

July 2018

Vol. 20 No. 7

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 15, 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 multifaceted talks on spore presented by Joan Hudson, Patrick Hudnall, and myself. I want to thank both Joan and Patrick for their contributions to make this presentation so wonderful. Joan makes biology 101 fun all over again and this time around most of us wanted to learn about it all. Patrick gathered up everything and had it all prepared for the hands-on portion of the program and I assisted him with the presentation portion. Don't forget if you have not already added some distilled water to the top of your peat pellets you need to do so for fertilization to occur. Without that we don't get a new sporophyte (fern) to grow. Also, don't forget to keep the light on your pellets. They need 8-12 hours a day of light either natural, LED, or incandescent.

We will be presenting a unique way of wicking a Maidenhair fern at our July meeting. Please see the July Program section of the newsletter for details. You will need to tell me or Larry Rucker which project (outdoor or indoor) you would like to participate in. Also, we do ask that you bring some of your own materials. The materials you need to bring are also listed in the July Program section.

Don't forget the August Summer Party at Jere Noerager's lovely home and beautiful yard. Start thinking about what food dish or other necessities you would like to bring to the party. Please get with Ruth McDonald and/or Raini Cunningham with your choice.

September we will be having George Yatskievych talking to us on the "Ferns of Nepal". I'm looking forward to this presentation. The Old World Ferns have always been of great interest to me. It's amazing how ferns can be found in different parts of the world and nowhere else. I'm sure we will be enlightened and surprised by the ferns that grow in that region of the world.

October is the Plant Swap. Don't forget five plants/plant related items only per paid member. Remember make it a good one, so everyone will want your plant!

We are still working out the details of the November meeting and will let you know soon.

Thank you everyone for all the wonderful refreshments and raffle plants. It really makes a big difference to the success of our meetings.

Happy plantings,

Darla



July Program

"Unique Wicking for Maidenhair Ferns"

If you have ever grown African Violets, you know the concept of wicking your plant. If you have not, you'll be learning a new concept. This project will put a spin on the traditional methods of wicking a plant. We will walk you through it step by step and you will learn a new way to take care of your Maidenhair ferns as well as have a lot of fun.

We need you to participate by bringing the container you would like to work with. We will be showing two methods of wicking:

- 1) outdoor growing in a clay pot,
- 2) indoor growing in a glass bowl.

Please RSVP Larry Rucker and/or Darla Harris which you would like to do.

If you choose 1) outdoor growing, you need to bring a 5" clay pot.

If you choose 2) indoor growing, you will need to bring:

- a) a glass bowl, at least 10" wide and at least 4" deep (it can be larger, but smaller will be difficult),

- b) something flat about 1" high, can be a rock, like flagstone or an inverted saucer, something your plant can sit on so it does not sit on the bottom of the bowl,
- c) either fine sand or fine gravel to cover your wicking material (example: aquarium gravel, lava rock/sand) (I will bring some extra tan sand),
- d) anything you want to use to decorate the inside of your bowl (for formal, maybe nothing; for whimsical, maybe a small frog or turtle or something like that).



For both projects, we will provide the Maidenhair fern and the wicking material. For project 1, we will also provide a reservoir for water. Project fee will be \$5.00 per member for the supplies, \$10.00 for non-members. We will have a few extra sets of materials for guests who might not know what is needed.

Submitted by Darla Harris



Up and Coming Attractions:

2018:

- July 15: "Unique Wicking for Maidenhair Ferns"
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



**Statement of Income & Expenses
April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018**

<u>INCOME</u>	
Membership dues	\$ 260.00
Raffle Income	387.65
Donations	5.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.44</u>
Total:	\$ 653.09
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Program Expenses	\$ 64.73
Speakers	346.58
Newsletter	<u>35.50</u>
Total:	\$ 446.81
Balance 12-31-2017:	\$9,283.77
Balance 3-31-2018:	\$9,347.08
Balance 6-30-2018:	\$9,553.36
Net Gain Loss for 2nd Qtr:	\$ 206.28
Net Gain Loss for 2018:	\$ 269.59



Refreshments:

Refreshments for June were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Raini & Bret Cunningham, Cherie Lee, Malcolm McCorquodale, Larry Rucker, and anyone else who may have forgotten to sign the list.

Refreshments for July will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Beth Ayer
- Savory: Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Ruth McDonald, Donna Williams
- 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!



