



April 2022

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<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Our Meeting this month: Saturday, April 23 – Field Trip to Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary, 2001 FM 945 South, Cleveland, TX

A message from our President:

Howdy everyone!

It sure was great to see everyone that attended the meeting last month. It was great to see y'all. Following some technical glitches, we finally got rolling. We are so fortunate to have a wide variety of skilled fern growers in our society. We certainly cannot thank Susan Tracy enough for her lengthy drive from Central Texas to provide an outstanding presentation on the "Ferns of Texas and How to Grow them". The examples of various ferns she has under cultivation and carried all the way with her were splendid. Several of them I'd like to give a try.

I'm excited about the Field Trip on the 23rd, Diane is looking forward to it as well. **See below for details.**

I think we all enjoy having a nice snack before, during and after our regular meetings. In order for this to happen we need to bring our favorite snacks to share with our group. For the May meeting you can call, text or email Larry Rucker. Please do this several days (like a week or so) ahead of time so there isn't a scramble around to fill in gaps in our selection. Larry's contact info is 832-453-2992 and herbie39L@att.con. We may circulate around at that meeting a list for the June party regarding what members would like to bring.

We are still looking for a host for the June Fern Society party. It's always nice to visit other member's homes. Please consider being that generous person. We like to take turns, so if you haven't hosted, please do consider.

Pat



Dues! Dues!

Reminder: Dues are due for 2022.

As of January 1, 2022, Ruby Adams is handling membership. She may be contacted at: radams13@sbcglobal.net or cell 281.830.4633.



April Field Trip

The Field Trip for Saturday April 23rd is a **GO!!** We are going to the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. I hope we have a good turnout to see nature at its best. It should be a

treat for any plant lover. If you would like to go but have a concern, please give me a call so we can make sure all who want to participate will get the most out of the trip. I've been there with the Fern Society, but it was over 10 years ago. We will travel to the Little Thicket by car. Please see the map later in this Newsletter to navigate your way.

Those who want to meet at the Conroe Outlet Mall and then caravan the rest of the way together we will meet in front of Subway at 8:30 am. Subway will not be open, but there are restrooms if needed. We will leave the Mall no later than 9:00 am.

We are fortunate to have Sergio Henao as a member of our Society. He is familiar with the trails and ferns of the Little Thicket. This area has been kept pristine since 1950. There are 12 species of ferns on about 700 acres. It is a sanctuary for East Texas ferns. Sergio informed us at the March meeting that Central America & Mexico blends with East Texas. Proximity of the different environments and ferns have adapted.

Bring your guidebooks. Below you will see a page which shows ferns we may find in the area. There is a great book written by Charles Peterson and Larry Brown titled "Vascular Flora of the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary, San Jacinto County, Texas".

Recommendations include long pants, hiking boots or sturdy shoes. Bring water. There is **No** running water at the Little Thicket (there are rest rooms though). Bring your own lunch.

When: April 23rd, 2022

Where: Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary- see map, about a 1 ½ hour drive north of Houston

Wear: Hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes, long trousers - hiking 2-3 miles, plan to have a tractor trailer to ride on if needed

Bring: Drinking water, brown bag lunch, maybe insect repellent.

Facilities: Rest rooms are available, but there is no running water.

Rules: NO COLLECTING

Time: 10 am to 3 or 4 pm

See you there, Pat Hudnall



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/>



2022 Officers and Committees:

President:	Patrick Hudnall
Vice President:	Lisa George
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Spore Exchange:	Patrick Hudnall
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Raffle, Store, etc.	Rick Dow
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Faye Stansberry



1st Quarter 2022 Treasurer's Report

Income:

Dues:	\$310.00
Raffle:	\$36.00
Donations:	\$80.00
Interest:	\$0.36

Expenses:

Newsletter / Outreach	\$51.20	None
Balance on 12-31-2022:	\$15,798.79	
Balance on 03-31-2022:	\$16,173.95	
Net gain for 1 st Quarter:	\$375.16	
Net gain for 2022:	375.16	

Beth Ayer



Minutes of Blended Meeting via "GoToMeeting" and In-person

March 20, 2022

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Meeting was held at 2:00pm at the Justin Robinson Community Center in Hermann Park. Members unable to attend the in-person meeting could still participate on the "GoToMeeting" app.

Called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Approximately 20 members present.

Field trip led by Sergio Henao, to the Texas Big Thicket has been scheduled for April 23, 2022. This area of the Big Thicket has been kept pristine since 1950. There are 12 species of ferns and 700 acres. It is a sanctuary for East Texas ferns.

