



March 2020

Vol. 22 No. 3

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Field Trip: Sunday, March 15, at 10:00 a. m. – Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary,
2001 FM 945 South, Cleveland, TX 77554**

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

WOW! What a chaos we had at the last meeting! For those who missed the meeting, there was no one at the Judson Robinson Jr. building where we meet to let us into the building. They have apologized and I now have the director's cell phone in case this or something else goes wrong again. Our speaker Carolynne White saved the day by offering to have the meeting at her nearby home. She cleared space for us to set up our refreshments and raffle and then proceeded to give us a fantastic presentation on photographing landscapes and ferns. She taught us several fail proof steps with lighting and composition even just using a cell phone. Lighting and placement of the subject are really the keys to awesome pictures. I know I for one will really try to put this information into practice. I would also like to thank the Hudnalls for also offering their nearby home for the meeting. What wonderful people we have in our Society who are so willing to step up and save the day!

Also at the meeting, our Society received a generous donation from the Southwest Fern Society in Dallas. It was presented by Michael Lorfing, a member of our fern society and also the former President of the Southwest Fern Society in Dallas. Unfortunately that society had to cease operations due to their meeting location being blown away by a tornado last October and their declining number of members. Mike stated that they felt we were a growing society that was helping to keep ferns alive for Houston as well as Texas and they wanted to help us continue with a donation of their left over funds. As a gesture of our thanks, we have given them a membership to our society so they will continue to receive fern information every month. We would like to give each of their members a heartfelt Thank you!!

This month's meeting will be a field trip to the Little Thicket Preserve in East Texas. We will walk through

nature and see our native ferns growing as they emerge from their winter sleep. This was a big success when we did this trip 8 years ago, so if you are new to our society or just missed that trip, it's time to do this again. There is a people mover that can drive you around to the different locations if walking is an issue for you, so don't let that slow you up! There is a picnic area with restrooms where we can stop and eat so bring your own lunch and drinks. Please see the program information for more details. It is really a lot of fun!

I would like to take this time to thank Cherie Lee for her work on our newsletter for the past ten years. This is her last issue for us. She has made great contributions to our publication over the years with her photos and editing and making sure the information reached all our members and other people interested in ferns through advertising our meetings in The Chronicle and the Lazy Gardener. Thank You!

Paul Geiger, our newsletter editor prior to Cherie, has agreed to take on this project for our Society. Paul and Patsy Geiger were very active members of our Society until they moved from the Houston area back home to New Orleans. They have continued to be members all these years and did not hesitate when we needed help! I'm hoping this will encourage them to make some of our meetings this year, but that being said, they will depend on us to take pictures and to get all our information to him for our newsletter. Starting with the April newsletter, Paul will be at the helm. Thank You!

We have a great year of speakers and projects lined up. Make sure to be available in April as we will have an out of town expert on growing Staghorn ferns! We will have a bio and more details in the April newsletter as well as the year's line up.

Spring is in the air and it's almost planting season. Don't forget Mercer Arboretum March Mart, March 20-21 and after that, Peckerwood Gardens 'Budding

Out' plant sale. We will have membership booths at both of these events! Please come out and support our society!

See you at the field trip!

Darla



Little Thicket Field Trip

Sergio Henao will again be our Host for the Little Thicket Field Trip. Here is a link to a page on the Little Thicket showing ferns that Sergio has seen there. <https://littlethicket.org/ferns>

The Little Thicket property has been conserved pristine since it was bought in 1950. The preserve belongs to the Outdoor Nature Club which is the oldest nature club in Texas, founded in 1923. The preserve has 700 acres and approximately 22 miles of trails and roads. Over 602 species of plants (and counting) have been identified and described in a book by one of our members, Charles Peterson. Fifteen species of ferns have been described at the sanctuary.

Where: Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary- see map, about a 1 1/2 hour drive north of Houston

Time: Meet there at 10:00 AM – 3-4 PM

Wear: Hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes, long trousers - hiking 2-3 miles, but might have the option of riding a tractor pulled wagon.

Bring: Drinking water, brown bag lunch, maybe insect repellent.

Facilities: Rest rooms.