June Raffle Donors:

Thank you to our Donors: Biruta Claunch, Bret & Raini Cunningham, Darla Harris, Pat Hudnall, Cherie & Frank Lee, Sandra Rigsby, Larry Rucker, Larry Smith, Faye Stansberry, and Ken Warren



Rainwater Harvesting

Recently we were experiencing problems with some of our house plants. After some research, we decided that the city water we were using was probably the culprit. We started using Reverse Osmosis (RO) water that we got from a local grocery store; this improved the plants that had not been thriving, so we felt that our diagnosis had been correct. The acquisition of the RO water was, as you might imagine, a pain. We decided to try rain water. We got two 55 gallon plastic drums to use as rain barrels. A visit to the Texas A&M web site (Aggiehort) provided the plan to prepare the barrels for use.

The completed rain barrel can be seen in Figure 1 below. Figure 2 shows the inlet and the downspout part of the rain barrel, the entire top is covered with screening to prevent mosquitos. I chose to put a wooden top on the barrel to make sure the local critters didn't go through the screen. Figure 3 shows the overflow system which is made up from a 2" PVC male adapter, a 2" PVC street elbow with a 2" electrical conduit nut to hold it on from the inside (this is also covered with screening to prevent mosquitos). The faucet is a 3/4" hose bib which was screwed into the side of the barrel with silicon caulking to prevent leaks. The faucet is not installed at the bottom of the barrel so that if foreign matter does manage to get into the barrel it will not stop the flow of water. The parts for the over flow and the hose bib are shown in Figure 4. Figure 5 shows the base which was made from treated 2"x4"s, this keeps the rain barrel off the ground and allows room for a container under the hose bib to get the water.

The rate that the rain accumulates is 0.6 gallons of water per one square foot of catchment area (in this case the roof area that the downspout serves) per one inch of rainfall. By my calculations this means that if the roof area being drained to the downspout is 400 square feet, a 20 foot by 20 foot area, it would produce 24 gallons for every one inch of rainfall. In our case, after the rain barrel was set up we received a three inch rain, this filled the barrel. Since the initial rain, the occasional shower has kept sufficient water in the barrel for our needs.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Submitted by: Johnny Williams



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.



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.



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the August Newsletter is July 31, 2018. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



Los Angeles International Fern Society Show and Sale – June 2018



Plants to be judged and for the show



Platycerium superbum
with Dan Yansura
showing the size



Platycerium 'Horne's Surprise'



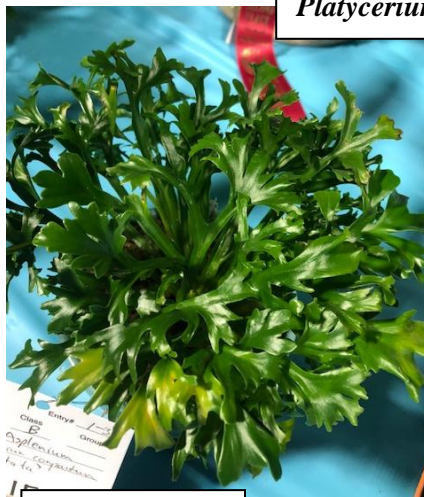
Platycerium hillii cv



Platycerium stemaria (left)
Platycerium andinum (right)



