



August 2018

Vol. 20 No. 8

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, August 19, at 2:00 p. m. – Jere Noerager’s home, 12358 Longworth Lane, Houston, TX 77024 - Phone: (713) 467-4072 home; (832) 444-4872 cell

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

Party! Party! Party! I love our party time together. I hope everyone is able to attend. Remember, it's ok to bring your significant other. Please make sure you let our hospitality ladies know what you are bringing. It's August in Houston so plan on HOT. Jere and Suzanne have a lovely home and a yard you won't want to miss so wear walking shoes and cool clothes. There will be seating inside in various areas for eating. Please see the last page of the newsletter for maps and information on parking.

We will be having a guest speaker in September on "The Ferns of Nepal". I have never been there myself and cannot wait to see pictures of this awesome country and its beautiful ferns. The meeting will be in the back projection room.

Raffle has really done well this year! Thank you everyone for bringing in all the plants and items for the raffle. Keep up the good work. We will not have a raffle at the August party or the October plant swap meeting.

For the October plant swap, remember only five items per member, yes 10 for a couple if you want. It can be less than those numbers but not more. We have a lot of members and it ends up taking too long with too many choices. I'm sure you understand.

I want to thank Johnny Williams and Patrick Hudnall for their contributions to the newsletter. All are invited to submit articles for the newsletter. Let us know what your favorite fern is or how you are growing your ferns. The sharing of information helps us all to learn. There is one correction from the last newsletter. In the "Rain Harvesting" article, one inch of rain on 400 square feet of roof produces 248 gallons of water not 24 gallons. Sorry!

It has been really hot. I just want to remind you, that just watering more is not the answer if the plant is already hydrated. Don't over water your ferns. If your

maidenhair took a hit, just cut them back and they will push all new fronds for you soon.

Take care everyone,

Darla



Summer Party

Don't forget our Summer Party at Jere Noerager's home August 19th at 2:00 PM. Please let Raini Cunningham, bnrc@xmission.com / 801-891-2254, or Ruth McDonald, rmmcdonald0@gmail.com / 979-530-6186 know what refreshments you plan to bring.



Please Welcome Our New Members

Don Callard and Deborah Wallace



Up and Coming Attractions:

2018:

- 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



Refreshments:

Refreshments for July were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayer, Martha Burg, Biruta Claunch, Raini & Bret Cunningham, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Glenda Perry, Sandra Rigsby, Larry Rucker, Barbara Stewart, Donna Williams, and anyone else who may have forgotten to sign the list.

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!



July Raffle Donors:

Thank you to our Donors: Ruby Adams, Biruta Claunch, Bret & Raini Cunningham, Cherie & Frank Lee, Jere Noerager, Larry Rucker, Ken Warren, and Brenda Wilson



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



August Book Review

Hailed by the American Horticultural Society as one of the “75 Great American Gardening Books”, John Mickel’s *Ferns for American Gardens* is a core title for any important collection of fern resources. In its review, *American Gardener* stated that it is “both comprehensive and accessible. With detailed descriptions of more than 400 ferns and 350 photographs, this book offers enough to satisfy any fern collector, but there is plenty of practical advice for gardeners who just want to grow ferns.” The TCGFS Library has a copy, so consider checking it out.

Submitted by: Ruth McDonald



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.



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.



Ophioglossum

The photo shown is most likely *Ophioglossum vulgatum* though may be *petiolatum*. This specimen was started by Darla Harris and grown for the past few years by Pat Hudnall. It is easily grown and generally perennial or evergreen.



Ophioglossum is a genus of mostly small ferns that are grown in natural gardens or in pots as novelties. They are hard to find in the wild, and some species are rare. The temperate ones are often overlooked because they grow in open grassy areas and resemble other plants. One sure way to distinguish *Ophioglossum* from other plants is by the lack of a midrib on its blades—all other plants have a midrib or at least prominent parallel veins.

Nearly all the species of *Ophioglossum* are terrestrial; only a few are epiphytic. Most have short, erect, fleshy rhizomes and whitish or tan, fleshy roots. The fronds are divided in two parts: a green, photosynthetic sterile blade and an erect, elongate stalk. The fleshy blades lack a midrib. At the base of the sterile blade arises a long-stalked spike or several short spikes or a stalk branched into spikes at the top. The sporangia are sunken on both sides of the spike and open by a horizontal slit.

Ophioglossum vulgatum is hardy to zone 6 and both species mentioned above are native to southeastern US including Texas, though also found in other parts of the world. (Excerpted from the *Fern Grower's Manual* by Hoshizaki & Moran)

Ophioglossum is notable for having the highest chromosome count of any known living organism, with

1,260 chromosomes. This fern has roughly 630 pairs of chromosomes or 1260 chromosomes per cell. The fact that these cells can accurately segregate these enormous numbers of chromosomes during mitosis is truly remarkable. (*Ophioglossum*. Wikipedia).

