



April 2020

Vol. 22 No. 4

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be no meeting this month. See below.

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

Wow!! A lot has changed in our lives since we were last together in February. The main concern is every ones welfare! Staying home, staying healthy, both mentally and physically. Social distasting is not something we do well in the south. I know I'm missing my hugs from all my friends! We will get through this if we stay apart for now, but how wonderful it will be when we are passed this and can be together again. Needless to say we will not have a meeting April the center is closed and at this point I just don't know about May, we will just have to see how things are going here in Houston and in the World.

Normally I would be talking about what a wonderful field trip we had last month, but as that did not happen either we have only the future to talk about.

Spring is here and this is a great time to get out in your yards and get those beds cleaned out and put in some fresh ferns and some complementary flowering plants. Nature's pallet if you will and take this time to take some nice photos and put into practice some of the tips we got at our February meeting. Don't forget those thirds and you off center placement and do try the light at different times of day. The morning light and the evening light gives such a different look to the picture. I would like to ask everyone to send me one photo they have taken this spring of a fern or ferns at your home or in your yard and let's see what a nice array of ferns and photography we can present. We will put them in our next newsletter and see some great examples of our growing skills! So I guess this will be our hands on April meeting! This should be fun! You can text the picture to me or email me. 281-733-5564 or darla@fernplantation.com.

Remember we are staying a part now so we will all be together in the future!

Take care my friends stay 6' away and where your mask of some kind!

Darla



2020 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2020 membership are still being accepted. Thank you to all of you who have already renewed. If you have not renewed, please complete the membership form and mail it with your payment and any changes noted to our Membership Chair, Beth Ayer:

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.



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/>.



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:	Paul Geiger
Spore Exchange:	Patrick Hudnall
Ways and Means:	Larry Rucker
Raffle, Store, etc.	Biruta Claunch
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Faye Stansberry



1st Quarter 2020 Treasurer's Report

Income:

Dues:	\$695.00
Raffles:	\$155.00
Donations:	\$3333.42
Interest:	\$0.77
Total Income:	4184.19

Expenses:

Program:	\$25.00
Website:	\$40.34
Total Expenses:	\$65.34

Balance on Dec. 31, 2019:	\$10,657.63
Balance on March 31, 2020:	\$14,776.48

Net Gain for 1Q2020:	\$4,118.85
Net Gain for 2020:	\$4,118.85



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.



Spider's Web ferns: By Pat Hudnall

Arachniodes are medium sized terrestrial ferns useful in pots or planting beds. Rhizomes vary from short to long creeping. The blades are two-pinnate or more divided, broad, often triangular and dimorphic or not. The round sori are covered by a kidney shaped indusium. Many species in this genus resemble a broad-frond *polystichum*, but their kidney-shaped indusia and creeping rhizomes distinguish them. In some ways are like *Dryopteris*.

Arachniodes contains about 50 species and hybrids are mostly found in tropical and subtropical Asia. The genus name comes from the Greek *arachnion*, spider's web and *-odes* meaning "having the form or nature of." No one knows why the fern received this name.

Although taxonomists may identify many in this genus, we are likely to only see 3 or 4. Most commonly the East Indian holly fern, syn. *Arachniodes simplicior*. Most find this a fairly tough and durable fern, albeit slow growing. It adds variegation to the garden having bright green and yellow fronds. The fronds are medium sized with long creeping rhizomes. This fern does best in typical potting soil or garden soil with medium moisture and medium light. The fertile fronds are more upright than the sterile fronds and develop only after the plant is well established. You may see this fern for sale under the misnomer *Arachniodes aristata* 'Variegatum'. It is readily available at retail nurseries.



A. *Simplicior*: photo by Darla Harris

Although rarely found in the trade, Shiny Bristle fern, syn. *Arachniodes davalliaeformis* is an excellent fern for Houston gardens. It's evergreen, medium sized (about knee high) and tough. It grows well in typical garden soil or in a medium sized pot. It takes average water and medium light. I have found it to be generally free of pests. The fertile fronds are distinctly taller and more upright than the sterile fronds. Although you are unlikely to see this fern in a typical nursery, it is available from Darla at Fern Plantation.



A. *Davalliaeformis*: Photo by Pat Hudnall

The Upside-Down fern, syn. *Arachniodes standishii* is a medium sized evergreen, with short-creeping rhizomes. It grows well in Houston's humidity appreciating medium light in a moist garden soil or potting mix. It is the most finely dissected of the cultivated species having a softer texture than other cultivated species. Being soft may make it more susceptible to insect pests or snails. I rarely see this for sale in area nurseries, although I did pick up a small one (3ö pot) at Buchanan's nursery. You may also find this at the Fern Plantation or through raffles at the TGCFS meetings.



A. *Standishii*: Photo by Darla Harris

Article reference *Fern Grower's Manual 2001* by Hoshizaki & Moran