



October 2019

Vol. 21 No. 10

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, October 20, 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 all who attended the meeting last month came to a better appreciation of growing ferns from tissue culture. It is not as easy as it seems. Looks like growing from spore is easier unless you really need a lot of plants or you're trying to reproduce a hybrid. I thought Jacob Martin did a great job and answered a lot of questions.

This month will be the plant swap so get those plants and plant items already to go. Remember it's up to 5 plants per paid membership.

We have our nominating committee now. Beth Ayer is chairing the committee with the elected help of Alicia Baker and Ruby Adams. We will be voting on a new slate of officers at this meeting. Thank you everyone who is participating in the process and for those who are taking up a leadership role in our society.

Thank you to Malcolm for offering his home for our December party. If you plan on participating in the gift exchange, now is a great time to look for a nice gift for one of our members. To ensure even exchanges, let's shoot for something in the \$15-20 range and remember to wrap your gifts. I hope everyone get to enjoy this part of the party.

Thanks everyone and I hope to see you at the meeting.

*Darla*



**October Plant Swap**

Our October meeting will be our annual plant swap and the rules are as follows: each membership may bring up to **five** plants or plant related items. ***Please bring established plants and no cuttings to trade.*** We will give out a number to each participating membership and draw to see who gets to select first. After that, the person who picks next will be the one who brought the item selected by the first person. The third person to pick will be the one who brought the item selected by the second person, and so on until everything is chosen. So you want to bring something that everyone wants so they will choose your item and then it will be your turn to choose. Your items do not have to be ferns, but ferns are always good. Any plants or plant-related items are welcome.

Due to the Plant Swap, there will be **NO RAFFLE.**

Submitted by: Jere Noerager, VP



**2019 Up and Coming Attractions:**

Oct 20: Plant Swap

Nov 17: "Looking for Ferns in All the Wrong Places"  
by Panayoti Kelaidis

Dec 15: Holiday Party  
hosted by Malcolm McCorquodale

Submitted by: Jere Noerager & Fred Robinson, VPs



## Meeting Raffle:

### NO RAFFLE IN OCTOBER DUE TO SWAP.

**Thank you to our September Raffle Donors:** Ruby Adams, Bret Cunningham, Will Fleming, Darla Harris, Jim Migliavacca, Faye Stansberry, and anyone else who forgot to sign up. A special thanks goes to Jim Migliavacca for once again donating multiple flats of plants for our regular raffle and a lovely begonia for a special 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



### Refreshments:

Refreshments for September were generously furnished by: Beth Ayer, Ceil Dow, Darla Harris, Cherie Lee, Ruth McDonald, Jim Migliavacca, Betsy Robinson, Larry Rucker, Ken Warren, and anyone else who forgot to sign the list.

Refreshments for October will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer, Paulette  
Savory: Malcolm McCorquodale  
Desserts: Ruby Adams, Diane & Pat Hudnall  
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 in October 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!



## 2020 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2020 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.



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

### INCOME

Membership Dues	\$ 102.00
Raffle Income	201.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.71</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 303.71</b>

### EXPENSES

Program	\$ 379.62
Newsletter	\$ 72.20
Donations	\$ 600.00
Plants/Library Books	\$ <u>45.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1096.82</b>

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

**Balance 6-30-2019:** \$11,211.78

**Balance 9-30-2019:** \$10,418.67

**Net Loss for 3rd Qtr:** \$ 793.11

**Net Gain for 2019:** \$ 674.79

Submitted by Beth Ayer, Treasurer



## *Cyathea brownii* (syn *Sphaeropteris excelsa*)

*Cyathea brownii* (syn *Sphaeropteris excelsa*) Norfolk Tree Fern, Smooth Tree Fern, is one of the world's largest tree ferns. It is a beautiful, robust looking fern from the Norfolk Islands near Australia. It looks similar to *Cyathea cooperi* in many ways. It forms trunks, in cultivation of 15 -50ft. Fronds can apparently reach 20 feet in length.

The trunk arises while young and is covered with soft brown scales which fall off as it matures. With the humid climate of Houston the trunk should be quite substantial. With good water, substrate and fertilizer it should grow quickly. Like all other tree ferns it is important to not allow water to drip into or be sprayed into the crown as it will set up conditions for the fungal disease rhizoctonia or Crown Hardening. Before I realized this I had lost 2 fairly large *C. cooperi*(s) to this disease.

As with many ferns in Houston, it prefers about 50% - 80% shade and protection from wind, afternoon sun and reflected heat will help. It should be about as hardy as *Cyathea cooperi*. It is recommended to protect from frost, with a minimum temperature about 28F. *Cyathea brownii* is not common outside Australia, although it is available. This fern may be available at The Fern Plantation, The Fern Factory, on ebay, or from British or Australian vendors. This fern should be easily raised from spore.

