



September 2022

Vol. 24 No. 9

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Our meeting this month will be “blended” by meeting in-person at the Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center (2020 Hermann Dr., Houston, 77004) and/or via GoToMeeting – member’s choice.

A message from our President:

Howdy everyone,

I watched online the August meeting with great interest. I’ll put together the materials and give this Ball Fern growing technique a try. It looks like it should work very well. I was watching online because I had just had surgery 2 days before on my foot to repair a broken bone. Clumsy on the stairs. This is one of my favorite times of year, the end of summer. At least for the next 8 months. Our days aren’t as long as in the spring, but we still have lots of chores to do in our garden as winter approaches. I like to take individual pots of plants to a table, remove all the dead fronds, do any trimming needed and check for pests.

Many thanks to all the folks that brought food to the July meeting. This month’s meeting is coming up fast. We need to contact Larry Rucker, if you haven’t already, and let him know what you plan to bring so he doesn’t have to go out and buy all the food & beverages for us. Larry’s contact information is: herbie39L@att.com, 832-453-2992. Put his phone number in your contact list so it’s an easy call each month. So please don’t wait till the last minute. If you miss him in person, he will reply to your message to confirm.

As usual we will have our plant raffle table. And as always, I’ll bring some interesting ferns and other plants from my garden. I encourage you to bring some if you can. This is a great method to raise funds for the Society’s operating expenses.

We are looking for a location to hold this year’s Christmas Party. If you haven’t hosted one, it’s pretty easy. Everyone pitches in for the Potluck and clean up.

Our “Nominating Committee”, for the upcoming year’s Society Officers will be established at the meeting this month. Cecil Strange has volunteered to Chair the committee, but we’ll need more participation from others. Please give some thought about serving our Society in one form or another. If not as an Officer, we certainly have many Committees that need help.

I am looking forward to this month’s presentation. I always seem to struggle with Lady Ferns, while I see them

growing beautifully in other’s gardens. See below for a brief introduction to this fern

Also, Darla has posted some pictures that she took at the August meeting. You can find them at the end of this Newsletter. Thanks, Darla.

See ya Sunday!

Patrick



This month’s Meeting

This month’s meeting will be a “blended” meeting with the theme of:

Re-evaluating the lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) species complex in North America.

Our speaker will be Bertrand Black:

Bertrand Black Bio, in his own words:

In the redwood forests of northern California, I became captivated by the ferns and other non-flowering plants during my studies at Cal Poly Humboldt, where I received a B.S. in Botany and Biology with an emphasis on ecology and biodiversity. I am now a PhD Student at University of Vermont in the Plant Biology Dept., where my current research interests are focused on phylogenetics, biodiversity, and biogeography. One of the best way to address all of these topics simultaneously is to study a species complex. I was lucky enough to discover that there was an understudied group of ferns, known as the lady ferns (*Athyrium filix-femina*), which could unify all of my interests and allow me to apply the most recent analytical tools to untangle the cryptic biodiversity hidden in this captivating group of non-flowering plants.



2022 Officers and Committees:

President:	Patrick Hudnall
Vice President:	Lisa George
Secretary:	Ceil Dow
Treasurer:	Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large:	Darla Harris (Past Pres) Jacqueline Smith

	Malcolm McCorquodale
Education Chair:	Darla Harris
Hospitality Chair:	Larry Rucker
Library:	Betsy and Fred Robinson
Membership Chair:	Ruby Adams
Newsletter:	Paul Geiger
Spore Exchange:	Patrick Hudnall
Ways and Means:	Larry Rucker
Raffle, Store, etc.	Rick Dow
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Faye Stansberry



New Members

We are happy to announce the addition of two new members of the TGCFS. They are:

**Karla Flatt and
Debbi Goodale**

Please give them a warm greeting at our next meeting



Dues! Dues! Dues!

Dues are payable for 2023.

Ruby Adams is handling membership. She may be contacted at: radams13@sbcglobal.net or cell 281.830.4633



Minutes of Blended Meeting via “GoToMeeting” and In-person

August 21, 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.

**Presentation: “Kokedama: Japanese String Gardens by
Ceil Dow**

The complete minutes of this meeting can be found as an attachment to this *Newsletter*.



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/>



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Signing up is easy!

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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.





Photo by Pat Hudnall

The photo is of *Leptochilus macrophyllus* var. *wrightii*. Syn *Colysis wrightii* (Hooker) Ching. I was given this fern by Larry Rucker several years ago. It grows in my garden to about 6 inches. It is a semi-tender to slightly hardy. I've grown in in muddy ground and more recently in a pot. It has a medium creeping rhizome covered by scales. Its spore occurs in even parallel angled rows. It is only somewhat bothered by pests and is really quite resilient. It is native to Japan, southern China, Indochina, and Taiwan. I've never seen it for sale in nurseries or even on the web. Which I consider strange, as it's so easily grown. I'll bring a specimen as a potted plant for the raffle table this month.

Pictures Taken at the August Meeting by Darla Harris



