



December 2018

Vol. 20 No. 12

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Holiday Party: Sunday, December 9, at 1:00 p. m. – Bret & Raini Cunningham's Home,  
2711 Avenue O, Galveston, TX 77550 - Phone: (801) 891-2254 (C), (801) 891-2253 (C)**

### **A message from our President:**

Hi Everyone,

Wow, another year has come and gone! What a great year for our Fern Society! We have had a record year for membership. Our society is one of the few fern societies that are actively growing right now. I'm excited to see what next year holds for us all. Ferns in the Houston area are as popular as I have seen them in quite some time. Garden Clubs all around the area are requesting more information on ferns and so are the master gardeners. They are seeing them for the beauty and variety that we see in them. I know all of you try to talk up ferns every time you have an opportunity and invite people to join us at the meetings. We have covered a lot of topics this year and had some fun and interesting hands on projects. I know next year will be just as fun!

I want to thank Larry Rucker for his participation as Vice President the last two years and as Raffle Chair for the last several years. Larry has decided the best use for him in the society is as Hospitality Chair and being the foodie he is, I think this is a great fit! I'd like to give a big thanks to Raini Cunningham and Ruth McDonald for a wonderful year of refreshments as our Hospitality Co-Chairs for 2018.

At our November meeting, the nominating committee presented a slate of officers for the upcoming year of 2019. The club unanimously accepted this slate of officers: Darla Harris - President, Jere Noerager and Fred Robinson – Co-Vice-President, Donna Williams - Secretary, Beth Ayer - Treasury, Jacqueline Smith - Board Member at Large and John Williams -Board Member at Large. Cherie Lee will remain as Board Member at Large as Past President. So we are all set for another year. Thank you everyone for your commitment to this society!

We will be making some changes to various committee chairs in the coming year so if there is something you have had your eye on to help with the

society, please let me know so we can get everyone busy and sharing in the fun.

I'd like to thank Bret and Raini Cunningham for offering their lovely home for our end of the year party. I know some of you are thinking that Galveston is a long drive but remember, the Cunningham's drive in nearly every month to our meeting so if they can do this, we can make the trip to them once. Joe and I have had the good fortune to see their place and it will be worth the drive for all of us! They have lots of ferns and just a beautiful garden. The party will start at 1 PM so everyone can enjoy themselves and still leave early enough to get home before it gets too late. I live on the northwest side in Magnolia and it took me about an hour and forty five minutes to get there taking the north Sam Houston toll way. It really wasn't a bad drive at all. Some folks may want to make the weekend of it and spend either Saturday or Sunday night down on the island. There is always plenty to do down there and how many of us ever take the time to enjoy it? We really should! I'm sure some may want to car pool and that can be worked out too. Larry Rucker had the food list the last time I saw it, so get in touch with him or Raini or Ruth to let them know what you would like to bring. Remember you can bring your spouse or significant other along with you. We would love to meet them.

Don't forget the gift exchange at the party. If you'd like to participate, please bring a wrapped fern/plant or plant/garden related item valued around \$15-\$20. This is anonymous so no names please. This is always fun. We will draw numbers for determining the order for selecting gifts so it is a random order. This is a nice way to share something special with our friends. If you don't want to participate, that is ok too.

It's been a great year for the raffle and it has helped pay for all the projects that we did this year. Thank you for bringing items and always for buying the tickets. It's a great way to share plants or to happily take a new one home.

I would like to let you know the Board met and decided to donate \$500 to help a Columbian student go to Costa Rica for a two week class on ferns that is offered only every other year with Robbin Moran at the Organization of Tropical Studies. Read more about her later in the newsletter. It's great to help further research on ferns when we can!  
See you soon,

*Darla*



### Please Welcome Our New Member

**Bryan Wu**



### Up and Coming Attractions:

**2018:**

Dec 9: Holiday Party – 1 PM  
at Bret & Raini Cunningham's home

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



### Refreshments:

Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments in November. It was a great spread.