Fred & Betsy Robinson have graciously agreed to take over the library duties. In the back of the membership book is a list of books available from the library. Just let Betsy or Fred know which book you would like to borrow, and she can bring it to the next meeting. Their e-mail address is emr_73@att.net.

Rick Dow has agreed to take over the Raffle duties. Ruby Adams has agreed to take on the membership responsibilities.

Need help at the Mercer March Mart Sale to man the GCFS information table.

Presentation: "**Ferns of Texas & How to Grow Them**" by **Susan Tracy**.

Susan Tracy has driven all the way from San Antonio and brought her collection of ferns with her. She is not growing from spores. Her passion is ferns from all over Texas. The diversity and adaptability of ferns fascinate her. She is from the North East of the U.S. She thought the climate here was very different. The Edwards Plateau can go 4 months without rain. So she was surprised to find that ferns grew here.

Her property is a little over 700 acres with rocky outcrops. Southern Maidenhair Ferns, *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, grew well along the stream. Little Ebony Spleenwort, *Asplenium platyneuron*, grew above the creek. Mexican flowering fern, *Anemia Mexicana*, can grow on rocky hillsides, nestled in rocky crevices. Also seen here is the Rough Lip Fern, *Myriopteris scabra*, with tiny hairs covering it. The Purple Cliff Brake, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, is leathery, kind of brittle and dimorphic fern. Shades of green is dependent on the amount of rainfall the fern has received. The ZigZag Cliff Brake fern, *Pellaea ovata*, is only found in Texas. The Hybrid Cloak fern, *Astroblepis integerrima*, is found in the Western U.S.

To identify ferns she would ask botanist friends and they would say, "I don't know ferns!". She eventually used the reference book, "A Field Manual of the Ferns and Fern-Allies". She realized that there were many species of ferns

in Texas. Texas has the most number of ferns in the U.S. with 127 species of ferns with Florida being #2. More moisture in East Texas and drier towards the west. There are 63 fern species in the Edwards Plateau of Central Texas has more species than East Texas which has 62 species.

Thelypteris ovata v. lindhelmeri, found growing on limestone bluffs. It conserved moisture by growing in rock crevices. It was very happily growing in the sun. The Mexican Flowering Fern, *Anemia Mexicana*, and the Southern Maidenhair fern, *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, were found growing on the rock face. The Woolly Lip Fern, *Myriopteris tomentosa*, are very fuzzy and found widespread. Found only in West Texas, the Copeland's Cloak Fern, *Notholaena copelandii*, is very pretty. The back of its frond is a silvery white. The plant shrivels up when it is dry and then expands when it gets water. The White Foot Lip Fern, *Cheilanthes leucopoda*, is found only in central West Texas. The Small Leaf False Cloak Fern, *Argyrochosma microphylla*, has tiny leaves and is found in all over Texas and New Mexico. *Argyrochosma microphylla*, *Cheilanthes leucopoda* and *Astrolepis integerrima* were found growing together very happily on the side of the road in West Texas.

In the Enchanted Rock area, there are 29 species of ferns found there. Three of them are unique to the locality. Limestone and granite outcrops typify this area. *Myriopteris lindheimeri* has long spreading rhizomes. Its common name is Fairyswords and found in the southwest U.S. *Gaga kaulfussi* is a new fern genus segregated from *Cheilanthes*. It was named after Lady Gaga. It has glandular hairs. Very unusual. Its common name is Lady Gaga Kaulifuss Lip Fern. Its glandular shape reminded the botanist of a Lady Gaga outfit. *Pellaea ovata* & *Woodsia obtusa* were growing together under one rock, facing South East. Different varieties growing together in complete harmony. Only 1 of 9 species of *Selaginella* found around Enchanted Rock; *Selaginella apoda* or Meadow Spike moss.

Blechnum appendiculatum or Hammock Fern is only found in Texas. *Adiantum tricholepsis* or Hairy Maidenhair Fern is only found in 2 places in Texas. It grows to 12" and doesn't need as much moisture as the other Maidenhair Ferns. *Adiantum pedatum* or Northern Maidenhair Fern grows outside the state lines of Texas. One species of Bracken, *Pteridium aquilinum*, a woodland Bracken is found all over the world except Antarctica.

Ferns found in East Texas.

