



January 2019

Vol. 21 No. 1

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 20, 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:

Happy New Years Everyone!!!

What a wonderful group of people we have in our society! I want you all to know that I appreciate all your contributions to the society. Whether it is setting up chairs for the meeting, bringing refreshments or drinks, never forgetting to bring raffle plants, or chipping in your money for a raffle plant, all of these things add up to a great society. Some folks have volunteered to take on different jobs in the society to help it run smoothly but there are always more jobs to be done so please feel free to let me know what you would like to do.

I would like to thank Cherie Lee for putting out a great newsletter every month and any extra email announcements that need to be sent! We have a couple people who have taken up new spots this year. Biruta Claunch is now our raffle person! Faye Stansberry has agreed to be our welcoming person to greet any guests and to make sure everyone signs in so we know if anyone is missing! Larry Rucker is the hospitality chair so please keep him informed as to what you plan on bringing to the meetings and parties. The society is for everyone and everyone should share in the fun of making it work.

I am looking for a person to fill a new position. We have had several people who have had health issues over the last couple years and I would like to have someone take charge of mailing out 'Get Well' notes to them. Please let me know if you are willing to take on this important position.

The Holiday Party was a success. We had 21 members and guests attend and the food was plentiful and wonderful! Thank you all for what you brought. Thank you to Bret and Raini Cunningham for inviting us to their home! It was a cool day in Galveston but the sun did shine on us for awhile! There was a nice gift exchange with most participating. All in all, a very

good day! See the pictures of the party later in the newsletter.

Our new vice presidents, Jere Noerager and Fred Robinson, have been at work lining up our programs for the year including a nice field trip. I think this new team will bring in some new ideas and I can't wait to see what we have in store for us this coming year. Don't forget we have two parties this year and will need hosts, so please let us know if you would like to host either of these events.

I have been noticing a lot more ferns on things at the stores, from front door mats to kitchen items. It's exciting to see ferns everywhere you go! Let me know what you have seen!

Patrick Hudnall, Larry Rucker, and I have had some opportunities to talk with the people at the new Houston Botanical Gardens and have been able to make some suggestions on different ferns they might want to use in the gardens other than the ordinary ones everyone has seen for years. I think we are making headway on some great additions. It's still a year and a half before they start to plant, but we are putting some great choices out there for them to consider. The proposed beds are looking great. I think we will be proud of our new Botanical Garden!

Thank you again everyone for a great 2018 and looking forward to seeing you soon in 2019!

Darla



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting after the regular membership meeting on January 20, 2019 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



January Program Note
Tropical Hanging Basket Ferns:
Aglaomorpha & Drynaria
Presented by Jere Noerager

In the interest of full disclosure, I have an admission to make: I'm a plant snob. A few decades ago, *the* fern to buy for a hanging basket would have been obvious: a Boston fern. Anyone would recognize *Nephrolepis exaltata*. It's the ferny-looking fern — the one with the long, shaggy ruffles of greenery, cascading like a fondue fountain. But the Boston fern is too common for my taste, tainted by its association with podiatrists' offices and food-court planters. Fortunately, snobbishness has a long, proud tradition in fern collecting. At the height of the Victorian Age, Shirley Hibberd described the rarefied sensibility of the British fern hobbyist in his 1856 book, "Rustic Adornments for Homes of Taste": "It must be a pure and simple taste which finds pleasure in the culture of plants which have no gaudy blossoms to attract vulgar attention." This brings us to *Aglaomorpha* and *Drynaria*. These two closely-related species present a far bolder look than a Boston fern in a hanging basket. Our focus in this program is restricted to the cultivated members of these species.