**December will be our Holiday Party. Ruth McDonald, Raini Cunningham, and Larry Rucker are organizing the feast so please let them know what delectable dish you plan to bring.**

Please let Larry Rucker, [herbie39L@att.net](mailto:herbie39L@att.net) / 832-453-2992 cell, 713-649-3535 home or Raini Cunningham, [bnrc@xmission.com](mailto:bnrc@xmission.com) / 801-891-2254 know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2019. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



### November Raffle Donors:

**Thank you to our Donors:** Biruta Claunch, Bret Cunningham, Darla Harris, Jan Kramer, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Jere Noerager, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, and anyone else who forgot to sign up.



### **Vanessa Bitar** **Recipient of a \$500 Donation from the** **Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**



My name is Vanessa Bitar. I am a biologist, recently graduated from the University of Pamplona in Colombia and I have earned the great honor of being accepted to a course of the Organization for Tropical Studies but unfortunately, neither I nor my family has the resources to pay the tuition.

About my work with ferns, before we started my thesis, we found that there wasn't any publication about ferns made for this region. In my work, eighteen new species were registered for the region in only four sampling sites. That shows the big knowledge gap we have in my home region. These results made me realize the importance of focusing on plant taxa that need more research because in places like my home town, the general knowledge of flora comes short to know the true richness and structure of the ecosystems surrounding the city.

In the future for a masters or doctorate degree, I would like to investigate more about the taxonomy, evolution and biogeography of ferns and lycophytes. It is thrilling for me discovering and describing new biological diversity and to understand its evolutionary and biogeographic origins and how the conditions affect the populations.

I'm so honored and thankful to your society for giving me this chance. I will make sure your generosity is really well invested and I hope to see you to thank you personally really soon.



## *Polypodium scouleri*

Leathery Polypody

Family: Polypodiaceae

Genus: Polypodium pol-ee-PODE-ee-um

Species: scouleri SKOOL-er-ee

This cute little fern is native to coastal western North America growing from the Baja California to British Columbia often growing in the ocean side forest down to the sand dunes. It enjoys the heavy fogs and sea spray to keep it very humid.

With a waxy green leaf and the sori of bright yellow round dots, it is very striking. It will take bright light to shade.

It is a small fern only getting 6" to 20" tall but spreads to about 2 feet wide. It grows mostly as an epiphyte, but with careful watering (not too much) can be grown in a pot too. It is a slow grower but worth waiting for.

This would be an ideal fern to mount to your trees and palm trees. It is evergreen and can take low temperatures around 10°F, so would do very well in the Houston area with our high humidity and temperate weather. Being evergreen it will add that pop to our sometimes drab winter gardens.

Unlike our native *Polypodium* the resurrection fern, it does not dry up in dry weather, and gets much larger. It colonizes the same way so has large clumps of rhizomes on your tree.

This should be a must for you in our area!



Submitted by: Darla Harris



## 2019 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2019 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: - Raffle, Store, etc.	Larry Rucker Biruta Claunch
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society November 18, 2018

The November meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society 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 Raini and Brett Cunningham have offered to host the December party at their home in Galveston. The party will be on Sunday, December 9, and will start at 1:00 p.m. This is the **second** Sunday of December. A food sign-up sheet was passed around for members to list what they want to bring. We will also have a gift exchange. Gifts should be wrapped and should be a plant or plant-related item.

Darla then asked for a report from our nominating committee. Jere Noerager stated that the nominations were: President, Darla Harris; Vice President, Jere Noerager and Fred Robinson with Jere having voting rights; Secretary, Donna Williams; Treasurer, Beth Ayer; Board Members at Large, Johnny Williams and Jacqueline Smith with Cherie Lee as Past President. No additional nominations were made from the floor. A move to accept these nominations was made by Marcia Livingston and seconded by Ken Warren. The vote was unanimous to accept the slate. Darla then announced Committee Chair changes, and these were: Hospitality, Larry Rucker and Welcoming at the Door, Faye Stansberry.

Darla reminded us of a brief Board meeting following the general meeting today.

### Program:

Our program today was "Moving Up Our Sporophytes" and was given by Darla Harris and Patrick Hudnall.

