



June 2018

Vol. 20 No. 6

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, June 17, 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 hope everyone enjoyed the Hardy Fern presentation. We really do have a large number of different ferns that work well in our landscape here in the Houston area. I think I had 40 examples of ferns that are either evergreen for us or will at least shoot up new foliage in the spring even after a hard winter. We discussed that we are in a zone 8/9 area, depending on which side of town you live on, but this only applies to cold hardiness. You can have a plant zoned for 8 for cold but it cannot take our heat. Sometimes you have to move your ferns around just a little to get them more light or less light. That is all part of growing plants, getting to know them in your yard or house. Thank you for all the good questions, and to those who took ferns home, let me know if you have any questions. For those who did not get the plant they wanted, please call or text/email and I can bring it to the meeting for you. Or better yet, plan a trip out to my nursery sometime.

Our June meeting will include everything you need to know about growing from spore. Dr. Joan Hudson will start us off discussing spores and the process in nature that makes them propagate. Patrick Hudnall will then conduct a hands on step by step how to actually grow from spore. The one thing I want to tell you is that this is not an overnight happening. Spores take time to germinate and start to produce gametophytes. This can take weeks to months to see any results. You must be patient and not give up for a year sometimes. Ferns are not like the seed plants and behave in a totally different way. So I hope after the meeting you will have a better understanding of what to expect. I will give updates over the next few months on what to expect. Please see the Program note for more information.

I want to thank everyone for bringing snacks for the group! Please help our hospitality ladies by letting

them know what you plan on bringing or at least that you will be bringing something to the June meeting.

The raffle table has been full and has really helped keep our society funded. It is those funds that allow us to have these hands on projects for free to our membership most of the time. It pays for our speakers and the expenses associated with their programs. Plus, sharing extra plants is always a great thing!

August will be here before you know it and we will be having our Summer Party. These are a great way to get to know each other better and to bond as a group. We have a great group of people and I know I get very busy at our normal meetings and don't get to talk to everyone or even if I do, it's too short. So I love catching up with everyone at the parties, so please plan on attending. Jere Noerager is hosting our party and has a lovely yard with mature examples of some great ferns! So mark your calendar and plan on being there.

We are planning this year's plant swap for the fall. So now is the time to start propagating and dividing those plants that you want to trade for a new special plant. We will limit it to five plants to swap due to time and the number of people who will be participating. Remember you want someone to choose your plant/plant item so you get to pick next. So you need to bring at least two things that are really special so everyone will want them and you will get to choose from their special plants.

We have the calendar updated for dates and upcoming programs so you can be sure to attend. If you have any ideas for a program please let Larry know!

I hope you are enjoying your fern gardens, see you in June.

Darla



June Program

“The Magic of Growing from Spore”

Once upon a time it was thought that ferns came from fairy dust in the middle of the night. It was not until the 1800's that science learned how this really worked. The fact that ferns have lived and spread all over the world from this tiny dust we call spores is really amazing. The islands of the Pacific that were just left over piles of lava had spore blow in from the jet stream, made themselves right at home, and started these islands' vegetation. So if nature can do this, so can we!

Not all fern spore grow at the same speed or under the same conditions. Remember there are 12,000 different ferns, so that should not come as a great surprise. Most spores germinate under light and that is the type of spore we are going to use for our process. Thus, a grow light is best, but if you don't have one, you can use a table lamp or even a window sill. They do best if you can provide them with 8-16 hours of light. The temperature of the room also should stay between 70-85 degrees with 80 really being the best temperature. LED lights do not put off much heat so you might need to check your temperature since most of us do not keep our homes at 80 degrees. Try to keep it as close to it as you can for your spore to do the best. The other types of bulbs are florescent or incandescent and do put off heat so that type bulb will help keep your spore warm. Use what you have, but this is the goal. Have this planned out so you will be ready when you take your containers home.

Some spores are viable for years, while others are good for only a few days. Some spores need water to fertilize while others do not. You will need some distilled water at home for this project. We need to keep them as sterile as possible. Distilled water will cut down on contamination from the water. We do not want to get fungus or bacteria growing as it will choke out the process. Keeping the lid on is important for two reason, reducing contamination and maintaining even moisture. We don't want to let them dry out completely, yet we do not want to drown them either.

This is really rewarding and definitely something that can be done. We just have to let nature have time to do its thing. It can't be rushed.

Submitted by Darla Harris



Please Welcome Our New Members

Susan & Patrick Kopplin



Up and Coming Attractions:

2018:

- June 17: “The Magic of Growing from Spore”
by Joan Hudson and Patrick Hudnall
- July 15: “Wicking of Maidenhair Ferns for Indoor
and Outdoor Use”
by Darla Harris and Larry Rucker
- Aug 19: Summer Party
at Jere Noerager's home
- Sept 16: “Ferns of Nepal”
by George Yatskievych
- Oct 21: Plant Swap
- Nov 18: TBD

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



May Raffle Donors:

Thank you to our Donors: Cherie & Frank Lee, Marcia Livingston, Fred Robinson, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, and Ken Warren



Refreshments:

Refreshments for May were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Cherie Lee, Malcolm McCorquodale, Betsy Robinson, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, and anyone else who may have forgotten to sign the list.