Platycerium elephantotis



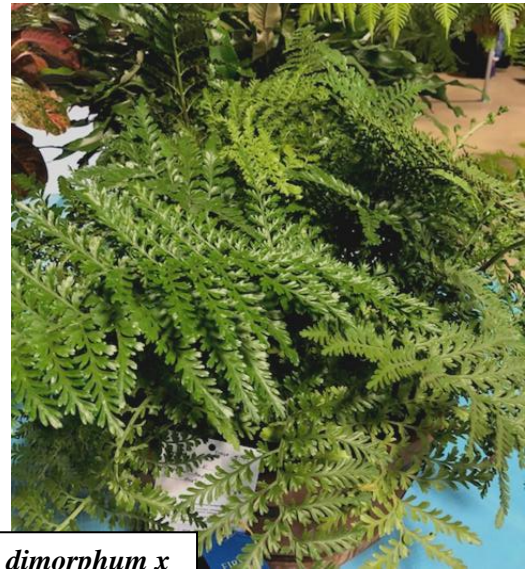
Asplenium cv



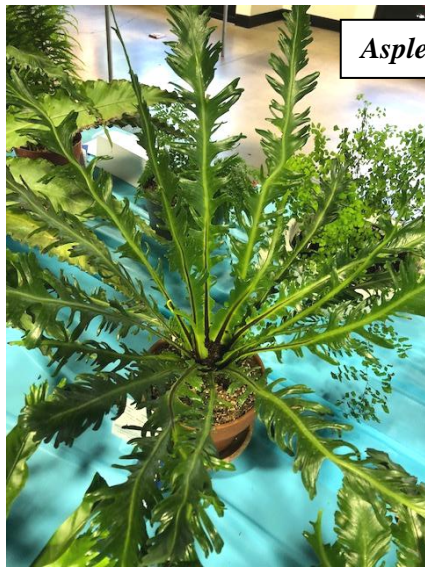
Lycophyte *Huperzia*



Fernando Orellama giving a talk on dividing pups off a large staghorn



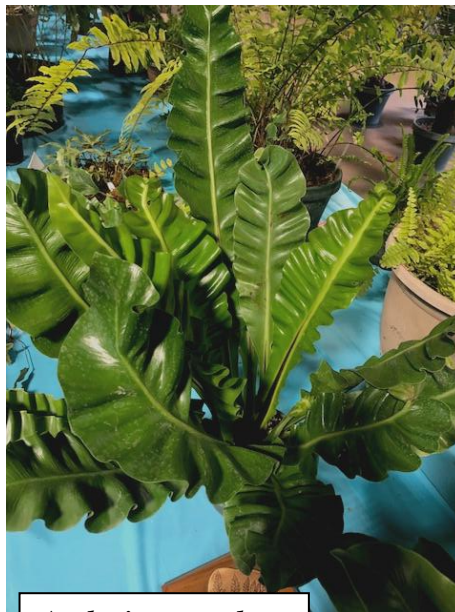
Asplenium dimorphum x difforme 'Austral Gem'



Asplenium nidus 'Fimbriatum'



Asplenium nidus 'Fimbriatum'



Asplenium petadum



Asplenium goudeyi



Asplenium antiquum

Submitted by Darla Harris

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
June 17, 2018

The June 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 July meeting will be presented by Larry Rucker and Darla Harris and will be on wicking Maidenhair ferns. Members will need to choose between two projects – one will be a decorative indoor fern and the other a wicked pot that can be placed outdoors. The club will provide the wicking material and the plants. Members will need to bring a clear container, a flat rock or similar substance to set the wicked fern on, and some rocks and sand or other ground material to cover the wicking (for the decorative project). Members will need to bring a clear or near-clear container with an opening at the top that will support a 4” pot (for the outdoor project). More about this will be in the next newsletter.

The August Summer Party will be at Jere Noerager’s home. The September program will be on the “Ferns of Nepal”, given by George Yatskievych. The October program will be our plant swap (limit of five plants per member). The November program is to be determined.

Program:

Dr. Joan Hudson and Patrick Hudnall gave this interesting program, “The Magic of Growing from Spore”. Dr. Hudson started the program with a very interesting lecture on spore and how they develop into new plants. This is sexual reproduction. She told us that spores and seeds are not the same thing. A spore is a single cell and they do not all look alike or have the same chromosome number. They are incredibly small

and cannot be seen with the naked eye. To begin reproduction, they will need water.

Spore can be collected when it is ripe (be sure it is not immature or already “spent”). Darla showed us how spore can be collected by laying the frond, spore-side down, on a sheet of white paper and waiting until they release. Then Patrick showed us how to clean them with a very fine sieve. Once this is done the spore can be transferred to a clean sheet of white paper which Darla showed us how to fold so that the spore is safely enclosed. This can be saved in the refrigerator or freezer for a long time as long as it does not get wet.

Members then proceeded in a hands-on guided project to put down three different kinds of spore (there were five to choose from). We used dampened pellet cups and placed them in closed containers. They should be placed under lights at home and watched. Darla told us to use a tiny amount of distilled water every seven days if they are beginning to dry. After the pellets get a green “carpet” on top, they should be watered lightly from the top to help with fertilization. They all stressed that this project takes time so not to try to rush it or to give up when we don’t see anything at first.

Attendance: 28 members and 3 guests, Margie Lee, Christine Oboye, and Larry Smith.

Raffle: The raffle was then held and we had many happy recipients of the great raffle items. The raffle brought in \$86 at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Donna Williams, Secretary

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:
July 17, 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:
August 2, 2018

June Program
“The Magic of Growing from Spore”
by Joan Hudson, Patrick Hudnall, and Darla Harris



**Our
Speakers**

