



September 2018

Vol. 20 No. 9

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 16, 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!

Happy 20th Anniversary to the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society!!! This month 20 years ago, a small group of fern nuts got together to start this society. We still have several of our original charter members and have grown from 25 or so to over 100 members. It has been a wonderful society all these years, forging great friendships and even better fern gardens. I can't wait to see what the next twenty years brings us!

What a lovely party we had in August. We had a great turn out and as always, we had more food than we could possibly eat. We might need to beef up our drink list though because we ran short of a few things. Jere and Suzanne Noerager were wonderful hosts and went way beyond what was expected. Thank you! What a lovely home and yard and even though it was Houston hot, it was a very pleasant day. I still did not get to talk at length with everyone, which is always my goal, but getting that done seems to be impossible for me. For those who could not make it for health or family reasons, you were missed! So start gearing up for our next party in December. We had a volunteer for the December party but I forgot who it was so please get with me. Thank you!

Our September meeting will be on the "Ferns of Nepal" presented by George Yatskievych. This is from a trip he took just this past fall, so all new beautiful pictures of ferns we will all long for. More on this in the program note.

Our plant swap is scheduled for our October meeting however I think we need to switch it to our November meeting. The reason is our spore program back in June has produced a lot of gametophytes and we really need to move them to their new home or we will start losing them. We will discuss this further at the September meeting and see if the majority would like to do this. It really is the time. Either way we will

need to have both of these meetings, one in October and the other in November.

It is just about time for our election of officers for next year. So think about what you might like to do for our society. We also have an opening for a new hospitality person, so please get with me so we can get you started soon. Ruth McDonald has been doing double duty with hospitality and the library for the last two years and would like to give up the hospitality. She said she will be eager to still help out and bring things. This is a good way to get to know our other members and help us make sure we have nice refreshments at the meetings. Please let me know at the meeting if you are interested.

I would like to thank everyone again for all the support the raffle table has received this year. We would like to bring in another out of town speaker next year and this goes a long way to paying those expenses. Plus, it helps the society cover part or all of the projects we do throughout the year. So keep up the good work!

I'm looking forward to fall and planting some ground hardy ferns so they will be up and off to a great start this coming spring.

Take care everyone,

Darla



Up and Coming Attractions:

2018:

Sept 16: "Ferns of Nepal"
by George Yatskievych

Oct 21: Plant Swap

Nov 18: "Moving Up Our Sporophytes"
by Darla Harris

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



September Program “Ferns of Nepal”

This talk will be presented to us by George Yatskievych from the Plant Resources Center at the University of Texas at Austin where he is the curator for the herbarium. George has a vast knowledge of ferns and currently is the President of the American Fern Society.

The country of Nepal is nestled between India and China located mainly in the Himalayas with a population of some 26.4 million people and over 500 species of ferns and *Lycophytes*. The country itself is about 56,827 square miles with elevations ranging from 194 feet to Mount Everest at 29,029 feet. It has three major river systems that divide the country from east to west.

The climate is very diverse from subtropical to alpine zones and everything in between. This results in a variety of land and climate to support a large number of fern types.

Come join us with a fern walk through Nepal!

Submitted by: Darla Harris



Refreshments:

Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments for our summer party. It was a great spread.

Refreshments for September will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer
Savory: Ruth McDonald
Service ware: Ruth McDonald

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!



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 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: - Raffle, Store, etc.	Larry Rucker Biruta Claunch
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



September Book Review

A number of us do not necessarily experience the benefits (or disadvantages) of a garden. We are apartment or condo dwellers, and our little piece of the outdoors may be a patio, terrace, or window box. Nonetheless, we are gardeners, but our focus is on growing potted plants, including so many varieties of ferns. Caring for the latter indoors can pose a special challenge if we don't take into consideration important factors like light requirements and lack of humidity. A useful reference is Boy Altman's *Indoor Ferns*, REBO, 1998. It includes culture tips and highlights particularly striking members of the fern family. The library has two copies but browse through our collection to find other useful information. Please let me know if you have a particular favorite book, so I may share it with everyone next month.

Submitted by: Ruth McDonald



Selaginella emmeliana

Selaginellas are pretty easy to grow! They prefer moist soil all the time, not wet but moist. Water them completely and let all the excess drip out. They do like high humidity so they do not mind getting their foliage wet in the process of watering.

Selaginellas prefer acid soil so peat moss is a good base for your soil mix. Most prefer shade, with only a little morning sun.

S. emmeliana is a short spikemoss that only gets about 6" tall. It likes shady conditions, moist, and really does not take a freeze well, so treat as a tropical and start protecting around 40 degrees. This one comes from Central America so likes a more even temperature.

It is called the trailing spikemoss and does very nicely in hanging baskets and vertical containers. It would make a very nice addition to a patio or inside in a terrarium.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
August 19, 2018**

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.

This year's summer party was held at the lovely home of Suzanne and Jere Noerager, Houston, Texas. The party began around 2:00 pm and was well attended. The Noeragers were perfect hosts making sure everything was handled and providing tours of the lovely garden. It couldn't have been a nicer party and location.

Attendance: 34 members and 2 visitors present

Submitted by: Cherie Lee
for Donna Williams, secretary



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the October Newsletter is October 1, 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:
September 18, 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:
October 4, 2018

The Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc. presents

Golden Age of Bromeliads

2018 Show & Sale



**Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center
2020 Hermann Drive
Houston, TX 77004**

September 29-30

Show hours: Saturday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Sale hours: Saturday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Sunday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

**September Summer Party
Suzanne and Jere Noerager's Home**



Our Hosts Suzanne and Jere









Photos by Cherie Lee