



September 2023

Vol. 25 No. 9

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.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.

TGCFS MISSION STATEMENT

Organized in 1998 by a group of fern enthusiasts (a.k.a. fern lovers, fernies, pteridologists), to cultivate, foster and promote interest in ferns and fern allies, the TGC Fern Society presents educational programs including “how to” sessions, presentations by local, national and internationally known fern experts, and field trips and tours—thus providing a forum for fern enthusiasts to visit, learn, share plants, ideas, information, and have a good time. A very informative monthly newsletter is published for members, and special events include presentations to other groups, fundraiser events, and a year-end holiday season party. **Regular meetings are held at 2:00 P.M. on the third Sunday of each month at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Herman Drive, Houston, TX, 77004. Phone (713) 284-1994.**

A message from our President:

Hi everyone!

Happy Anniversary to the ‘Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society’!! It has been 25 Years of a very active society!! I hope we will see another 25 years!!

In 1998 we had a bunch of fern enthusiasts show up at Teas Nursery to form this great organization. Our dedication has been for learning more about ferns in all aspects, growing, proration, biology, morphology, and aren’t they pretty ferns!! We have strived to have meetings that would reach all levels of interest in this plant we all love and to try to help everyone grow their knowledge of ferns so they could be more successful at maintaining them at home.

WOW, what a summer!!! They say ‘Some like it Hot’ but this might have gone a bit overboard!!! The excessive heat and drought with the water conservation measures has made gardening a challenge this year. We certainly got to see what can handle our extremes from cold to hot these last couple of years.

I would like to thank everyone that showed up to the meeting last month! Thank you for the refreshments too!!! Unfortunately, we were never able to get into the building. The lady that opens the door had a medical issue that came up and had been unable to contact anyone else to come let us in. By the time they finally got there we had given up at 3pm, hour late. We had a good turn out and I hope all will make it back for this meeting/project in November when Ceil and Rick Dow will present our concrete stepping stone class.

We have decided to shift the schedule some due to this and will be having the meeting on Aglaomorpha/Drynaria. Patrick Hudnall grows some lovely plants and will be bringing one to demonstrate how to divide these beautiful

epiphitic ferns to get new plants growing by taking off a rhizome and remounting this on a board. We will have a few examples with us so you can see how some look other than the trade plant Allaomorpha cornans. We will also have a potted plant to show how to mount or put in a hanging basket. These are wonderful and easy ferns to grow and take our weather conditions pretty well.

Don’t forget to plan on the field trip for October, to Mercer Botanical Gardens and Arboretum. We will be visiting the gardens as well as the greenhouses that are normally closed to the public. We will do a walk-through and discuss the ferns as we look at them. We will see great examples as to what grows in our area. This will start at 10am at the gardens on our normal Sunday, the weather should be perfect!!!

For those that have ordered ‘The King of Ferns,’ note that the books are in for those that have not picked them up. The shipping is \$12 per book. I will have them at the meeting. If you need to make other arrangements with me on your book, please let me know.


We will be doing our nominating committee work at this month’s meeting. We will be presenting our slate of officers for next year at the October meeting at the beginning of the field trip. I want to thank everyone for doing your part on making this society a good one! Please plan on helping out with some of the duties it takes to keep us up and running from year to year.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the meeting Sunday!

See you soon!!! Take care and stay hydrated,

Darla





Sunday's Topic:

Agloorpha / Drynaria with Demo station on dividing. Examples of several by Darla Harris and demonstration by Patrick Hudnall



Calendar of Events for Remainder of 2023

Darla advises the following events planned for this year:

October: Field trip to Mercer - lead by Jacob Martin, greenhouse manager

November: Hands-on Project: Garden Steppingstones with Fern Impressions. Project leaders: Ceil and Rick Dow

December Party: TBD. Still need a host.




Dues!

Dues for 2024 are currently being collected. If your 2024 dues have been paid you should have received an email from me in September. If you have any questions about the status of your dues, please contact me (Beth Ayer) at either: beth.ayer@yahoo.com or 713.729.0994 (landline; you may leave a voicemail message).

Your dues may be paid in person at a meeting or sent by mail to: Beth Ayer, 5815 Portal Dr., Houston, TX 77096. Checks should be payable to: Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society (TGCFS).

The 2023 Directory (electronic version only, a printed directory was not created) was emailed in August to paid members. If you did not receive yours, please contact me at: beth.ayer@yahoo.com.

Thanks -- Beth



2023 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Patrick Hudnall
Secretary:	Ceil Dow
Treasurer:	Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large:	Ruby Adams Ken Warren
Education Chair:	Darla Harris
Hospitality Chair:	TBD
Library:	Fred Robinson
Membership Chair:	TBD
Newsletter:	Paul Geiger
Spore Exchange:	Patrick Hudnall
Ways and Means:	Larry Rucker
Raffle, Store, etc.	Rick Dow
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	TBD



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/>



Fern of the Month - September 2023

Pellaea viridis

Green Cliff brake fern

Submitted by Darla Harris

(Photos by Darla)

Pellaea are a xerophytic fern that normally grows in pockets of soil among rocks. These are considered to be in the Cheilanthes family. *P. viridis* is from South Africa and is rarely in the trade to purchase, it grows well in full sun to partial sun with moderate water. The fern reaches about 20" tall and is a very bright green and shows very nice against the rocky backdrop you often see it grown in.

I have been growing this in grown for about four years, and it has come back after our cold winters, we got down to 7⁰F and our very hot summer this year we got to 109⁰F. It is an evergreen fern and is pretty much care free. It is a very slow spreading type fern with a short creeping rhizome.

The sori grows along the edge of the leaf and has a false indusium that is formed by the margins of the leaf segments that curl up over the spore, protecting it until its ripe to produce new plants.

This is a must have fern for our area!

