



March 2019

Vol. 21 No. 3

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, March 17, 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

Wow! What a great meeting! First we had to take care of some bylaw changes and after a lot of discussion all three proposed changes were passed by the attending membership. Please see the minutes of the meeting for full details. We did have a good discussion about the membership as a whole taking a more active part in the meetings and holding positions. This keeps the society new and alive and with so many societies having issues staying viable, we need this new infusion of ideas.

Adam Black gave a wonderful presentation on the ferns of Florida. It was very informative and he covered them by region and by native or naturalized. He also mentioned that he will have a few of these rare collectable ferns of Florida available at the Peckerwood Garden's Budding Out Festival March 30th. There will only be one or two of some of these awesome plants so get there early.

We need a couple of volunteers to man the Fern Society's membership drive table at Mercer Arboretum March Mart on March 15 and 16, Friday and Saturday. We need you to arrive around 8am and stay until 4pm. If we get enough volunteers, we will split the shifts so those working will be able to shop too. Please get with me on what day or days you can help. Thank you!

The March meeting will be a presentation on setting up your own watering systems for your plants and gardens. This will be presented by Fred Robinson. Fred is an avid water system user at his own home and has lots of information and suggestions so we can have great success with this at our own homes. This will be a comprehensive discussion from years of experience with both the good and the not so good methods so plan on attending.

Our spring field trip to Moody Gardens will be April 7<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Pyramid on the front steps at 10:30 AM. We will have a guided tour of the

Rain Forest and the greenhouses. We are looking at a couple places to have a late lunch if you would like to join us. Please let us know at the March meeting so we can reserve enough space. If you are interested in taking in other sites at Moody Gardens, you will be on your own unless you arrange it with your fellow members.

Well I had thought spring was in the air with so many trees beginning to leaf out, but it looks like we might not be there just yet.

Hope to see you at the meeting. Take care.

*Darla*



**March Program Note**

**“Watering Plants Made Easy  
(DIY Automatic Watering)”**

**Presented by Fred Robinson**

Being an engineer, Fred Robinson has designed a watering system enjoyed by both his orchids and ferns allowing him the freedom to take vacations without worries while still ensuring that his plants are properly cared for. He will demonstrate what he used and where he found them so that you too can enjoy similar results.



**Please Welcome Our New Members**

**Susan Barron Lisk**

**Jessica McBride**

**Janice Shaw**



## 2019 Up and Coming Attractions:

- Mar 17: Watering Plants Made Easy  
(DIY Automatic Watering)  
by Fred Robinson
- Apr 7: Moody Gardens Field Trip
- May 19: Topic TBD  
by Michael Eason  
Texas Conservation Botanist

Submitted by: Jere Noerager & Fred Robinson, VPs



### Refreshments:

Refreshments for February were generously furnished by: Ruby Adams, Beth Ayer, Raini Cunningham, Darla Harris, Diane Hudnall, Chuck & Joy Hudson, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Betsy Robinson, Larry Rucker, Donna Williams, and Brenda Wilson.

Refreshments for March will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer  
Savory: Ruth McDonald  
Desserts: Cherie Lee  
Service ware: Larry Rucker

**Please let Larry Rucker, [herbie39L@att.net](mailto:herbie39L@att.net) / 832-453-2992 cell, 713-649-3535 home, know if you can help with the refreshments this month and what you plan to bring so he can make sure everything is covered and we don't have a lot of duplicates.** It will make his job much easier. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



### February Raffle Donors:

Our February raffles were amazing. A Special Raffle was held for a lovely terrarium donated by Biruta Claunch. Jim Migliavacca donated multiple flats of plants for our regular auction. These along with the many donations from Bret Cunningham, Darla Harris, Chuck Hudson, Jan Kramer, Cherie & Frank Lee, Ruth McDonald, Jere Noerager, Sandra Rigsby, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, Cecil Strange, and anyone else who forgot to sign up made for a spectacular raffle. Thank you all for your generosity.



## 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.



## 2019 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: - Raffle, Store, etc.	Larry Rucker Biruta Claunch
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Faye Stansberry





## *Arachnoides simplicior* – East Indian Holly

**Pronunciation:** a-rak-nee-OH-dees sim-PLIK-ee-or  
**Meaning:** Spider-like

For those of you who are saying to yourself, 'give me anything that will not freeze', this is the fern for you. This is a picture of mine with the dusting of snow that we got in February some years back. This fern does very well in part shade to full shade. I have found once established it is pretty drought tolerant, has taken our hot summers well, and took our cold spells of the last two winters without missing a beat.