Submitted by: Patrick Hudnall



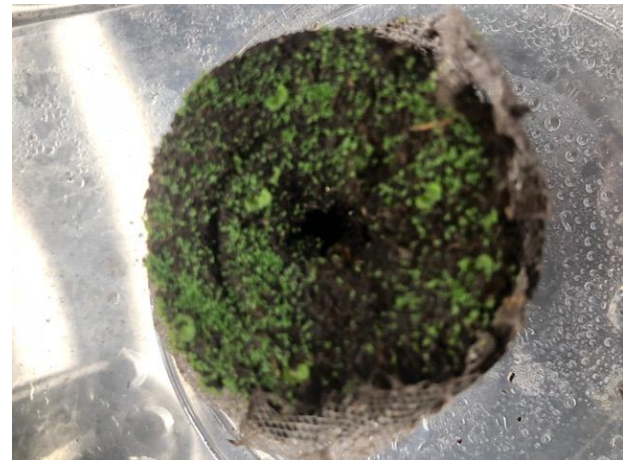
Update on Our June 18, 2018

Starting from Spore Project

1 *Blechnum brasiliense* Dwarf tree fern that puts off red new growth that turns green once mature. It tends to clump, putting off pups even on the trunk. Gets about 2 1/2 feet tall and can take bright light to morning sun with enough water. I find this to be a thirsty fern for me. It grows well in ground and in pots here in the Houston area. Cover for a hard freeze unless well watered.



2 *Pteris fauriei* A bright green colored fern that grows about 1 1/2' - 2' tall and does best in moderate light. A clumping fern that is evergreen for us and ground hardy for the Houston area. It does best in evenly moist to dry moist growing conditions. Works well potted or in ground.



3 *Phlebodium aureum* A large footed fern that does very well in a hanging basket. Green to blue green color fronds can get up to 2 1/2 - 3' long. I have found they work well on a plaque too. These like medium water and have nice large rhizomes. Fast grower but needs protection for winter.



4 *Pyrrosia lingua* A strap fern having only a simple leaf, a single blade. This is a very hardy fern! It is evergreen, and can take a large flux of water and temperature ranges. It can be grown in ground with bright conditions to nearly full sun. It has a creeping rhizome and will slowly spread out. It also does very well potted or in a moss basket hanging either vertical or horizontal. It is a slow grower but very forgiving.



5 *Macrothelypteris torresiana* A large very striking fern. It grows well in bright light to nearly full sun. Large fern fronds getting 3'-5' tall and looking like a tree fern with very large fronds about a 1 1/2' to 2' wide. It is a clumping fern forming a large clump of about 6 inches wide and tall, where the fronds come out. If conditions are right, it will spread by spore throughout the yard.



6 *Pteris vittata* A large fern that can get 3' long fronds. Can take full sun and prefers alkaline soil however, I don't find it picky on its soil. It is drought tolerant once established. It is dark green in color and in a mild winter can be evergreen but either way, will come back in the spring. If conditions are right, it will spread by spore throughout the yard.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
July 15, 2018**

The July 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:

We had three guests at this meeting. They were: Kathy Larsen, and Douglas and Mary Rutherford.

Darla announced that the August meeting will be our fall social/picnic and will be held at the home of Jere Noerager in the Memorial area. Ruth discussed the menu which she would like to focus on salads. The sign-up sheets were available for all to list a dish they would like to bring.

Darla will be placing a T-shirt order, so reminded those who want to order one to let her know.

Cherie Lee won't be at the September or October meetings so asked if someone would take photos and send them to her. She will still prepare the newsletter.

Darla then asked about our spore project plants and passed around the ones she prepared. We could see that they are beginning to get green on the top.

Larry Rucker then gave us a brief recap of the lecture given by Joan Hudson at the last meeting. He covered the basics of sporophytes, gametophytes, and zygotes, their haploid/diploid status and the process involved in going from a sporophyte to a zygote.

Program:

Darla Harris and Larry Rucker then introduced the two projects for this meeting and showed us how to construct them. The project for indoors was a maidenhair fern that was placed on a raised "platform" inside a large bowl. It was first wrapped with strands of the mop that provided the wicking substance, strands

were allowed to hang into the bottom of the dish, and then attractive gravel, rocks, moss, or any other substance was used to steady the plant and make it look pretty. Water will be kept in the bottom of the dish so that the plant will not sit in the water but the wicking action will provide the moisture it needs.

The other project was for outdoors and the maidenhair fern was again wrapped in the mop strands, then it was placed inside a 4-6 inch pot with strands of the mop wicking hanging through the bottom hole of the pot and into a reservoir that will be kept filled with water. Again, the plant will not sit in the water but the wicking will draw the water up keeping the plant moist. This plant can be placed outdoors in a protected area.

Members then proceeded to work on whichever project they chose. This was another fun and informative program.

