



October 2021

Vol. 23 No. 10

<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 hope everyone is doing well, and enjoying this wonderful fall weather we have been having. Don't forget last year we had that early freeze and frost on the north side of town by the end of October. So you should be starting to get your plants ready for winter. I know Joe and I have started getting things moved to where they will go for winter, adding mulch to the beds. It's been on the coolish side for us in September, so more enjoyable than some years. I'm sure hoping for a milder winter than this past one. No snow please!!

First, I would like to thank Patrick Hudnall for a wonderful discussion on the Dryopteris that will work well in the Houston area. In fact, I think most if not everything will work for all our members. He showed what a diverse group they are and how easy they can be maintained in our gardens or in pots. Not needing to protect them for winter is always a plus. Do try some of the ones he mentioned in his presentation. They are really pretty low care for the most part. A couple are a little more challenging.

We will be having another virtual meeting this month. Jolanda Nel from South Africa will be presenting her presentation on the ferns of South Africa. Jolanda is a very qualified person to speak on this topic, she is from there and she is the editor of the South African Fern Society newsletter. South Africa is a very diverse area of the world that offers zones of different climate throughout the country from Cape Town on the west coast to Durban on the east coast and in the middle/south you have the garden trails, the wine areas and all the way to where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet. She will show us just what all grows there. If you have seen the book on the Ferns of South Africa it's a big thick book! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. Let's give her a big US welcome.

We will be voting on our new slate of officers for 2022. The nomination committee has arrived at a slate of people willing to serve in the rolls we need them to serve. We need a formal vote so they can start thinking about next year and how to best provide for our society. I would like to thank

the committee for working on this for us, and to the members that are ready to step in to their new rolls.

Please help our new Vice President by offering suggestions on programs you would be interested in learning more about. We do not know for sure when we will be meeting in person again, but you can offer suggestions on Field trips, projects too. Thank you for your responses. See you at the meeting, until then stay safe, and happy ferning!!

*Darla*



**Dues! Dues! Dues!**

This is to remind everyone that you will owe dues for 2022, due by January 1, 2022. Dues were not collected for 2021 because the Board decided to carry all members in good standing as of December 31, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Dues can be sent to me at: 5815 Portal Dr., Houston, TX 77096. If you have any questions you may e-mail me or call me at 713.729.0994.

As an update next year, 2022, Ruby Adams will be handling membership. She may be contacted at: radams13@sbcglobal.net or cell 281.830.4633. Thanks for all the years you have supported me as membership co-chair and I trust you will continue to work with Ruby in the future on membership issues.

Thanks -- Beth Ayer, Co-membership Chair



**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/>



### 2021 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Patrick Hudnall
Secretary:	Ceil Dow
Treasurer:	Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large:	Cherie Lee (Past Pres),
Outgoing Board Members at Large:	Jere Noerager
	Ken Warren
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”

September 19, 2021

#### Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

A virtual meeting was held due to COVID-19.

Recording started at 2:02 pm.

Darla began the meeting talking about Bulb Mart (Houston Garden Club). They are doing their annual event this year October 14-16.

Darla asked the group if there was any news from anyone and Beth talked about dues. Beth said that she was getting a lot of people paying dues early and thanked everyone for their early renewals.

Joanne Sharpe committed to present at the November meeting. Her talk is titled ‘Following Ferns’.

Darla started the official meeting at 2:13 pm

Discussed the nominating committee saying that Allies Baker has agreed to be the chair person. Darla stated that next month we need to present the slate of officers and asked for two volunteers to work with Allies. Beth Ayer and Lisa George agreed to help.

Carolyn White motioned agreement and Ruby seconded the motion.

Darla announced that Ruby will take on membership effective November. Beth will continue taking dues until November.

Patrick mentioned the Mercer show in April. He said we are looking at doing an unjudged show to familiarize people with the club and ferns. There will be a large scale sale

going on during this time but we will not be selling any ferns because of the time commitment required.

Darla introduced Patrick Hudnall as our presenter today on Dryopteris. Patrick presented a fantastic summary on many locally grown species, potential issues that come up during cultivation and solutions to getting rid of a few of the critters that attack the ferns.

Darla mentioned that Fernando Orellana was slated to present during the October meeting. His presentation is a great overview of Fertilizers, discussing what your plants need. Fernando mentioned Calcium and Magnesium as two things plants need that people sometimes overlook.

Darla mentioned that the November presentation will be from our member in Maine, Joanne Sharp. Joanne assisted in a decade long study documenting ferns in Puerto Rico.

Darla closed the meeting with hopes to meet in person for our December party. She also mentioned she is looking forward to hearing about who the new officers will be in January moving our society forward.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021 Treasurer’s Report

July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021

#### Income:

Dues: \$155.00

Donations: \$30.00

Interest: \$0.36

#### Expenses: None

Balance on 12-31-2020: \$15,082.53

Balance on 09-30-2021: \$15,453.08

Net gain for 3Q21: \$185.36

Net gain for 2021: \$370.55



### Reminder: Spring Fern Show?

#### From “The Mercer Society” edited by Pat Hudnall

The Mercer Society is considering a spring event for 2022, probably in April, that will feature the various plant societies in the Houston area. This would include plant sales open to the public. The Mercer Society would not sell plants. This would be a one day event, most likely a Saturday. It is their thought that this would provide an opportunity for exposure to a new group of visitors.

I am not proposing at this time that the Fern Society sell plants. However, I believe this would be an outstanding opportunity to introduce Houston area residents to the wide variety of ferns people are growing in the area. I propose an “Un-Judged Show” from the TGCFS. It would only be possible if most of our area members are interested and willing to help in some way. I do not expect those that have large collections to provide all the plants. If people are willing to get a few fern plants to the show or several to the show that would be super. They don’t need to be super specimens, just examples of those types of ferns people grow here. The only criteria I would think important is that they be generally pest free. 1 gallon black plastic pots? Or

clay pots? Larger plastic or clay pots or wire baskets? A wire mesh frame to hang epiphytic ferns? Maybe a few non-ferns mixed in to contrast or add color.

Please think about this idea.

Many thanks, Pat



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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](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.