Also, please let Darla Harris or myself know if you plan to attend.

Submitted by: Pat Hudnall, VP



Refreshments:

Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments for our February meeting. We had a wonderful spread.

Please let Larry Rucker, herbie39L@att.net / 832-453-2992 cell, 713-649-3535 home, know if you can help with the refreshments for April's meeting 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 Up and Coming Attractions:

Mar 15: Little Thicket Field Trip

hosted by Sergio Henao

Submitted by: Pat Hudnall, VP



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.



2020 Officers and Committees:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| President: | Darla Harris |
| Vice Presidents: | Patrick Hudnall |
| Secretary: | Donna Williams |
| Treasurer: | Beth Ayer |
| Board Members-at-Large: | Ceil Dow |
| | Jere Noerager |
| | 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 |



Pyrrosia linearifolia
Crested Form

This *Pyrrosia linearifolia* comes in a normal form and a crested form. They both originate in Asia, with the crested form being from Southern Peninsular Malaysia. As with most *Pyrrosias*, it is hardy to semi-hardy taking the temperature down to 20F. It is a small fern that grows well under low to medium light. It does not like to be over watered so a dry mixture with good drainage is best to insure it does not rot. This fern grows well in small hanging baskets or potted. The fronds are about 6"-8" long with cresting that forks in two or more places. It's a light green color with very prominent veins that really add to its beauty. This is a collector fern and not found generally in the trade, but for those who love *Pyrrosias*, it is worth adding to your collection.



Submitted by Darla Harris



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
February 16, 2020**

The American Fern Society (AFS)

The American Fern Society is over 120 years old. With over 900 members worldwide, it is one of the largest international fern clubs in the world. It was established in 1893 with the objective of fostering interest in ferns and fern allies. It exchanges information and specimens between members via their publications and spore exchange.

AFS non-professional membership (\$20) includes access to the Spore Exchange and subscription to the Fiddlehead Forum.

Professional membership (\$40) includes the benefits above plus access to the American Fern Journal.

To find out more about the Society and/or join, visit <https://www.amerfernsoc.org/>.



Meeting Raffle:

Thank you to our February Raffle Donors: Ruby Adams, Alicia Baker, Darla Harris, Noreen Hoard, Cherie Lee, Jere Noerager, Fred Robinson, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, and anyone else who forgot to sign up. 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



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.



The February meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society was held at the home of Carolynne White, who was our speaker for this meeting. Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center was not open for us on this day so Carolynne very kindly offered her home which was very near Judson Robinson.

President Darla Harris called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. She began by introducing Michael Lorfing of the former SW Fern Society of Dallas (he is also a member of our society). The Dallas club closed due to declining membership and destruction of their long-time meeting place by a tornado. He presented Darla with a check to TGCFS of the last of the funds from that club. He stated these funds are unrestricted. Everyone applauded Mr. Lorfing for this generous gesture.

Darla announced that we need a new Newsletter Editor. Due to other obligations Cherie Lee is stepping down from that position. Anyone interested should contact Darla. Details were in the February newsletter.

Next month's meeting (March 16) will be a field trip to the Little Thicket. The last time our society took this trip was 2011. Sergio Henao said he has identified 12 different ferns when walking through the little thicket. Darla asked that members send an email to her or to Patrick to say if they plan to attend this meeting. The Little Thicket is near Coldspring, Texas and is approximately 1.5 hours drive from Houston. Darla would like us to arrive around 10:00 or 10:30 am. Larry suggested everyone bring their own lunch. The walk may take 3-4 hours and is on unpaved ground, so wear close toed, comfortable walking shoes. Sergio also suggested bringing insect repellent and water.

For April's meeting, we will have an out-of-town speaker who will give a presentation on Staghorn ferns. Darla asked that members arrive before 2:00 pm to allow our presenter plenty of time.

Darla and Larry thanked all who brought food to this meeting and thanked Carolynne for the generous offering of her home for today.

Program:

Member, Carolynne White, gave a wonderful Power Point presentation on "**Simple Tricks for Effective Photography.**" She talked about maximizing pixels, thinking about WHY the shot is being taken, taking multiple shots, composition, light, shadow, time of day, and weather conditions when taking the photo.