Attendance: 26 members and 3 guests

Raffle: The raffle was then held, and we had many happy recipients of the great raffle items. The raffle brought in \$86 for the club.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Donna Williams, Secretary



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the September Newsletter is August 28, 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:
August 21, 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:
September 6, 2018

July Program
“Unique Wicking for Maidenhair Ferns”

by Darla Harris and Larry Rucker



**Our Instructors:
Darla and Larry**



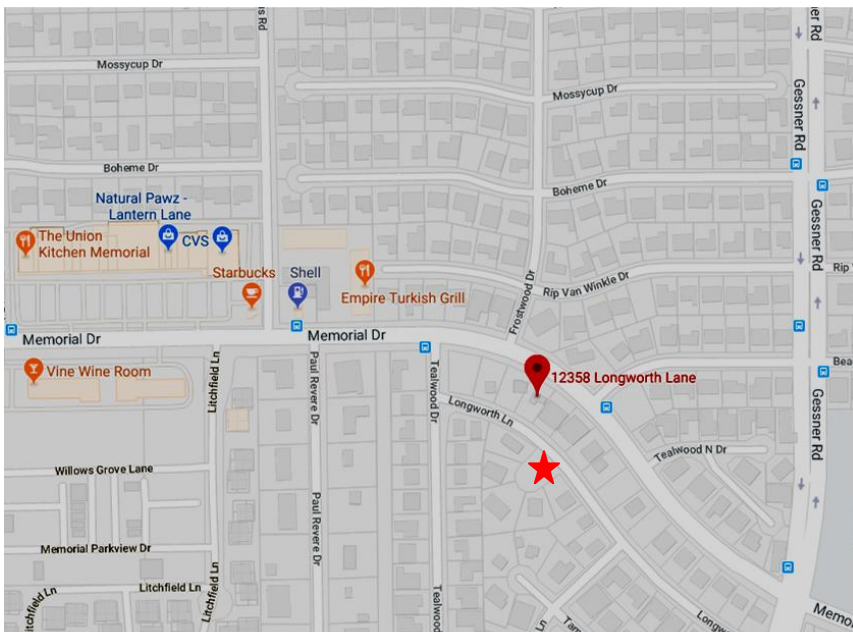
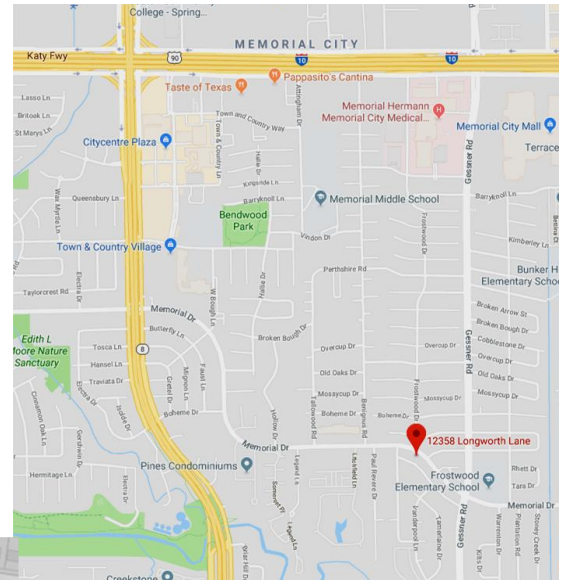
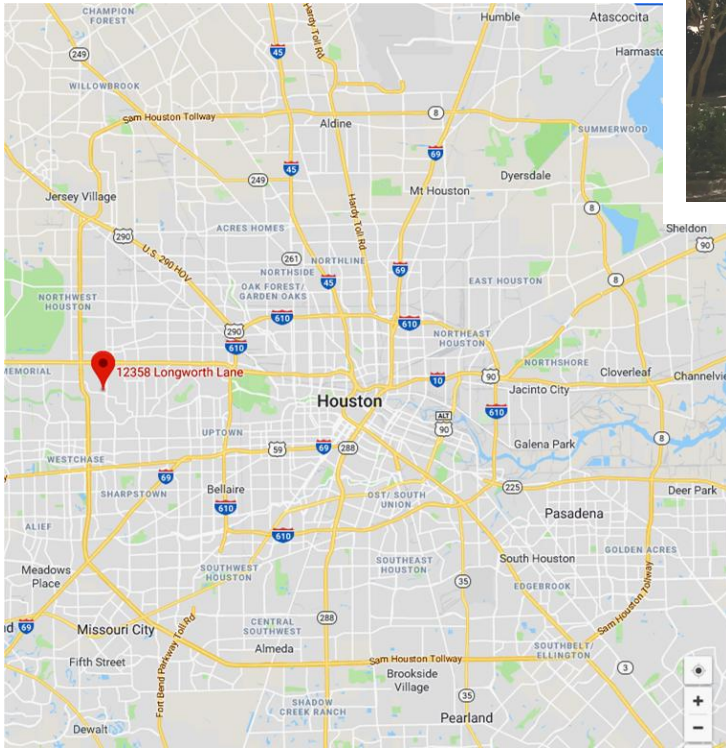
Larry Rucker's Review Lecture





Photos by Cherie Lee

Summer Party – August 19th at 2 PM
Jere Noerager's Home
12358 Longworth Lane, Houston, Texas 77024
Home phone: 713-467-4072 Cell phone: 832-444-4872



Parking on street and across street in cul-de-sac denoted by ★