



September 2019

Vol. 21 No. 9

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 15, 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,

For those who were able to attend the party at Lucy and Rafael's home, I told you! We would like to thank them for their hospitality and for welcoming us all into their amazing home and plant filled gardens. We were also happy to see some long time, original members of the fern society who we have not seen in a long time. It was great to catch up. For all our regular members, it's always good to talk and get to know each other in a casual setting. The food was delicious and lots of it! Thank you for those who brought food and for letting Larry know ahead of time what you were bringing. That was much appreciated. There were plenty of drinks and conversation. For anyone who was hoping for one of the recipes, let me know. I have some of them in email form that I can send you. Remember too we are still looking for a location for our winter party! Please volunteer so we can start planning.

September is our month to elect our nominating committee who will put together a slate of officers for the upcoming year. We will have one chair that I will appoint who will be the lead person on this committee and the membership will elect two additional members to serve on the committee. Then at the October meeting, we will be voting on our new slate of officers for the 2020 year.

Our September meeting will be a new topic for us. Jacob Martin with Mercer Arboretum will be discussing tissue culture. As many of you know, growing from spore can be a challenge and some ferns/plants are hybrids and don't reproduce easily. So tissue culture is a way of working around these issues. For very rare plants that you want to have a next generation plant just in case, this helps to ensure the continued existence of these plants. Many ferns are grown from tissue culture and then sold as 1" square plugs to be grown and put in the trade. This provides a large number of these ferns and also helps keep the cost

to the consumer down as much as possible. So Jacob is going to talk about some of the plants that Mercer is hoping to reproduce and give us an overview of how it's done and some of the pitfalls of this procedure. Like growing from spore, it is not a foolproof solution either.

October is our annual Plant Swap! Each member may bring up to 5 plants / plant related items to share in the swap. This is always a great way to get different things and help reduce some of your extras. Please remember plants need to be in a pot/basket/board, not cuttings. If you want to root and pot up your cuttings, that is fine but they need to be done in time to be established prior to the October meeting.

Please help with the room set up and break down. This has to be done every month so if you can arrive early and/or stay late, it will help share the task and everyone can visit longer. Please let Larry Rucker know what refreshments you plan on bringing to the meeting. As this is a guest speaker we want to show him what a wonderful society we have and give him a nice welcoming reception.

See you at the meeting,

Darla



“Mercer’s Tissue Culture Trials”

By Jacob Martin, Greenhouse Manager at Mercer Botanic Gardens

This presentation will describe the tissue culture trials that Jacob has conducted at Mercer this year, and focus on the ferns they have tried. He'll describe some of the pitfalls he's encountered – and overcome -- and some of the ferns and plants that they'll be trying in the future. Jacob will talk about the parts of the plants that have yielded the best tissue for use in propagation, Mercer's set up and the materials they have in their lab, and possible at-home setups as well.

Submitted by: Jere Noerager, VP



2019 Up and Coming Attractions:

- Sept 15: "Mercer's Tissue Culture Trials"
by Jacob Martin
- Oct 20: Plant Swap
- 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



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



Refreshments:

Please let Larry Rucker, herbie39L@att.net / 832-453-2992 cell, 713-649-3535 home, know if you can help with the refreshments in September 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 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.



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society August 18, 2019

The August meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society was our annual summer party and was held at the home of Lucy and Rafael Melara.

Lucy and Rafael have a BEAUTIFUL home and gardens – one of the loveliest one can imagine. They very graciously welcomed attendees and answered questions about the amazing plants and decorative elements.

Darla officially opened the party by thanking our host and hostess and all who were in attendance. There was no business meeting at this event.

Larry Rucker did a superb job of organizing the food which had an Italian theme. Many people attended and brought so many wonderful and tasty dishes that one could not sample everything (although many of us tried)! The turnout was great!

Getting to visit with other club members and meet new people made this a warm and rewarding day. It was an excellent experience for all of us.

Attendance: There were 35 members and 6 guests present.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Williams, Secretary



Those Lovely Blue Ferns



Elaphoglossum metallicum

A medium sized fern from Peru. It has a short-creeping rhizome that has a furry golden color. The fronds are an attractive iridescent or metallic blue blade or simple leaf. It does well in medium light and well drained, but moist potting mix. It is a terrestrial fern that likes high humidity. The total height is about 18".



Elaphoglossum metallicum



Elaphoglossum herminieri

Elaphoglossum herminieri

This is such a beautiful fern for such an odd common name, Drooping Tongue Fern. This fern grows in an arching motion and does well as a wall mount like a half basket. It does not like to dry out, but stay evenly moist all the time. It can get up to 2 feet long. It is a zone 10 so would need to be indoors for winter for us here in Houston. Native to the New World, it can be found throughout the Tropical Americas.