At our June meeting we put down spore of various ferns (each member got to choose 3 out of 5 available). Patrick Hudnall had prepared spore in distilled water and, using a pipette, each member put drops of this liquid onto dampened peat cups which have since been kept enclosed in contained environments.

At this meeting, members were given clear plastic shoeboxes which we filled with about 2" of sterilized soil. We used tweezers to pick out small, dime-sized clumps to insert into holes we had made in the soil. In this way the little plants have more room to grow. The boxes will be kept covered until the plants are large enough to move up into 2" pots. Darla said that when they are moved up, they will need to be "hardened off" gradually to room air. This can be done when the plants are about 2+" in height. They should not be put in full sun as they will burn but they will need bright light.

**Raffle:**

Following the meeting we had our raffle which, once again, had many nice items. It brought in \$49.

**Attendance:** 25 members and 1 guest

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Williams, Secretary



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society  
Board Meeting – November, 2018**

The November Board Meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President Darla Harris.

**General Meeting:**

Those present were: Darla Harris, Beth Ayer, Cherie Lee, Larry Rucker, Biruta Claunch, Donna Williams, and Johnny Williams.

Because of our tax status with the IRS, a special form MUST be filled out and submitted to the IRS between January 1 and May 15 of each year. At this meeting it was decided that the club Secretary will be tasked with reminding the club Treasurer to fill out and submit this form in a timely manner.

Biruta suggested that we consider holding more special raffles in order to increase the club’s revenues. The last one we held was very successful. Darla asked Biruta if she would be willing to take on the raffle full time and Biruta agreed to do this.

Darla has been approached about helping to sponsor a student from Columbia to attend the OTS course in Costa Rica. This is led by the Director of the New York Botanical Gardens, Robbin Moran. A few years ago our club sponsored a student. These students will typically come and give a program for us once they have completed their studies. Board members

suggested donating \$500 toward this student from Columbia. It was proposed by Donna Williams, seconded by Larry Rucker, and voted unanimously to do so. The donation will be specifically for this student and this course.

Darla asked for suggestions for programs this next year since we have new Vice Presidents.

Darla adjourned this meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Williams, Secretary



**Library Inventory**

Over the holidays, we will be doing an inventory of the library collection. Please look around at home and bring any checked out books to the January meeting. Thank you for your help.

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](mailto:rmmcdonald0@gmail.com) or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



**Editor’s Comments**

**Deadline for the January Newsletter is January 1, 2019. Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



**Upcoming Events in the Houston Area:**

**Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.**

– [www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://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:  
January 15, 2019

**The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.**

– [www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://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:  
January 3, 2019

