



April 2019

Vol. 21 No. 4

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Field Trip: Sunday, April 7, at 10:30 a. m. – “Moody Gardens”,  
1 Hope Blvd, Galveston Island, TX 77554 – Phone: (800) 582-4673**

### A message from our President:

Hi Everyone!

We had a big turnout for the meeting on watering. Fred Robinson gave a great talk on how to set up watering systems for your plants in a greenhouse, patio location, or outside. He described both the materials needed and some of the pitfalls he had personally run into. He suggested some places to purchase materials based on price and when they are open. It was a very informative meeting.

We will be going to Moody Gardens in April in lieu of our normal meeting. We will tour both the tropical pyramid and the behind the scenes greenhouses. This will be a lot of fun and Bret and Raini Cunningham have offered their home for a Hot Dog lunch with all the fixings. If you decide to eat elsewhere that is fine, however we need a head count by April 5<sup>th</sup> so they can buy the food. If you want to have an adult beverage, please BYOB.

We would like to welcome our five new members from both Mercer Arboretums March Mart sale and from our last meeting!

Well I hope spring is here so everyone can enjoy their gardens. Hope to see you at Moody Gardens! You are welcome to bring a friend. Everyone will pay the group rate of \$15 provided we have the required 20 person minimum. Please read the program note for additional information.

See you soon!

*Darla*



### Please Welcome Our New Members

**Karen Barfield, Dennis & Charlene Fowler,  
Elaine Lucarini, & Melissa Phillips**



### April Field Trip to Moody Gardens

On **Sunday, April 7**, we'll be travelling to Moody Gardens and the Rainforest Pyramid for our April TGCFs meeting. Not only will we see the Rainforest Pyramid, but we are the beneficiaries of a private tour of the growing greenhouses by curator Donita Brannon, coming in on her day off to do this just for us. To cap off what I expect to be a highly enjoyable day, Bret and Raini Cunningham have invited us to their home in Galveston for a HOT DOG Lunch with all the fixings following the tour.

From the Moody Gardens website: *“Experience LIFE as you visit the rainforests of Asia, Africa and the Americas. Enjoy a rare, up-close and interactive experience with endangered plants such as the Corpse Flower and animals ranging from Giant Amazon River Otters to Saki Monkeys and an array of birds! See it all in one of the truest replicas of a real rainforest.”* Your challenge, as a Pteridological group, will be to identify the ferns among an abundance of other wonders!

Now, on to your responsibilities:

- Bret and Raini will be serving hot dogs, potato salad, green salad, chips, soft drinks and ice cream bars (BYOB) at their home (2711 Avenue O, Galveston 77550) for those who wish to attend. **They will need RSVPs by 9AM Friday, April 5th**, email: [bnrc@xmission.com](mailto:bnrc@xmission.com), text/phone: 801-891-2254.
- **Meet on the steps of the Pyramid at 10:30 AM** (for a tour start at 11 AM). Have \$15 per person (in cash or check, please – no credit cards!) available for our Treasurer, Beth Ayer, who will in turn settle up with the Moody Gardens staff.

A couple of additional notes:

- Group rate of \$15 per person is contingent on a 20 person minimum. So you're welcome to invite a friend, spouse or companion at the same price.

- For reference, it takes me about 1 hr 15 min to get to Moody Gardens from my home just off the Katy Freeway on the west side of town. Your travel time will undoubtedly vary, and depend on the vagaries of Houston traffic, but I urge you to come a bit early rather than a bit late as there's plenty to see and enjoy on site in the Gardens if you're a bit early.
- **LATE BREAKING NEWS:** The Memorial Hermann IRONMAN 70.3 returns to Galveston on April 7. Over 2400 athletes from around the world will end their exhausting day with a 13.1 mile, 3-loop run through Moody Gardens. **Minor traffic delays around the event route should be anticipated. For more information on the event, please visit the IRONMAN 70.3 Texas website. As we approach the event date, organizers will publish more information related to temporary road or lane closures. We'll relay whatever information is available Saturday afternoon in a note so check your email before heading out on Sunday!**
- Maps to Moody Gardens and to Bret and Raini's home are included at the end of the newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing y'all on the 7<sup>th</sup>!

