



June 2020

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<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Due to COVID-19 restrictions our meeting this month will be another “virtual” one.

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

I think our first *GoToMeeting* experience worked out very well. I'm sorry for the short notice for that meeting, I'm sure others would have joined in had they had a few more days notice. We still had 21 attend and that was pretty amazing; under the circumstances it was nice to get together. Fernando Orellama gave a great talk to use on Aglaomorpha and the sister clade now joined Drynaria. Taking about growing them in the Las Angles area, with great pictures. This was such a treat to have one of our members from out of state to be able to come in and talk to us in this fashion. Thank you Fernando for a great job!!!

For this month's meeting, wow!! Patrick and I have been working on this hoping to get a speaker from out of the area that we would normally not be able to have come in. Well, it did not happen! We asked six different speakers. All were willing to talk to us, just not this June meeting.

At first we talked about not having a meeting at all, but as we talked we decided to forge on with a meeting anyway. So this month's meeting will be another virtual meeting using *GoToMeeting* and conducted by us! Those that have a camera connection are encouraged to show a fern that they love, or have problems with, or whatever they would like to say about it. We will have several members that will have plants to show and tell. This should be a lot of fun and is open to everyone! It will be great to talk and see each of you!

We do have a speaker from Australia that is going to talk to us on ferns in July. With the time difference, we might want to consider starting a couple hours later so she does not have to talk to us at 3am. I'll let you know on this one. She did lose their whole nursery to the fires that occurred there this past few months. She is a great grower, propagator, and knows her ferns very well. And out of the ashes and melted plastic, fern emerged. Hard to believe but it is no wonder ferns are 70 million years old.

Good News!!! We have an August Party to attend!!! Unless the state/local government changes something between now and August 16th we are going to see each

other (with social distancing of course), get to visit and most importantly - eat!!! Thank you Patrick and Diane Hudnull for offering your home for this event for us! With a lot of space for social distancing and centrally located this is a wonderful offer that we have accepted.

As for September! Well I have no idea yet. I hope we will be meeting as normal, but if not, we will persevere and make do. We will keep you posted.

I know things are over whelming right now, but stay safe and calm and we will get through this together!

Take care, and stay safe!

Hope to see you soon at the virtual meeting.

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/>.



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Acrostichum

By Pat Hudnall

I first noticed this mostly aquatic fern at Another-Place-in-Time nursery in the Heights. It was in a pot in the fountain near the entrance. I had heard of them, but never seen one. There was no price or anything on it, and being short of time, I didn't give it a second thought.

While thumbing through my copy of the Fern Growers Manual, I read a little about it, finding it more interesting. I first saw one in-situ while in Ratchaburi, Thailand. It was a massive clump of bright greenish-gold fronds about 6-8ft tall and 15ft long which appeared to be bordering a slow stream and marshland. I shot a little video of my next sighting there. Having never seen them for sale I didn't think much about them until I started paying attention. I found them at Mercer Arboretum, Nelson Water Gardens and Caldwell's Nursery but none for sale at the time. Then this spring I found them for sale at Nelson's, so I picked one up. Thinking it looked a bit sickly yellow, I fertilized it. Probably not the best idea. I believe the fertilizer made it less tolerant of full sun, where I had heard and read it should grow. I also found that moth larvae love the tender shoots. I still haven't determined which species this one is. I may have to wait for it to mature and examine spore location. Either covering the entire lower blade surface in *A. daniaefolium* or only toward the apex in *A. aureum*.

From Flora of North America (www.efloras.org) primary and other web sources:

Acrostichum, with three species, is the only terrestrial fern growing in the mangrove ecosystem. *A. aureum* is also the only species found in both the Indo West-Pacific (IWP) and American East-Pacific (AEP) areas. In Central America, the Caribbean, and south Florida, *A. danaeifolium* is found in sunny, "somewhat saline" to freshwater swamps, but not generally in coastal or mangrove areas. In the same region, *A. aureum* is associated with the coastal, shaded saline and mangrove habitats although it, too, can grow happily and rapidly in freshwater lake and canal margins. Indeed, a supply of freshwater, even in

the mangrove areas, is critical, especially for sexual reproduction; the gametophytic generation appears to be much less salt tolerant than the sporophytic. *A. speciosum* is a rapidly growing species found in the intermediate estuarine and high intertidal zones, and in freshwater. In all, these characteristics contribute to it being considered opportunistic and a colonizer of disturbed areas.

The fern *A. aureum* can be distinguished from *A. speciosum* by being taller, with young fronds having reddish leaves and mature fronds bearing leaves with a blunt tip (Giesen et al., 2007; Ragavan et al., 2014). Plants of *A. speciosum* are shorter (1.0–1.5 m tall) and leaves have a papery texture and acuminate tips. In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India, a hybrid of *Acrostichum* has been reported (Ragavan et al., 2014). In a mangrove educational book, Baba et al. (2013) *A. aureum* is considered as edible plants and as minor non-wood products source.



(Photos by Patrick Hudnall)