



May 2019

Vol. 21 No. 5

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 p. m. – Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004 - Phone: (713) 284-1994

**In Memoriam
Rosalind Speed**

It is with profound sadness that I inform you that Rosalind Speed passed away suddenly on December 2, 2018 while in the hospital. She had been a member of our society for several years, but had many health issues which prevented her from regularly attending our meetings.



Rosalind was a gentle soul with a kind heart. When I was going through a tough time with my dad's health, she did her best to comfort me and I will never forget her kindness during my difficult time. She was very involved with the arts here in Houston and saw things through a different lens which helped make her a very unique person. She will be missed!

Darla



A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

We had a very good turnout for our Moody Garden field trip, even with the threat of heavy rains and possible flooding. Donita Brannon treated us to the best of Moody Gardens. We learned about the birds that live in the pyramid as well as the fish and all the beautiful land plants from around the world. The greenhouse tour did not go as well as we had planned due to the pounding of the rain preventing us from hearing anyone talk. So, we wandered around dodging the leaks and listening for freight trains until a bus took us all back to our cars. Exciting....

We were then off to Bret and Raini Cunningham's home for a wonderful light lunch. Hot Dogs never tasted so good! We had all the fixings and finished off with ice cream - a definite day of indulgence. Thank you both so much for providing us with a lovely lunch and a safe place to talk away from the storm.

Our meeting this month is going to be on the ferns of central and west Texas. Texas is rich in the diversity of its ferns. The central and west parts of Texas actually have more ferns than East Texas which is surprising when you think about the desert versus the piney woods. Come take a virtual walk through west Texas and the hidden gems that lie within the region. Please see the program notes for more information.

We are planning ahead for our summer and winter parties. We need two volunteers to open their homes and host these this year. Please get with Larry Rucker, Jere Noerager, or myself to let us know which one works best for you!

I have to say my spring has been busy. I hope yours has been too, planting and enjoying our spring!

Hope to see you at the meeting,

Darla



May Program Note
“West Texas Ferns & Other Plants”
Presented by Michael Eason

Michael Eason is a freelance botanist who performs plant surveys and inventories on both private and public lands throughout Texas. Additionally, he is on staff at San Antonio Botanical Gardens, where he heads their Rare Plant Research and Conservation Program. Previously he worked for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center as their Conservation Program Manager, a position he held from 2003-2012. During this time he managed such projects as the Millennium Seed Bank, Ferns of the Trans-Pecos, and Vegetation Survey of Big Bend National Park. Michael is currently working on his second book, focusing on the flora of West Texas.

Michael’s presentation will cover newer images, focusing on the Trans-Pecos flora, the most floristically diverse area in Texas and home of Big Bend National Park, Big Bend Ranch State Park, widely scattered gypseous soils, a variety of mountain ranges, and the Wild and Scenic Rio Grande. This area covers Val Verde county west to El Paso and will include mostly Chihuahuan Desert images with a bit of Tamaulipian Thornscrub and western Edwards Plateau species. Throughout the presentation he’ll merge stories of seeking out plants, those that evade him, pollination biology and seed dispersal techniques. Additionally, he’ll point out a few tools he uses when identifying species, and errors he has encountered, both online and in print.

Submitted by: Jere Noerager, VP



Refreshments:

Refreshments for May 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 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 Up and Coming Attractions:

May 19: “West Texas Ferns & Other Plants”

by Michael Eason

Texas Conservation Botanist

Submitted by: Jere Noerager & Fred Robinson, VPs



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



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
April 7, 2019

The April meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society was a field trip to Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas. The trip included guided tours by Donita Brandon of the Rainforest Pyramid and the behind the scenes greenhouses. Approximately 25 people attended. See pictures later in newsletter.

Submitted by Cherie Lee
for Donna Williams, Secretary



Editor’s Comments

Deadline for the June Newsletter is May 29, 2019.
Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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.



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.



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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



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:
May 21, 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 meeting is:
June 6, 2019

**April Field Trip
Moody Gardens**



Photo courtesy of
Darla Harris



**This plant has been
blooming for 10 years**

**Looking down
from the canopy**





Blending In



Poisonous Viper



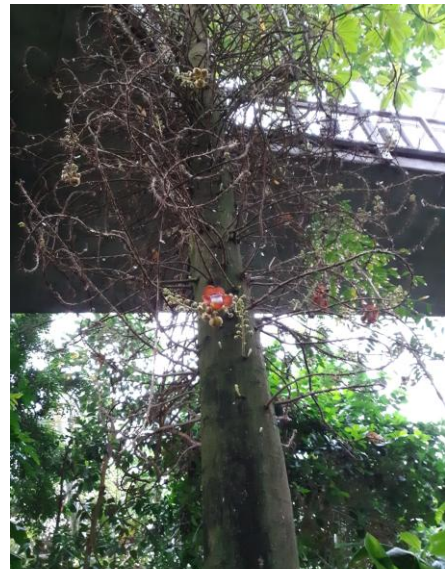
Poisonous Frogs



Komodo Dragon

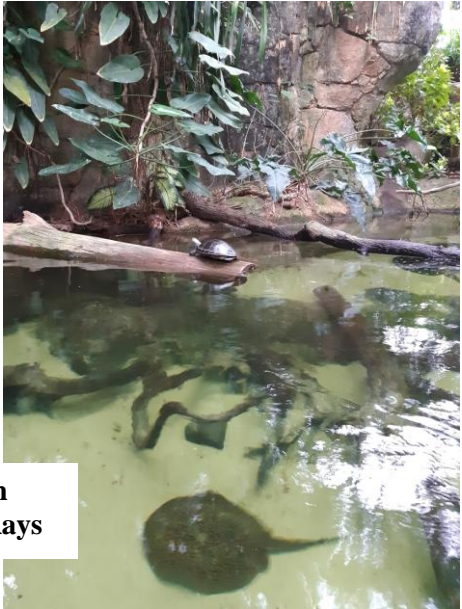
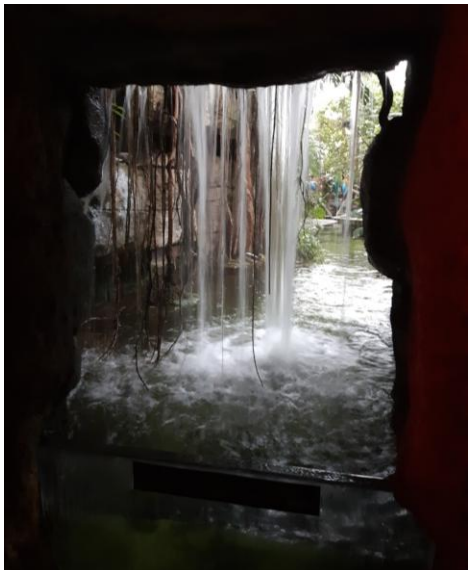


Wax Palm





Nocturnal Bats



**Turtle with
Freshwater Rays**





**Small Deer in
Middle of Picture**



Stag Growing in Greenhouse

Photos courtesy of Larry Rucker
unless otherwise indicated