Submitted by: Jere Noerager, VP



### 2019 Up and Coming Attractions:

- Apr 7: Moody Gardens Field Trip
- May 19: "West Texas Ferns & Other Plants"  
by Michael Eason  
Texas Conservation Botanist

Submitted by: Jere Noerager & Fred Robinson, VPs



### Refreshments:

Refreshments for March were generously furnished by: Beth Ayer, Bret Cunningham, Ceil Dow, Diane Hudnall, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Marcia Livingston, Ruth McDonald, Larry Rucker, Carol Smith, Ken Warren, and anyone else who forgot to sign the list.

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 in May 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!



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



### Statement of Income & Expenses January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2019

#### INCOME

Membership Dues	\$ 555.00
Raffle Income	318.30
Donations	35.50
Bank Interest	0.42
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 909.22</b>

#### EXPENSES

Program	\$ 12.49
Newsletter	49.75
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 62.24</b>

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

**Balance 1-31-2019: \$ 9,743.88**

**Balance 3-31-2019: \$10,590.86**

**Net Gain for 1st Qtr: \$ 846.98**

**Net Gain for 2019: \$ 846.98**

Submitted by Beth Ayer, Treasurer





***Microsorium thailandicum***  
**Oil fern or Blue strap fern**

Family: [Polypodiaceae](#)  
Genus: [Microsorium](#) my-kroh-SOR-um  
Species: [thailandicum](#) ty-LAN-dih-kuh

This is by far one of the most stunning ferns due to its color. The iridescent Cobalt Blue, although not unique to this fern, makes this an impressive fern. It is not a large fern with fronds reaching only about 7" long developing from long rhizome. It is native to parts of Asia including the Thailand peninsula, Vietnam, Cambodia, Taiwan, and southern China.

It prefers to grow in limestone in a very humid area with very low light. This fern makes a great terrarium plant. I have found the number one killer of *M. thailandicum* is water. It really needs to be on the dry-moist side. It will rot out if over watered. The leaves love the damp high humid air, but not soggy rhizomes.

If you have a limestone rock, you can mount this fern as it grows as a lithophyte as well as an epiphyte on trees in the understory of the forest.

The sori grow on the underside of the frond and are yellow/light brown, round, and in a scattered pattern. It is said to be easy to grow from spore.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society March 17, 2019

The March 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 discussed the upcoming field trip on April 7 to Moody Gardens. Those attending should meet at the Pyramid around 10:30 AM as the guided tour begins at 11:00 AM. Donita Brandon will lead this tour, going behind the scenes to the greenhouses. The group will meet afterward for lunch at a local restaurant. (*Editor's comment: revised post meeting to Hot Dog lunch at the Cunningham's, see Field Trip article page 1*) A tally of those who plan to attend was taken and approximately 17 people raised their hands. The tour needs 20 people in order to get a discount, so Darla encouraged those who plan to attend to bring a spouse, or friend(s). You don't have to be a member of the club to join this excursion.

Cherie reminded all that she needs articles for the newsletter by the next weekend (March 23-24).

Beth announced that we had two new members join since last meeting and that the meeting today had many guests in attendance. She asked those individuals to stand and introduce themselves.

Larry thanked all who brought food and asked that members PLEASE call or email him to let him know if they plan to bring food to a meeting. Otherwise, he worries that there won't be enough and begins to prepare food himself. He and Cherie asked that all who brought food or raffle items to this meeting please sign the list.

Darla announced that today is Beth Ayer's birthday. Beth is our club treasurer.

### Program:

Our program today was "**Watering Plants Made Easy (DIY Automatic Watering)**" and was given by member and Co-Vice-President, Fred Robinson. Fred has many interests and many plants and was looking for a way to simplify his watering. He gave an excellent presentation with a great slide show. He also passed around actual pieces of the DIY watering system he set up. He said most of the equipment is readily available at Home Depot. This is a drip irrigation system using mostly DIG brand components. He explained how he put the system together and discussed the hose-end timers he uses, the mixing pump, a Dosatron proportioning pump, and each of the other components. He ended the lecture with a list of "lessons learned" which was very helpful. Questions followed the talk. Frank and Cherie Lee offered that

Sprinkler Warehouse on the NW side of Houston has most of the equipment and potentially lower prices than other vendors and they also ship.