Refreshments for June will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer
Savory: Ruth McDonald
Dessert: Cherie Lee
Service ware: Raini & Bret Cunningham

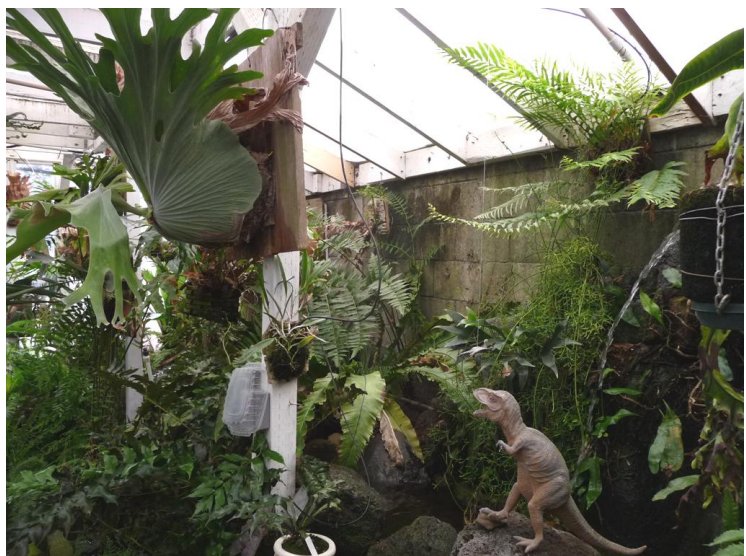
Please let Raini Cunningham, bnrc@xmission.com / 801-891-2254, or Ruth McDonald, rmmcdonald0@gmail.com / 979-530-6186, know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2018. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



**Beautiful Greenhouse and Collection of Don Callard (April 2018 Presenter)
May 2018 - Del Mar, California**



**Don and
*Platycerium superbum***



Platycerium elephantotis





Platycerium wallichii



Platycerium madagascariense



Submitted by: Cherie & Frank Lee



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
May 20, 2018

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



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.



The May meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Darla Harris.

General Meeting:

Darla announced that the previously planned meeting on “Growing from Spore” will be held next month instead. It will be a “hands-on” program led by Patrick Hudnall and Joan Hudson. The program for the July meeting will be announced later. The August meeting will be held at the home of Jere Noerager.

We had two new members (Patrick and Susan Kopplin) join at this meeting. One guest (Ellie) was also present.

Darla asked if anyone wanted to order a new T-shirt as she will be placing an order soon. The price will be \$10 per shirt. These are the black and green T-shirts that many members wear to the meetings.

Cherie Lee asked that newsletter contributors get their articles to her by Tuesday of next week as she has to go out of town.

Frank Lee reminded everyone that the library was in the back for those who might want to check out one of the great books we have on ferns.

Program:

Darla presented our program this month and it was on “Hardy Ferns” for the Houston area. These are ferns that can generally take the extreme heat and really cold weather that we have some years. A few of them may require protection during bouts of extreme weather.

She brought a huge number of examples and all were really beautiful. She talked about each of them, giving their growth habits and requirements (all shade, some shade, room to spread, soil requirements, water needs, etc.). These ranged from the tiny ‘dragon tail’ to the large Australian tree ferns.

Following the program, Darla let members come up and purchase plants that she had used in the program. This was a real treat for us as most of us went home with new varieties we have not tried before. ALL of the plants were very beautiful! Thank you, Darla!

Attendance: 25 members and 1 guest

Raffle: The raffle was then held with Larry Rucker calling out the lucky winners. The raffle brought in \$46 at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m. and was followed by a Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:
Donna Williams, Secretary



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Board Meeting – May 20, 2018**

The May Board Meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m. by President Darla Harris.

Attendance: Darla Harris, Beth Ayer, Cherie Lee, Larry Rucker, Jacqueline Smith, Donna Williams, and Johnny Williams.

General Meeting: Beth Ayer has been working for quite some time with the IRS regarding changing the dates of our fiscal year. This was necessary because the dates of our official year (per our bylaws) were in conflict with the official year dates of the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs which we had joined previously. She was working to return us to the January – December dates so that we will be in compliance with our bylaws. The IRS made the change in March but did not send the letter until later.

The question was then raised as to whether we want to continue membership in the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs and in several other garden club groups in this area as it costs TGCFS for membership fees and we get very little in return. Johnny Williams made the motion to withdraw from all these memberships and Larry Rucker seconded it. All voted in favor.

We are now officially our own Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501 (c) (3) thanks to all Beth’s efforts. This means we don’t have to pay sales tax on purchases made for the club, nor do we have to charge

taxes for any of our sales. We MUST file by May 15 of each year to maintain this exemption.

Beth passed around a copy of the current Monthly Income/Expenses sheet.

Darla asked for suggestions for two upcoming programs this year. One was to do another “hands-on” program on growing a maidenhair fern in a clear bowl. She showed us a picture of one that she had seen. She and Larry will work on this to see if it is a feasible project for our club.

Darla adjourned this meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
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 rmcdonald0@gmail.com or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



Editor’s Comments

Deadline for the July Newsletter is June 26, 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 meetings is:
July 5, 2018

May Program
“Hardy Ferns” by Darla Harris



Our Speaker Darla Harris