The East Indian holly fern is a Hardy fern for us and evergreen. It is a medium-sized fern, about 18" tall and wide. I have found it to be a slow grower, but pretty self-sufficient, not needing much in the way of grooming. Other than its hardiness, it is grown for its dark green leaves with a burst of yellow/gold down the center of the midrib of each lance-shaped leaf. The leaves are very spaced out and there are not a lot of them. It is not the greatest for a potted plant, but looks nice in the ground and in groupings of three spaced out about 18".

I really like this fern!! For this fern, I would buy a large one now. Watching it grow up from a starter is almost like watching paint dry...



Submitted by:  
Darla Harris



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society February 17, 2019

The February 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 2:05 p.m. by President Darla Harris.

### General Meeting:

Darla called the meeting to order and then initiated a discussion on the proposed bylaw changes. Notification of these proposed changes were included in the February issue of the newsletter and another copy was given to each member present. Current bylaws were printed and the proposed changes were printed in red for ease in understanding.

The first proposed revision was to eliminate term limitations for all officers. There was a lot of discussion regarding this. Following a lengthy discussion Ken Warren motioned to accept the proposed change and Midge Gorman seconded. A vote was called, and the motion passed.

The second proposed revision was to move the month for elections up by one month – from November to October and to move the month for selection of a nominating committee up by one month – from October to September. Bret Cunningham motioned to accept the proposed change and Ruth McDonald seconded. A vote was called, and the motion passed.

The third proposed revision was to allow electronic notification of proposed changes in the bylaws. This notification must be delivered personally, by mail, by facsimile, or by electronic message at least 72 hours prior to the regular meeting. Beth Ayer motioned to accept the proposed change and Cecil Strange seconded. A vote was called, and the motion passed.

Darla then discussed the April Field Trip which will be to Moody Gardens. She called for a vote (by those who plan to go) to choose between Sunday, April 7, and Sunday, April 14. April 7 was the date chosen. Members and guests may attend as we must have at least 20 people. Those going should be at Moody Gardens by 10:30 a.m. and be at the door to the Rainforest Entrance at 11:00 a.m. There will be more discussion and detail at the March meeting.

Darla said that Peckerwood Gardens has invited our club to have a booth at their “1<sup>st</sup> Annual Budding Out Festival” on March 30 (from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). There will be craft and plant vendors as well as live music. Darla asked that several members attend and staff this booth as she will not be able to be there. She will need to know definite names by our next meeting.

Ruth McDonald announced that our library received two new books which are Ferns of Florida and Ferns of Alabama. She will develop a list of the library books

and will put this list in the new yearbook. Please contact Ruth if you have any books to donate or if there is one you would like to check out.

Larry Rucker thanked all members who brought food to this meeting.

Biruta Claunch showed us the special raffle item which was a beautiful small terrarium that was already planted with several tiny plants. It was adorable and we all appreciate Biruta making this special item available. The raffle money is used to pay for the special projects we do in our meetings.

### Program:

Our program today was “**Ferns and Lycophytes of Florida**” and it was given by member **Adam Black**, who is the Director of Horticulture at Peckerwood Gardens. Adam is from Florida, so he is very familiar with the fern population in that state. His talk and slide show were very informative and clearly showed the large number of plants there. He said that Florida has 152 different ferns growing in the wild, 113 of them are natives and 39 are naturalized. This was a very interesting presentation and we had a large audience to hear and enjoy Adam’s talk.

### Raffle:

Following the presentation we had our raffles. The special raffle of the planted terrarium brought in \$60.00 and the regular raffle brought in \$126.30.

### Attendance:

33 members attended.  
The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Williams, Secretary



## 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 April Newsletter is March 20, 2019. Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*





## 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](http://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](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Submitted by Beth Ayer



## 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:  
March 19, 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 are:  
March 7, 2019 & May 2, 2019

The Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc. presents

## 2019 Spring Sale



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

March 16

Sale hours: Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm



Featuring Specialty Plant Vendors  
From Around Texas

Peckerwood Garden  
20559 FM 359  
Hempstead, TX 77445

March 30

Hours: Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**February Program  
Ferns of Florida  
Presented by Adam Black**



**Our speaker  
Adam Black**



**Special Raffle  
Winner  
Judith Neufeld**



**Fantastic  
Raffle**

Photos by Cherie Lee