Darla thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned for the raffle and more refreshments.

### Raffle:

Today's raffle brought in \$47 for the society.

### Attendance:

33 members and 6 guests attended.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Williams, Secretary



### 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.



### March Raffle Donors:

**Thank you to our Donors:** Darla Harris, Cherie & Frank Lee, Faye Stansberry, and anyone else who forgot to sign up.

Thank you all for your generosity.



### 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 [rmcdonald0@gmail.com](mailto:rmcdonald0@gmail.com) or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.





### Editor's Comments

**Deadline for the May Newsletter is May 1, 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 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](https://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](https://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:  
May 21, 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:  
May 2, 2019

The Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc. presents

### 2019 Show and Sale



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

May 4 – 5

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 5:00 pm
	Sunday	11:00 am to 3:00 pm

The Houston Orchid Society presents

### 2019 Show and Sale



Memorial City Mall  
303 Memorial City Way  
Houston, TX 77024

April 6-7

Dillard's Court (Within the Mall)

Saturday	9 AM – 5 PM
Sunday	11 AM – 4 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**

### **March Program**

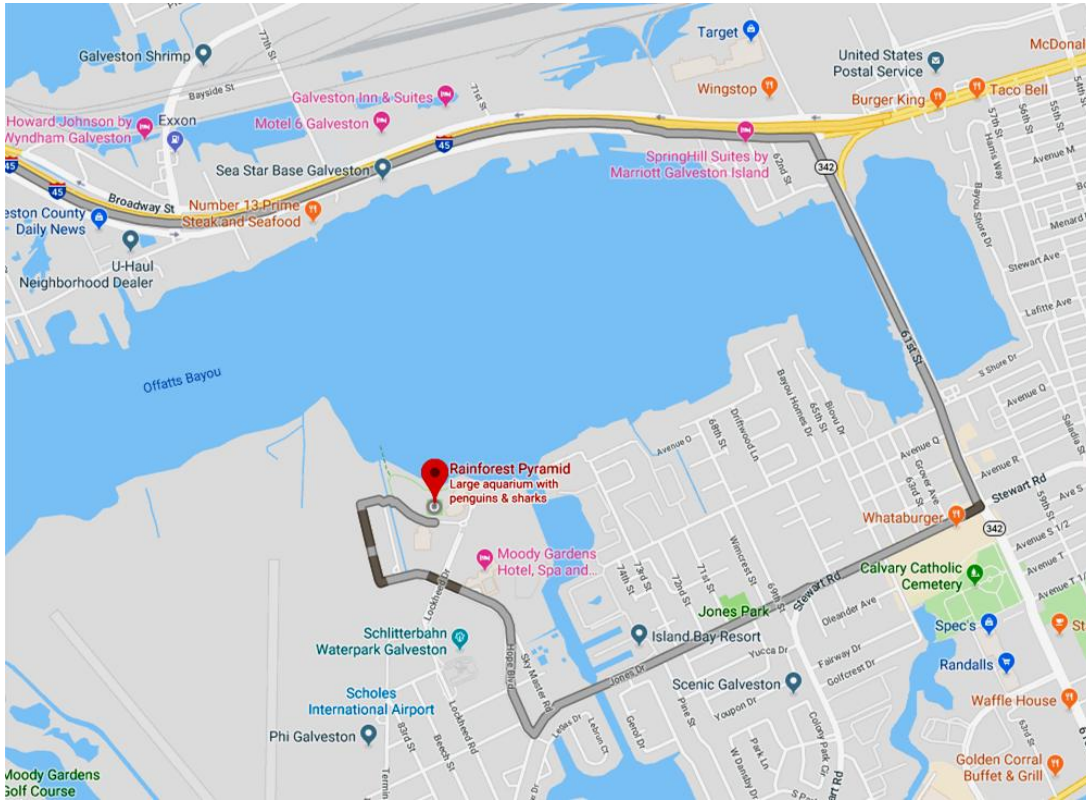
**“Watering Plants Made Easy  
(DIY Automatic Watering)”  
Presented by Fred Robinson**



