 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2018 membership are now being accepted. Thank you to all of you 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.



Refreshments:

Refreshments for April were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Raini & Bret Cunningham, Darla Harris, Cherie Lee, Jere Noerager, Larry Rucker, Rosalind Speed, Ken Warren, Donna & Johnny Williams, Brenda Wilson, and anyone else who may have forgotten to sign the list.

Refreshments for May will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer
Savory: Larry Rucker, Brenda Wilson
Dessert: Larry Rucker
Service ware: Raini & Bret Cunningham

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 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



The Big Thicket Field Trip - April 2018
Led by Mike and Stephanie Howlett of PetFlyTrap.com



Osmunda regalis var spectabilis
Royal Fern



Bracken Ferns

Cinnamon Ferns

Royal Ferns



Pteridium aquilinum
Bracken Fern



Osmundastrum cinnamomeum
Cinnamon Fern



Adiantum capillus-veneris Southern Maidenhair Fern





Woodwardia virginica Virginia Chain Fern



Woodwardia areolata Narrow-leaf Chain Fern



Thelypteris kunthii
Southern Shield Fern



Lygodium japonicum
Japanese Climbing Fern



Lycopodium appressa
Appressed Bog Club Moss



Selaginella apoda
Meadow Spike Moss



Calopogon tuberosus
Grass Pink



Pogonia ophioglossoides
Rose Pogonia



Sarracenia alata
Pitcher Plant



Drosera capillaris **Pink Sundew**



Pinguicula pumila **Butterwort**

Submitted by: Cherie & Frank Lee



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
April 15, 2018

The April meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by President Darla Harris.

General Meeting:

Darla announced that there will be a board meeting after the May general meeting and asked that all board members please be present if possible. Next month's program will be Patrick Hudnall discussing how he grows spore. There will be an informational article about lighting and growing spore in the newsletter prior to the meeting.

We had three new members join at this meeting. They are: Ceil and Rick Dow, and Barbara Stewart. We also had two visitors from the Houston area.

Darla thanked Larry Rucker for hosting our guest speaker and Lucy Melara, Jere Noerager, and Cherie and Frank Lee for inviting our speaker and visiting Florida members Sally and Frank Tastinger to tour their gardens.

Program:

The April meeting was given by Don Callard from Del Mar, California, and he gave an excellent talk and slide show on *Platyneriums* entitled, "World of *Platyneriums*: From A to Z". *Platyneriums* are commonly known as staghorn ferns. They have two types of fronds – a flat frond or shield and a leafy fertile frond.

In Don's presentation, he talked about 18 species and numerous cultivars. They truly did range from *P. alcorni* to *P. bifurcatum* 'Ziesenhenn'. He showed slides from many different parts of the world where these plants are found and told us a little about the requirements for each one. As with most plants, some are relatively easy to grow and some are extremely

difficult. Some of these have a dormant period so he advised that, if one of your *Platyneriums* appears to be dead, DON'T throw it out. Keep it at least a year to see if it will come back because many of them do.

Don's lecture was very well received by our club and we felt fortunate to have him in Houston.

Two raffles followed this presentation. The special one consisted of two mounted *Platyneriums* that Cherie and Frank Lee donated for the raffle. That special raffle brought in \$130. The general raffle consisted of a lovely assortment of plants and plant-related items donated by members and it brought in \$120.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:10 p.m.

Attendance: 37 members and 5 guests

Raffle: A total of \$250.

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.



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the June Newsletter is May 22, 2018. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*

Upcoming Events in the Houston Area:

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

– www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org –

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the West Gray Multi-Service Center 1475 W. Gray St., Houston, TX 77019

Next regular meeting is:
June 19, 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:
June 7, 2018

April Program
“World of *Platyceriums*: From A to Z”
by Don Callard



Our Speaker Don Callard



Special Raffle Winner - Larry Rucker
***Platycerium alcicorne* Africa**
Donated by Cherie & Frank Lee
Recently being grown by Patrick Hudnall



Special Raffle Winner – Ceil Dow
Platycerium stemaria
Donated by Cherie & Frank Lee