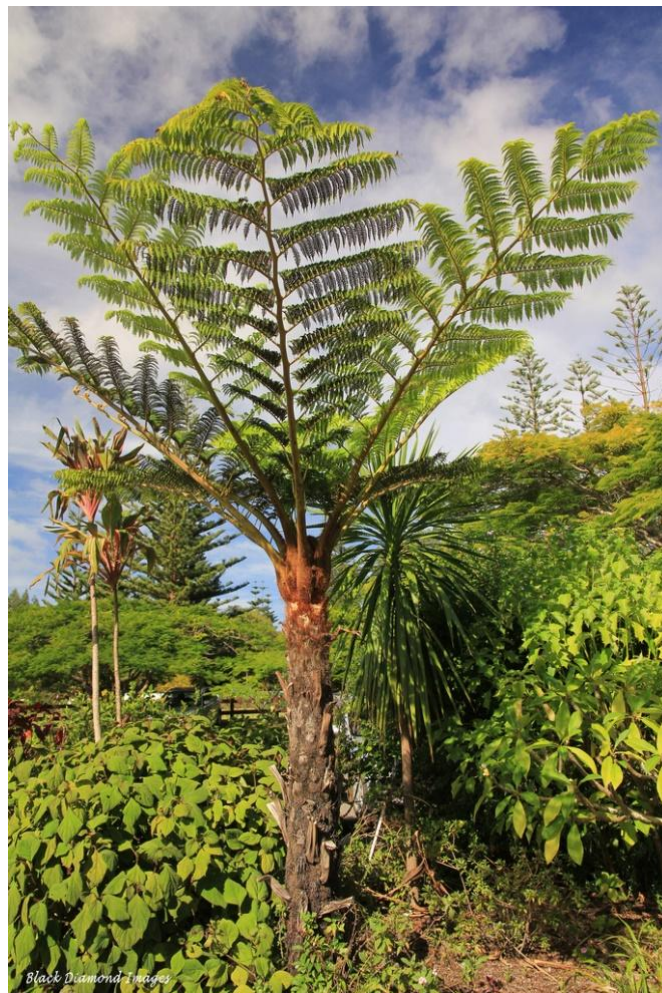


Photo by Black Diamond Images



Submitted by Pat Hudnall



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**  
**September 15, 2019**

The September 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 by President, Darla Harris at 2:00 p.m.

Larry Rucker thanked everyone who brought food to this meeting and all those who brought food to the August party at Lucy and Rafael Melara's home.

Darla announced that it is time to appoint a nominating committee for election of next year's officers. She appointed Beth Ayer as Chair of the committee and asked for volunteers to serve with Beth. Ruby Adams and Alicia Baker volunteered to serve. Jere Noerager motioned to accept these nominations and Carolynne White seconded. A vote was called, and the nomination passed unanimously. The committee will present a slate of officers next month. Nominations from the floor will be accepted and a vote will be called.

Darla then asked if anyone would volunteer their home for the holiday party. It is scheduled for December 15th. Malcolm McCorquodale volunteered and was thanked. Larry said this will be traditional holiday food. A list will be passed around next meeting for people to sign up for the food they plan to bring.

Member Alicia Baker showed the club some lovely staghorn ferns she had mounted and asked members for their opinions or suggestions on what she had done. These all looked very nice and we thanked her for bringing them in.

Darla brought several T-shirts if anyone was interested in purchasing one. They were \$10 each.

There were no committee reports.

**Program:** Darla introduced our speaker Jacob Martin, Greenhouse Manager at Mercer. He gave a presentation on Tissue Culture. In his lecture he discussed what tissue culture is, why it is important, what the standard procedures are, what the Mercer trials have shown thus far, and the issues that were observed.

Tissue culture produces an exact copy of the plant which may be about the only way to propagate some plants. Obviously, it is a very important process. This was a very informative presentation and revealed the very exacting and painstaking process involved. Thank you, Jacob!

**Attendance:** There were 32 members present at this meeting.

**Raffle:** There were once again a great many very lovely plants available in the raffle. Everyone who

bought a ticket went home with several new plants. This raffle brought in \$61. There was also a special raffle item which was a very beautiful hanging-basket begonia. This raffle brought in \$25.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Williams, Secretary



**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



**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.

**If you have books checked out, please bring them to the November meeting as Ruth will not be attending the October meeting. Thank you.**



## Editor's Comments

**Deadline for the November Newsletter is October 28, 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](https://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.

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## 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:  
October 15, 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:  
November 7, 2019

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## "Mercer's Tissue Culture Trials"

by Jacob Martin



Our speaker Jacob Martin



Special raffle winner Donna Williams

Raffle plant provided by Jim Migliavacca



Another nice raffle

Photos courtesy of Cherie Lee