Both of these species are polypods. The principal family characteristics include:

- a creeping rhizome as opposed to an erect or ascending one
- fronds usually jointed to the rhizome via phyllopodia, a cylindrical, vertical formation on the rhizome, like a bump on a log, and functioning as the platform for frond attachment
- fronds in two rows with a row on either side of the rhizome
- mainly epiphytic, occasionally epilithic, rarely terrestrial, never aquatic
- sori often round or elongate, always exindusiate (lacking any pre-maturity covering for the sorus)
- the expanded portion of the frond (lamina) simple, lobed, pinnatifid or pinnate, rarely more divided
- largely tropical; *Polypodium* has perhaps 15 temperate species, *Pyrrosia* several, other genera few or none

There are only about 20 species of *Drynaria* worldwide, all of them concentrated in tropical Asia and the eastern hemisphere, and 10 species of *Aglaomorpha*. They are commonly used as accent plants in tropical gardens, where their 3-foot fronds grace trees and baskets alike. *Drynaria quercifolia*,

from India to the Philippines to Australia, is one of the two popular in cultivation, the other being *D. rigidula*, restricted to the eastern portion of the same territory. *Aglaomorpha* are among the largest ferns. *Aglaomorpha heraclea* of Malaysia with 2 meter fronds is the largest epiphytic fern. *Aglaomorpha coronans* is encountered most often in commerce.

As an aside, in traditional Chinese medicine, *Drynaria* is considered one of the most important herbs that can be used to heal damaged bones and ligaments; in fact, the literal name of *Drynaria* in Chinese is "mender of shattered bones". In addition to its use on ligaments and bones, *Drynaria* can treat toothaches, tinnitus, and bleeding gums. It also stimulates the growth of hair and can be applied topically to treat conditions like alopecia.

Submitted by: Jere Noerager



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.



Up and Coming Attractions:

2019:

Jan 20: Tropical Hanging Basket Ferns:
Aglaomorpha & Drynaria
 by Jere Noerager

Submitted by: Jere Noerager, VP



Leptochilus macrophyllus var. wrightii

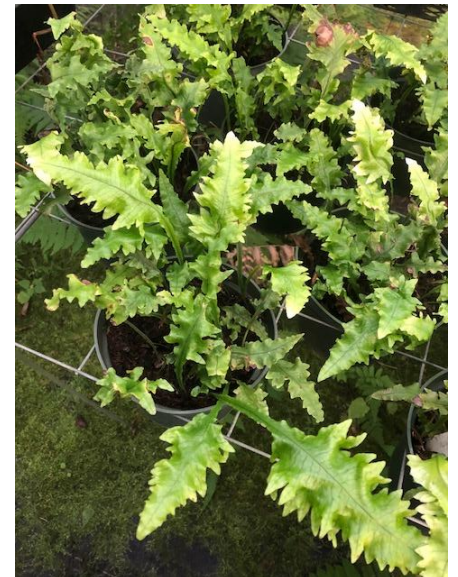
Family: Polypodiaceae
Genus: Leptochilus
Species: macrophyllus var. wrightii
Synonym: *Colysis wrightii*

Known to most gardeners and in the trade as *Colysis wrightii*, this small to medium size fern comes from Japan, Southern China, and Taiwan. There are only 10 species of *Leptochilus* in the Old World ranging from Asia, Malaysia, Australia, and the Solomon Islands. They get their name from the Greek word *lepto*, meaning slender, and *chilus*, meaning lipped. You can see the fronds are simple and narrow, oblanceolate blades that are long-tapered towards the base and at the ends or points they curl.

They grow in nature on trees (epiphytic) or on rocks (epilithic). So in our gardens they do well on a plaque or in a basket. They have a creeping rhizome covered with scales. If you look at the frond you can see the veins are netted and very easy to see. The sori pattern is elongate or linear and appears in fairly even rows. The sori do not have an indusium to cover the spore. The full height ranges from 6" - 12".

The *L. wrightii* also has a serrated version called *Leptochilus macrophyllus var. wrightii* 'Monstrifera' which is my favorite of the two, though I grow both. These are said to be a little difficult to establish, but I have not found them to be so. They do prefer shade and evenly moist to wet if on a plaque, in a basket or in a pot. They will go down to 33 deg F. I have not tested below that myself. They have it zoned from 8b to 10.

This is another awesome fern that does very well in our area and definitely worth growing.



