



July 2019

Vol. 21 No. 7

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 21, 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,

I hope everyone enjoyed the program last month. It's always fun to try new ferns and a new way to show them off. Larry Rucker did an excellent job with the living fern wreath presentation. Just remember even though these are cold hardy ferns and epiphytic, they will need regular watering mounted this way. They will let you know when they are thirsty for sure.

We have a place for our August Party! We will be going to Lucy and Rafael Melara's home. They grow many different ferns with unique planting and arranging styles. There will be so much to see that your eyes will get tired! If you have never been to their home, it is a very memorable moment. Wear your comfortable shoes. Let's hope for some lovely weather!

This month we will be learning about soils from a soil master. He is going to go over some great suggestions for a good media for growing our ferns and why. I'm sure we will learn about growing our other potted plants as well as amending our soils in our yards. The meeting will be held in the back room this month as there is another event in the large room.

We are planning the annual plant swap for the September meeting. So if you don't have something to swap, you have time to shop for a great trade item. We will allow up to 5 plants/plant related items (No cuttings Please!) per membership. So start planning now!

I want to thank everyone for all the wonderful food you have been providing at our monthly meetings! It is amazing what great cooks you all are! Please let Larry Rucker know what you will be bringing both for this month's meeting as well as for the Party!

Please check out the library, Ruth has added a few new books so be sure and look for them!

Take care and see you at the meeting!

Darla



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting after the regular membership meeting on July 21, 2019 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



Please Welcome Our New Members

**Hannah Lowery,
Paulette McNeese,
& Cecilia Pantoja**



July Program Note

**“Mulch – The Secret Weapon of Successful Gardeners”
Presented by John Ferguson**

Did you ever wonder why some mulches attract fire ants while other mulches discourage them? Did you ever wonder why some mulches turn hard tight clay into beautiful rich loam that will grow anything? Or why do some mulches turn your plants yellow and cause them to have lots of insect and disease problems? Which type mulch attracts fire ants or which mulch increases one's fire risk?

In this seminar we will explore all the common types of mulch and the pros and cons of each. We will explore why some mulches cause insect and disease

problems and require more water (hidden costs). We will look at why some mulches cause cancer in our beloved pets and other mulches cause human health problems. Finally, we will explore how the correct mulch can save thousands of dollars in various projects from one's back yard to commercial projects.

Our presenter Mr. Ferguson has over 40 years of business experience. He founded and owns Natural Waste Solutions, Inc., dba **Nature's Way Resources**, a Houston based composting, mulch and recycling company that specialize in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds an MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas. He has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He has represented the composting/recycling industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste for over 22 years. His personal garden has been featured in several gardening books, "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine and his business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of the products. His company won the Houston Chronicle's *Ultimate Award* for the finest quality compost in the Houston region and he won a Keep Houston Beautiful - Mayors Proud Partner Award for Environmental Education.

He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many professional societies. There are many papers that he has written on the company website www.natureswayresources.com. He is co-author of the book "Organics Management for Professionals" on modern sustainable methods in horticulture, agriculture, landscaping, and turf management by University Of Texas Press. He is also a regular contributor to the gardening e-newsletter "Lazy Gardener and Friends".

Education:

Stephen F. Austin State University, M.S., Dec. 1982 (Major: Physics Minor: Geology)

Stephen F. Austin State University, B.S., Dec. 1976 (Major 1: Physics, Major 2: Mathematics, Minor: Geology)

Texas Geoscientist License (Soil Science), PG License # 395

Honors: Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics Honor Society), American Institute of Physics, Sarah H. Emmott Environmental Education Award 1998 and several others.

Professional Affiliations: American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, Crop Science Society of America, Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists, American Society for Horticultural Science, Houston Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) for Solid Waste

Management (Industry Representative), Organic Horticulture Benefits Alliance (OHBA) – Mercer Society Advisory Board at Mercer Arboretum, Garden Writers Association of America.

Honorary Affiliations (Past and Present): American Horticultural Society, Native Plant Society of Texas, Useful Wild Plants of Texas, National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, Houston Rose Society, Urban Harvest - Community Gardening and Organic Education, Texas Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association, Union of Concerned Scientists, USGBC-Houston Chapter, and several others.

Hope to see you all at the meeting for another educational presentation.