Thelypteris kunthii, or Southern Shield Fern is more triangular shaped and found all over the Gulf Coast area. The oldest known fern is the Sensitive Fern, *Onoclea sensibilis*, & has not changed in 50 million years. The following ferns are found all over East Texas in abundance: The Southern Lady Ferns - *Athyrium asplenoides*, Cinnamon Fern - *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*,

American Royal Fern - *Osmunda spectabilis*, Nettled Chain Fern - *Woodwardia aeolata*, Christmas Ferns - *Polystichum acrostioides*, the Hairy Lip Fern - *Cheilanthes lanosa*, the Log Fern - *Dryopteris ceisa*, the Southern Wood Fern - *Dryopteris ludoviciana*, the Marginal Wood Fern - *Dryopteris marginalis*, and the Resurrection Fern - *Pleopeltis polypodioides*. The Resurrection Fern needs humidity to survive.

Ferns Found in West Texas. Surprisingly, there are 80 species of ferns in West Texas. This area has the most species of ferns in Texas. The sandy areas of the mountains and the diversity of the Chihuahuan desert make it a good habitat for ferns. The Star Cloak Fern, *Notholaena standleyi*, grows here. There is a lot of Mexican fern influence in this area. The Maidenhair spleenwort, *Asplenium trichomanes*, is common in the North East of the U.S. and here in the rocky crevices of the Davis Mountains. The Wright's Lip Fern, *Myriopteris wrightii*, is found here. The Copper Fern, *Bommeria hispida*, is a fuzzy leaf fern found in the shade growing in Cattail Falls. The Wavy Cloak Fern, *Astrolepis sinuata*, has star shaped scales. The Scaly Cloak Fern, *Astrolepis cochisensis*, has hairs and scales which are shown to the sun to shade its surface when dry.

Selaginella lepidophylla, the resurrection plant is a lycophyte. These plants are sold on Amazon. The sellers dig them up in Mexico and do not care if they over collect them. In Victorian times, fern enthusiasts over collected the ferns almost to extinction. Natural disasters can also wash away a variety of ferns. The Texas Highway Dept often destroy plants and ferns. Neighbors in her area often scrape away land with beautiful ferns on them to make a lake or pond. This damns up the creek so that creeks do not meet the rivers.

Compact rhizomes are very difficult to divide. She tried and it killed the fern. She was successful when growing from spore. She kept the Resurrection Fern alive in a tabletop Edwardian mini greenhouse and sprayed it when it started to shrivel up. She has 47 species in cultivation. She grows most inside not outside. They respond well when grown under gro-lights. She uses granite as substrate if collected from the Enchanted Rock area. Most ferns she grows like to be root bound. Her greatest wish is to establish a fernery to show the diversity of ferns in Texas.

Questions and Answers:

Sergio: Why is there such a diversity of ferns in Texas?

Answer: Central America & Mexico blends with East Texas. Proximity of the different environments and ferns have adapted.

A discussion was held regarding how ferns can grow in rock crevices. Water collects in small pools under the rocks so the water is available to the ferns.

Jere noted that species evolve and become successful.

Biomass of single fern could cover a large area.

Susan Tracy: She says she loves ferns, wants to protect them, & educate people so that they want to protect the fern environment.

Respectfully submitted by Ceil Dow.



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Here's how to sign up and shop at AmazonSmile:



April Field Trip to the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS)

2001 FM 945 South, Cleveland, Texas



Directions to the sanctuary

(GPS at entrance gate: N 30° 32.141' W 95° 13.564')



Route 1 — US 59 via Cleveland

Take US Highway 59 north to Cleveland; turn left on FM 2025; go five miles and turn left on FM 945. Go 11 miles to the entrance on your right.

Route 2 — I-45 via Willis

Take I-45 north to Willis; turn right on FM 1097 to SH 150; go approx. 9 miles to FM 945 South; turn right. Go two miles to the entrance on your left.

Route3 — I-45 via New Waverly

Take I-45 north to New Waverly; turn right on SH 150; go approx. 17 miles to FM 945 South; proceed as above.

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Fern Foray @ Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
April 23, 2022
Fern Checklist

Ophioglossum crotalophroides



Bulbous Adder's tongue



Botrychium dissectum

Cutleaf-Grape Fern

Lygodium japonicum



Japanese Climbing Fern



Osmunda Cinnamomea

Cinnamon Fern

Osmunda regalis

Royal Fern



Pleopeltis polypodioides



Resurrection Fern



Polystichum acrostichoides

Christmas Fern

Pteridium aquilinum



Bracken Fern



Thelypteris kunthii

Southern Shield Fern

Asplenium platyneuron



Ebony Spleenwort



Athyrium filix-femina

Lady Fern

Woodwardia aerolata



Netted Chain Fern

Onoclea sensibilis

Sensitive Fern



Woodwardia virginica



Virginia Chain Fern