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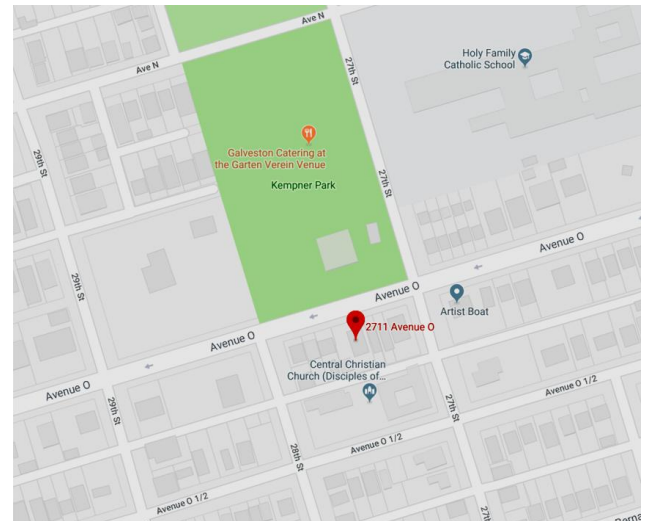
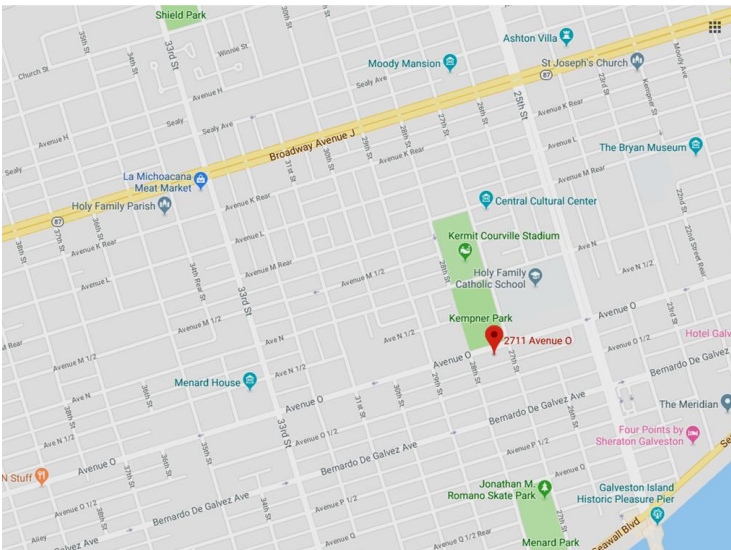
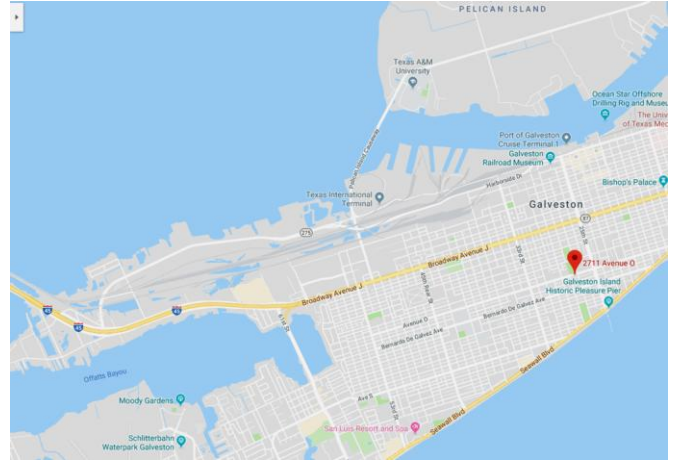
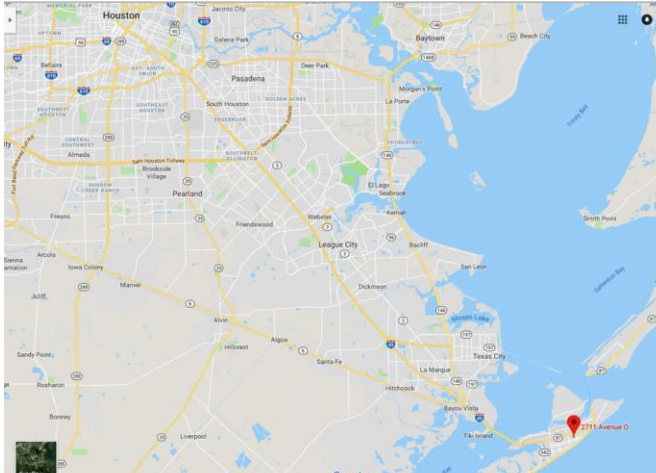
**November Program  
“Moving Up Our Sporophytes”  
by Darla Harris & Patrick Hudnall**





Photos by Cherie Lee

**Holiday Party – December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM  
Bret & Raini Cunningham’s Home  
2711 Avenue O, Galveston, TX 77550  
Phone: (801) 891-2254 (C), (801) 891-2253 (C)**



Take Interstate 45 toward Galveston  
Continue onto Broadway Avenue J  
Turn right onto 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Turn right onto Avenue O  
(Avenue O is a one-way street westbound)  
2711 Avenue O will be on the left

Parking is on the left side of the street, there is a bus zone on the right side.

Across Avenue O from our home is the historic Garten Verein with a parking lot that may be used.

For those needing a shorter climb up steps parking in the alley behind the house is also an option, through the garden gate.