Photos by Cherie Lee



**April Field Trip**  
**Moody Gardens**  
**One Hope Blvd, Galveston Island, TX 77554**  
**Phone (409) 744-4673**



Take exit 1A to merge onto TX-342 Spur S/Broadway St toward 61st St/W Beach 463 ft

Merge onto TX-342 Spur S/Broadway St 0.3 mi

Use the right 2 lanes to turn right onto 61st St (signs for Texas 342 Spur) 1.0 mi

Pass by KFC (on the right in 0.9 mi)

Turn right onto Stewart Rd 0.4 mi

Pass by Whataburger (on the left)

Turn right to stay on Stewart Rd 289 ft

Continue onto Jones Dr 0.7 mi

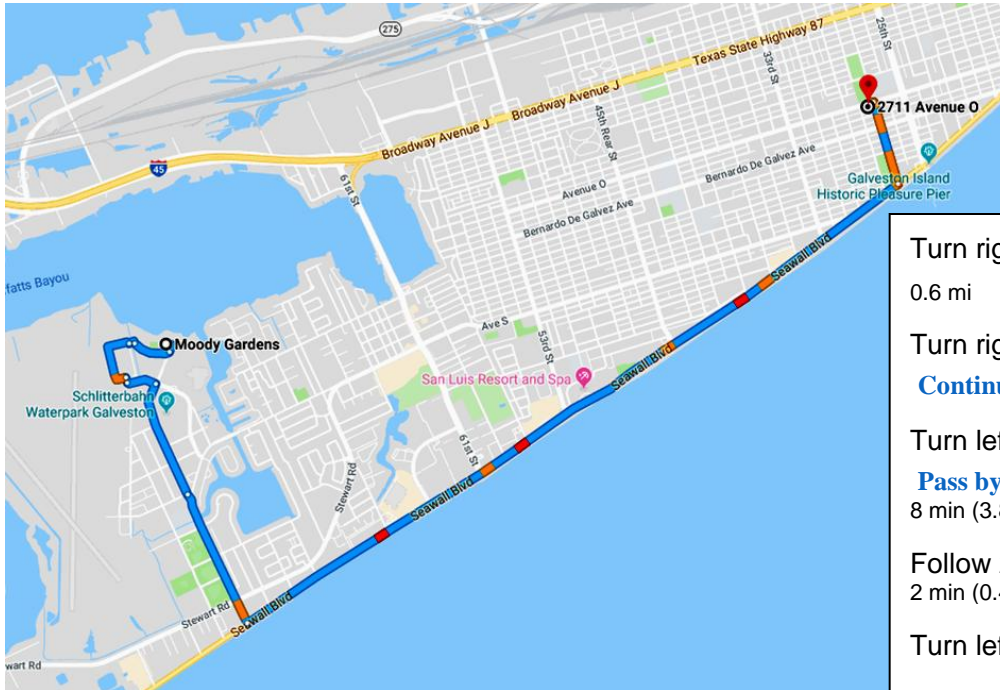
Turn right onto Hope Blvd 0.8 mi

Turn right toward Moody Gardens either on Lockheed Dr or on Tram Route to parking areas





**Lunch at  
Bret & Raini Cunningham's Home  
2711 Avenue O, Galveston, TX 77550  
Phone: (801) 891-2254 (C), (801) 891-2253 (C)**



Turn right (South) onto Lockheed Dr  
0.6 mi

Turn right onto 81st St/Jones Dr  
**Continue to follow 81st St** 0.7 mi

Turn left onto Seawall Blvd  
**Pass by IHOP (on the left in 1.9 mi)**  
8 min (3.8 mi)

Follow 27th St to Avenue O  
2 min (0.4 mi)

Turn left onto 27th St 0.4 mi

Turn left onto Avenue O (one way)  
**Destination will be on the left**  
171 ft

**2711 Avenue O**  
Galveston, TX 77550

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.