Submitted by Jere Noerager, VP



2019 Up and Coming Attractions:

- July 21: "Mulch – The Secret Weapon of Successful Gardeners"
by John Ferguson
- Aug 18: Summer Party
Lucy Melara
- Sept 15: Plant Swap
- Oct 20: "Tissue Culture"
by Jacob Martin
- Nov 17: "Looking for Ferns in All the Wrong Places"
by Panayoti Kelaidis
- Dec: Holiday Party
Date & Location TBD

Submitted by: Jere Noerager & Fred Robinson, VPs



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



Refreshments:

Refreshments for June were generously furnished by: Beth Ayer, Bret Cunningham, Ceil Dow, Cherie Lee, Jim Migliavacca, Betsy Robinson, Larry Rucker, Donna Williams, and anyone else who forgot to sign the list.

Refreshments for July 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 July 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



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the August Newsletter is July 29, 2019. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



Statement of Income & Expenses April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$ 105.00
Raffle Income	272.00
Projects	220.00
Donations	45.00
Bank Interest	0.69
Total:	\$ 642.69

EXPENSES

Program	\$ -
Total:	\$ -
Balance 12-31-2018:	\$ 9,743.88
Balance 3-31-2019:	\$10,590.86
Balance 6-30-2019:	\$11,233.78
Net Gain for 2nd Qtr:	\$ 642.69
Net Gain for 2019:	\$ 1,489.90

Submitted by Beth Ayer, Treasurer



Meeting Raffle:

Thank you to our June Raffle Donors: Beth Ayer, Alicia Baker, Raini Cunningham, Ceil Dow, Jan Kramer, Cherie & Frank Lee, Jere Noerager, Fred Robinson, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, Ken Warren, and anyone else who forgot to sign up made for a spectacular raffle. Thank you all for your generosity.

Do you have some really special plant or horticultural related item that you'd be able to part with for a very good cause? Well, I've got just the place! Our very own society!! We've been making some nice money to bolster our treasury with the wonderful speakers, projects etc. that we support. Think about something that you yourself would be willing to pay extra for i.e. the special raffle. If you would like to donate an item, please call me at 832/541-5242 to coordinate so I will be prepared to sell tickets etc. Thank you.

Submitted by Biruta Claunch



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
June 16, 2019

The June 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 thanked everyone for coming to this meeting and wished all the gentlemen a Happy Fathers' Day.

She reminded us that the July meeting will be in the other room since the one we usually use is booked for another group that day. The program for July will be a PowerPoint presentation given by John Ferguson on "Mulch – The Secret Weapon of Successful Gardeners".

We are still looking for a location for the August meeting so if anyone is interested in hosting that meeting at their home, please let Darla know. If no location can be found, the meeting will be cancelled.

Beth asked for any members who have not received their new directory to please see her – also, if anyone has not paid their dues yet, please see her.

Darla told us that she went to Austin recently to participate in filming a segment for PBS. It is on Central Texas Ferns. It should air at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 22.

Larry thanked everyone who brought food for this meeting.

Program:

Our program today was "A Living Wreath with Ferns" and was given by Larry Rucker. Larry and Darla passed out the materials needed to construct our fern wreath – a metal wreath, fish line, dampened sphagnum moss, and three ferns. The ferns used were an *Asplenium antiquum* and two *Polypodium scolieri*. Larry explained that these can be used in a hanging or flat position and will need to be kept damp. The moss can dry out quickly and can be difficult to rewet. He also told us these plants will grow and may outgrow the wreath! He then walked us through the project and he offered guidance if we needed it – which some of us certainly did!

We had 22 participants for this fun, beautiful project! Thank you, Larry!

Darla then adjourned the meeting for the raffle and more refreshments.

Attendance: There were 28 members and 2 guests present.

Raffle: The raffle brought in \$112.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Williams, Secretary



Book review July 2019

Identifying Ferns the Easy Way: A Pocket Guide to Common Ferns of the Northeast,
by Lynn Levine. Heartwood Press, 2019.

This is our latest acquisition and true to its name, it is pocketbook-sized and filled with substantive information about common ferns of the northeast, many of which grow all the way down the east coast into East Texas. For each fern the author describes its habitat, gives tips for identification, and of particular value, lists which other ferns it can be confused with. As a fern beginner myself, I can attest to its clarity and user-friendliness.

For a more in-depth review, take a look at this review from the blog: Wonder Along With Me As I Wander Through the Woods

<https://wondermyway.com/2019/05/16/book-of-may-identifying-ferns-the-easy-way/>

Submitted: Ruth McDonald



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.



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

Submitted by Beth Ayer

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.

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:
August 20, 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:
August 1, 2019

"A Living Wreath with Ferns"



**Presented by
Larry Rucker**





Photos courtesy of Cherie Lee