



August 2020

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<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions our Summer Party has been cancelled. Our next meeting will be another “virtual” one in September. See below.**

**A message from our President:**

Hi Everyone,

I hope this note finds everyone safe and healthy. It has really been a challenging time for us all. Torn between seeing people and getting out and about, and staying home to protect everyone near and dear to you. Joe and I have been home for the most part. A few grocery runs, and gardening supplies, but over all just working at home and in the nursery. It been pretty hot on top of everything else, so please stay cool and drink your water!

We had a great meeting last month. From those that got to attend the feedback was all positive. Kylie Stocks from Currowan, NSW Australia spoke to us on their personal experience with the brushfire that affected their nursery and the flora around their home. She told us amazing stories of the ferns that were coming back from the fire and melted pots. It's no wonder ferns have managed to survive for so long, even in our care. An update from Kylie: the rains have been heavy the last couple weeks giving them another 20 inches and flooding the area all around them. We can certainly understand what they are going through right now.

We are planning another virtual meeting for September. We are planning to welcome a speaker from Chiang Mai, Thailand. We may need to adjust our meeting time one more time to help our speaker. We are exactly 12 hours different from their time. He has 2.5 acres of property that he and his family live on, and have made a business of Fern Paradise and it really is. They have almost treehouse villas to rent in a virtual fern paradise with each room representing a different species of ferns; Platycerium, Asplenium, Dicksonia treeferns, Adiantum, maidenhair just to name a few. They have a fern nursery on the property too, where on Saturdays they teach fern propagation and growing. He is an architect by trade and teaches how to mold your fern landscape.

This will be a PowerPoint presentation, and after seeing his photos, I know we are going to love hearing what he has to share with us. I will let you know more in the September newsletter. I hope more will join in us with these virtual meetings. I'm here to help you and we can do a practice run so all can attend. So please get with me. You can join on a smart phone or your home computer, it really is easy once you do it a couple times. Call me if you'd like: 281-733-5564.

Enjoy your month and stay healthy so we can all see each other face-to-face in September.

Talk care everyone!! And stay safe!

*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.

**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
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Newsletter:	Paul Geiger
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Welcoming at Door:	Faye Stansberry



### Minutes of Virtual Meeting via “GoToMeeting” July 19, 2020

#### Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

The July meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society was a GoToMeeting (virtual) due to the Coronavirus pandemic. President, Darla Harris, called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 pm. The later time was due to the time difference between here and our speaker who lives in Australia. Treasurer, Beth Ayers, said there has been no change in the treasury as we have not had “in-person” meetings. The question of whether we should have a meeting in August was put before members in attendance. We had planned to have a party at the home of Patrick and Diane Hudnall but due to the escalation of virus cases it is best to cancel that plan. However, because a party was planned, no program has been arranged. As Darla individually polled those online, most seemed to be in favor of cancelling or were of no opinion either way, so it was decided to skip the August meeting. The meeting and program for September have not been determined yet but it will probably be another virtual meeting.

Darla then turned the meeting over to our program speaker, Kylie Stocks from New South Wales, Australia.

#### PROGRAM: “Ferns and Fires: Our Bushfire Experience”

Kylie Stocks, our speaker, and her husband, Dwayne Stocks, own and operate a nursery named “**Verdigris**” which is in New South Wales, Australia. They have approximately 600 different species of ferns. They have a website which is very nice, and they ship plants to the U.S. The website is: **aboutferns.org**

Kylie’s slide show was startling to see because they had experienced an unbelievably bad fire in late December 2019 and early January 2020. It burned an enormous amount of property and

raged for 74 days. Slides demonstrated that even the roots of plants and potting mixes were burned. The Stocks’ lost all their greenhouses and plants and were without water or power. In early February there was a flood that dropped 16 inches of water in two days’ time.

Subsequent slides showed the remarkable ability of many of these plants (and I might add, people) to “come back” from their deep roots. The first to emerge were cycads, tree ferns, and palms followed by the local bracken species. The slowest to recover were those with shallow roots such as the maidenhairs and epiphytes which must wait for their host plants to revive. Kylie showed one slide of burned flats in the greenhouse and burned pots – in each there was evidence of new life. She said that, remarkably, approximately 70% of the plants eventually regenerated. Darla commented that this demonstrates why ferns are some of the oldest plants on the earth. Kylie pointed out that coconut fiber and mulch are extremely flammable and cautioned us all to be aware of that and to keep these items out of direct contact with our homes.

Several members then asked Kylie questions which she very graciously answered. We were all quite impressed with this presentation and are grateful to Kylie for getting up so early to be our speaker for this meeting. We wish Kylie and Dwayne all the best in the future!

Darla then thanked everyone for attending. It was another nice meeting with about 27 members “attending.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Williams, Secretary



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4. Type Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society into the search and the click select.
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