She discussed the rule of thirds, perspective, detail, and the principles of design. Then she explained what to do after the photo is taken such as how to crop, lighten, darken, etc. This was a very interesting presentation and was very well illustrated with the Power Point slides and examples of photos in Carolynne's home.

Following this program, Darla adjourned the meeting for the raffle. We ended at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Raffle:

The raffle brought in \$104.

Attendance:

There were 30 members and 2 guests present at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Williams, Secretary



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.



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.



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 29, 2020. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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:
March 17, 2020

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:
March 5, 2020

The Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc. presents

2020 Spring Sale



West Grey Multiservice Center
1475 W. Grey St.
Houston, TX 77019

March 28

Sale hours: Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

The Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc. presents

2020 Show and Sale



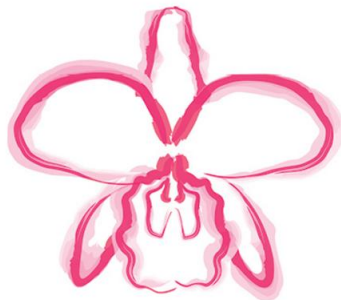
Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center
2020 Hermann Drive
Houston, TX 77004

May 16-17

Show hours: Saturday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sale hours: Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 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

**“Simple Tricks for Effective Photography”
by Carolynne White**

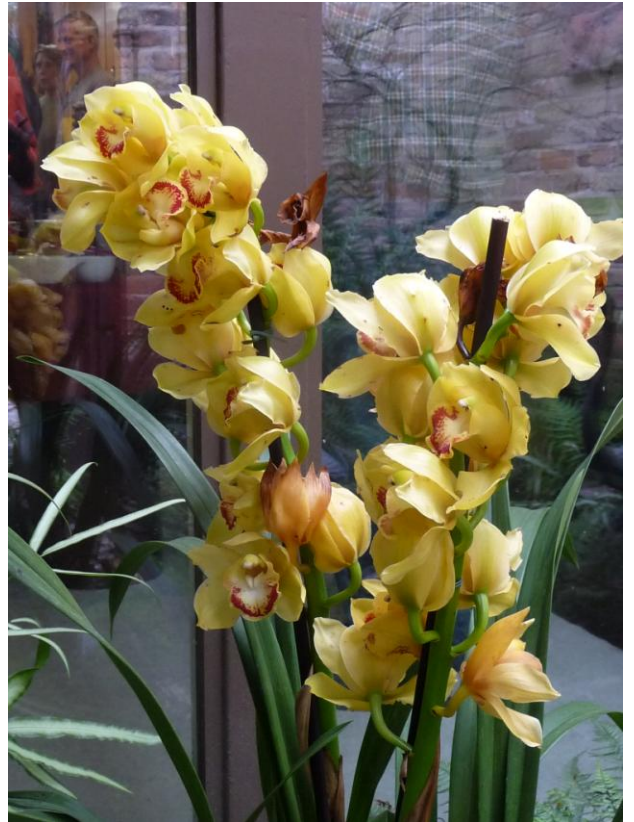


Our Speaker Carolynne White



Carolynne's Lovely Garden





Photos courtesy of Cherie Lee

**Visitors Weekends
Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
2001 FM 945 South, Cleveland, Texas**

Below are maps showing routes to LTNS. Watch along the side of the road for the entrance sign:
LITTLE THICKET NATURE SANCTUARY.



Directions to the sanctuary (GPS at entrance gate: N 30° 32.141' W 95° 13.564')

Route 1 — US 59 via Cleveland

Take US Highway 59 north to Cleveland; turn left on FM 2025; go five miles and turn left on FM 945. Go 11 miles to the entrance on your right.

Route 2 — I-45 via Willis

Take I-45 north to Willis; turn right on FM 1097 to SH 150; go approx. 9 miles to FM 945 South; turn right. Go two miles to the entrance on your left.

Route3 — I-45 via New Waverly

Take I-45 north to New Waverly; turn right on SH 150; go approx. 17 miles to FM 945 South; proceed as above.