Microsorium thailandicum

This fern is an Old World Fern. The unusual fern species is both epiphytic (grows on another plant) and lithophytic (grows on rocks). In nature it may grow attached to the sides of trees or fallen tree trunks or on limestone. It likes high humidity and low to medium light, moist conditions. Plant grows to about 10" long. It is from the tropical areas of Thailand.



Microsorium thailandicum

Submitted by Darla Harris



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.



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the October Newsletter is September 30, 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
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:
September 17, 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 are:
September 5, 2019 & October 3, 2019

Summer Party at Lucy and Rafael Melara's Home



**Our wonderful
hosts
Lucy and
Rafael**

Photo courtesy of
Darla Harris



**A lovely arrangement by Ceil Dow
from her garden**



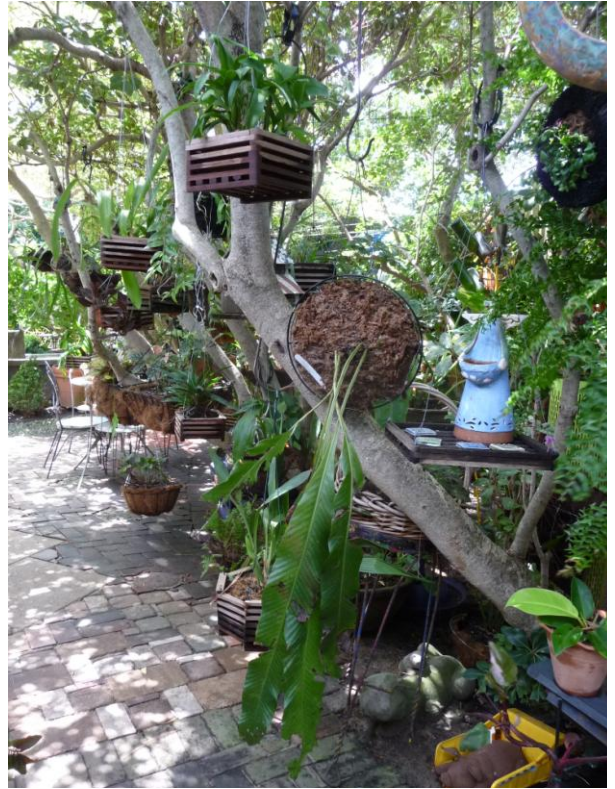
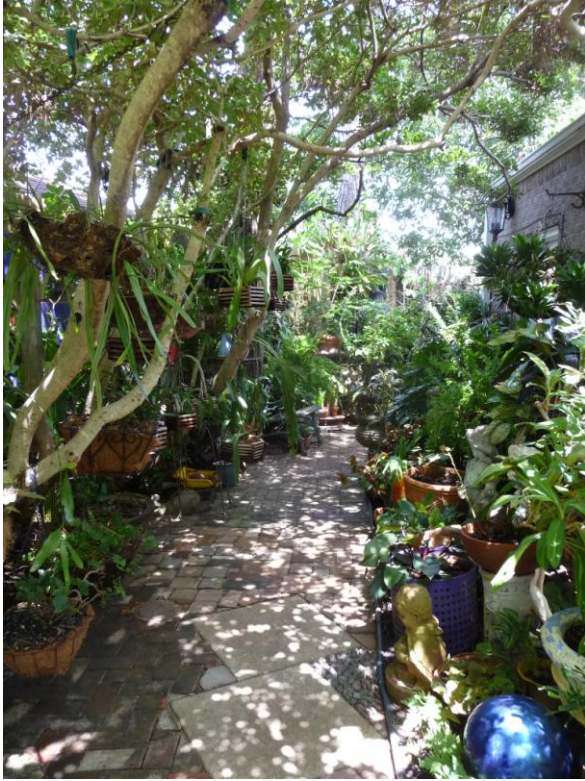




Photo courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale



Photo courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

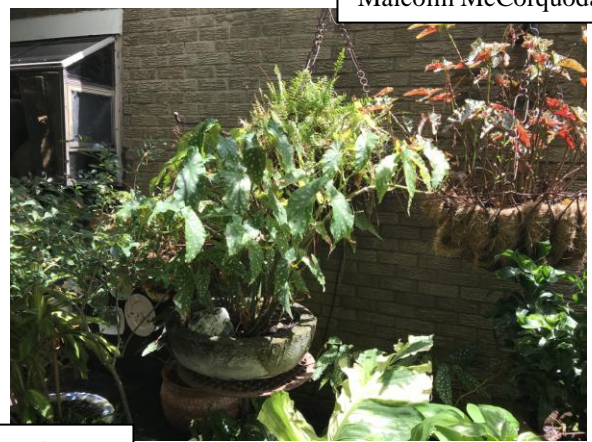




Photos courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale



Photo courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale



Photos courtesy of Malcolm McCorquodale

Photos courtesy of Cherie Lee unless otherwise indicated