



July 2020

Vol. 22 No. 7

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Due to COVID-19 restrictions our meeting this month will be another “virtual” one and at a different time. See below.

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is well!! This has been and continues to be an odd year for the world. All I can say is I hope we all manage to weather this storm and maintain good health! I can truthfully say: "I have missed you guys!" I will be happy when we can see each other in person and, even if we can't hug yet, please know that in my heart you all are getting a big hug from me!!

Can you say Virtual? Well this seems to be our new normal, so I hope everyone will continue to work towards joining the meeting virtually for as long as we must maintain this format. It is nice to get to see most of you each month and hear only some but we know we are there and hanging in there! I'm here to help anyone that needs a test try to get into the meeting. It really is not that difficult and trust me, I'm not a techie person at all. Let me know if I can help!

BIG CHANGE This meeting!!!

Our meeting is going to start at 5PM CDT (Houston time; 6pm FL and 3pm CA) We are going to have our speaker join us from Australia and for her this will be 8am Monday morning, so we agreed to adjust our start time just a little so she would be awake! Please read all about the meeting under the **“Program Note”** below. I'll be sending out (via e-mail) the meeting codes for the **GoToMeeting** access.

Our last virtual meeting went very well, with show and tell being the program. Several people had one or more plants to show off and talk about and that was a lot of fun. I know getting use to showing things through the camera lens is a challenge, but everyone did really well and I know I personally really enjoyed seeing every ones ferns. Please see the minutes for more details on the plants. We had 18 attend - not as many as our first meeting, but pretty good. Let's welcome our guest speaker with a good showing.

Well I don't know about all this heat!! I'm ready for a little rain and a cool down! We're watering to keep everything hydrated, but not too much to drown them. Walking that fine line of balance can be a challenge. My ferns are hanging in there, though sometimes I feel I'm melting!

Talk care everyone!! And stay safe!

Darla



Program Note: July 2020

Dwayne and Kylie Stocks run Verdigris, a small production nursery specializing in ferns. The nursery is located in Currowan, NSW (Australia), and was at the centre of the bushfire crisis in December/January of last year. Kylie is going to speak to us about her experiences, including lessons learnt and how the nursery and plants have recovered in the months following.

See below for pictures they sent to give us some idea of the impact:

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.

In May we received a new member: Claudia Leffler. If you haven't done so already, please welcome her to our group.



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.

Please note that donations to the AFS are not tax deductible.

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



Minutes of Virtual Meeting via "GoToMeeting" June 21, 2020

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

The June meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society was a **GoToMeeting** (virtual) due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Darla had emailed members the link and the app for this meeting.

President, Darla Harris, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. She told members that the planned July meeting will be a speaker from Australia who will talk about ferns.

The meeting time may have to be changed due to the time difference between here and there.

The August meeting will be a party held at the home of Patrick and Diane Hudnall. Thanks to both for so generously offering their lovely home! Larry Rucker will be organizing the food for this event.

Because of the nature of this meeting there was no information on membership and no treasurer's report. Obviously, there was also no raffle (sigh!)

PROGRAM:

The program for this new virtual meeting was a "show and tell" as various members presented some of their favorite ferns or ferns they had questions about. Larry Rucker was first, and he showed us several very beautiful ferns and an incredible selaginella. Betsy Robinson, Cecil Strange, Glenda Perry, Susan Tracy, Patrick Hudnall, Kenneth Warren, and Cherie Lee all participated in showing and discussing beautiful specimens from their collections. Sally Tastinger, a member living in Florida, showed us many plants in her collection.

Thank you to all these members who so kindly shared their lovely plants. It really helped brighten the day to see such pretty plants.

Darla then thanked everyone who "attended." Some of us had a few difficulties with the electronics but, all in all, it was a successful meeting and it was good to see so many friends' faces!

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Williams, Secretary



2nd Quarter 2020 Treasurer's Report

Income:

- Dues: \$145.00
- Donations: \$5.00
- Interest: \$0.35
- Expenses: **None**
- Balance on 12-31-2019: \$10,657.63
- Balance on 3-31-2020: \$14,766.48
- Balance on 6-30-2020: \$14,926.83
- Net gain for 2nd Quarter: \$150.35
- Net gain for 2020: \$4,269.20



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 sign up 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.



Before



After (1)



After (2)

These (3) pictures were submitted by Dwayne and Kylie Stocks



Dryopteris sieboldii



Dryopteris sieboldii, also called Japanese wood fern or Siebold's wood fern, is a medium sized fern to about 20inches. Native to China, Formosa, and Japan.

It is hardy in the Houston area and grows well under medium to full shade with moist potting soil or garden soil. It's unusual in its genus since the terminal segment is the same as the lateral ones and the blades are only single pinnate with 5 to about 7 per frond. The fertile frond's leaf margins undulate while the sterile segments are entire. Both fertile and sterile are somewhat leathery. Their subsurface rhizomes are short to medium creeping. It is not widely available but can be found at Glasshouse Works mail order nursery or at Darla Harris' Fern Plantation. I have not seen it available in area nurseries. By Pat Hudnall