Submitted by:
Darla Harris



A Tough New Weed is in Town

This new weed will grow anywhere, in thick clay, gravel, sand or with epiphytic ferns and orchids. It will grow in full sun or full shade. Well meaning friends may include it in a potted plant they give you or one you might buy at a nursery. It is already known in Mississippi, Florida, and South Carolina and is quickly infesting other places.

I likely smiled at first seeing this cute little plant when it showed up in my garden. I had no idea the incredible menace this weed really is. It is self-fertile and has a large seed capsule that develops on very small plants. The root develops into a long tuber that is brittle making it nearly impossible to pull. It is native to east Australia. Botanically it is *Pseuderanthemum sp. variabile*. It goes by many common names: Pastel flower, Love flower, Night and Afternoon, etc. Some consider it in the family of Gesneriad, but I believe it is properly categorized as an Acanthaceae.



This weed is resistant to most all weed killers. It is said that a 50/50 mix of pure Glyphosate/water painted onto the leaves with a small paint brush may kill it. The best method is to remove every single bit by repotting plants or bulbs or remounting epiphytic plants. For proper disposal of this weed, once removed, don't forget how resilient it is. Avoid your compost pile or municipal recycling. Maybe consider your sink garbage disposal or burn it. I have tried waiting till after a soaking rain to dig all the roots I could find only to have it come back. Don't give up! Persistence may meet with success or control.

I am utterly amazed that some people are intentionally growing this *Pseuderanthemum*. Please spread the warning about the near impossibility of killing this weed once it starts to become established in your garden.

This weed is up to 30cm high with slightly hairy stems. Leaves are lanceolate to ovate in shape to 7 cm long and 2 to 4 cm wide. I have removed roots (tuber) from a pot of gravel that were 1/2 meter long.

Submitted by Patrick Hudnall



Support Our Society Using Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a way for you to support our society every time you shop with Amazon.

At smile.amazon.com you will find the same Amazon items that you know and love, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society.

Signing up is easy!

Here's how to signup and shop at AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon username and password.
3. Then either go to "Your Account", and under the box "Shopping programs and rentals", select the option to "Change Your Charity"; or you can also hover your mouse over the small arrow next to the charity you are currently supporting and click Change.
4. Type Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society into the search and the click select.
5. Start shopping! You can add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Submitted by Beth Ayer



**Statement of Income & Expenses
October 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018**

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$ 280.00
Raffle Income	49.00
Donations	10.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.66</u>
Total:	\$ 339.66

EXPENSES

Program	\$ 22.00
Donations	<u>500.00</u>
Total:	\$ 522.00

Balance 12-31-2017: \$9,283.77

Balance 9-30-2018: \$9,926.22

Balance 12-31-2018: \$9,743.88

Net Loss for 4th Qtr: \$ 182.34

Net Gain for 2018: \$ 460.11

Submitted by Beth Ayer, Treasurer



Refreshments:

Refreshments for January will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer
Desserts: Cherie Lee
Service ware: Larry Rucker

Please let Larry Rucker, herbie39L@att.net / 832-453-2992 cell, 713-649-3535 home know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2019. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



**Fern Society Holiday Party
December 9, 2018**

This year's Holiday party was hosted by Raini and Bret Cunningham at their lovely home in Galveston. Nineteen members and two guests attended. The food was wonderful and company even better. The gift exchange was full of surprises with a wide range of gifts including live plants and other gardening items.

We missed those of you who couldn't make it, maybe next year.

Submitted by:
Cherie Lee for Secretary Donna Williams



2018 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice Presidents:	Jere Noerager Fred Robinson
Secretary:	Donna Williams
Treasurer:	Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large:	Jacqueline Smith Johnny Williams Cherie Lee (Past Pres)
Education Chair:	Darla Harris
Hospitality Chair:	Larry Rucker
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:	Faye Stansberry



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 or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the February Newsletter is January 30, 2019. 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:
January 15, 2019

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:
February 7, 2019

Holiday Party – December 10th Hosted by Raini and Bret Cunningham



Our Hosts Raini and Bret Cunningham







Photos by Cherie Lee