

April 2024

Vol. 26 No. 3

<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!

I hope everyone’s Spring is going well. Ours has been a very busy one, hence the last couple of newsletters including this one is a bit short and late. Joe and I have been vendors at the John Fairy Gardens “Budding Out Festival”, the Mercer Botanical Gardens “March Mart” and this past weekend, the PlantCon plant festival at NRG stadium (see a picture of our membership booth later in this newsletter). I can say that the enthusiasm for ‘Ferns’ is alive and well. The sharing of knowledge is as strong or stronger than it’s been in recent years. We were able to have our Membership Table at all of these events and have had a strong increase in new members due to this and we want to give a warm welcome to all! We hope to see you at our meeting this Sunday.

Adam Black is a member of our Society from his years as the Director of Horticulture at Peckerwood Gardens now known as John Fairy Gardens. He is currently at the Barlett Tree Research Laboratories in North Carolina. Adam has travelled the world in search of new plants and habitat in various places and being a great photographer, he has cataloged his travels and we will get an opportunity to join him on his journey to the Philippines. His talk **“Fern and Lycophytes of Mindanao, Philippines”** will give us a look of this fern rich nation. Please welcome Adam back to present this information to us this Sunday at 2pm. This will be virtual as well as in person.

For May we are looking at our spring field trip. This year we are planning to go to Moody Gardens and visit the Pyramid and the behind-the-scenes greenhouses. We will give you more information soon.

June: Patrick and Diane Hudnall will be hosing our “Party”! Our normal meeting time falls on Father’s Day so **we will have the party the day before on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. Please mark your calendars.** We will have a food list at this meeting to sign up for what you would like to bring. We will continue with our normal potluck style.

We will let you know the rest of the year meetings in the next few newsletters.

Thank you everyone for the wonderful job you do for our society!!

See you Sunday

Darla



**Sunday’s Topic:**

**'Ferns and Lycophytes of Mindanao, Philippines'**  
presented by Adam Black



**Dues!**

Dues for 2024 are currently being collected. If your 2024 dues have been paid you should have received an email from Beth Ayer in September. If you have any questions about the status of your dues, please contact Christopher Goodgame at: [chris.goodgame@protonmail.com](mailto:chris.goodgame@protonmail.com).

Your dues may be paid in person at a meeting or sent by mail to: Christopher Goodgame, PO Box 66116, Houston, TX 77266. Checks should be payable to: Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society (TGCFS).



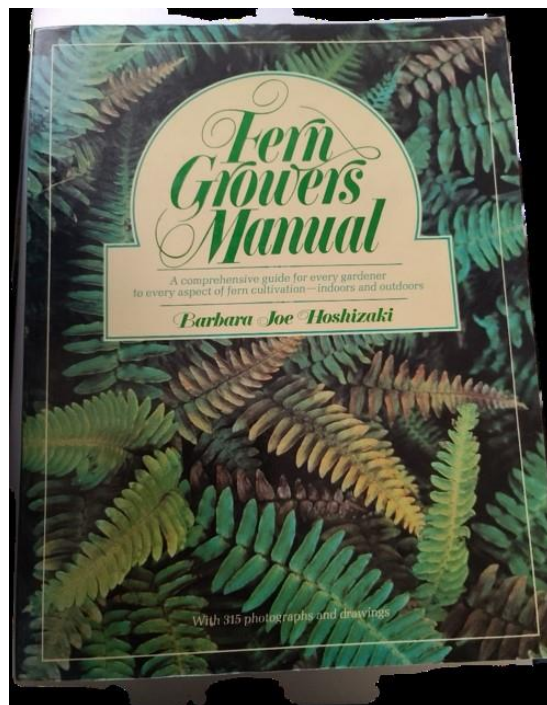
**2024 Officers and Committees:**

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Patrick Hudnall
Secretary:	Ceil Dow

Treasurer: Larry Rucker  
 Board Members-at-Large: Ruby Adams  
 Christopher Goodgame  
 Education Chair: Darla Harris  
 Hospitality Chair: TBD  
 Library: Fred Robinson  
 Membership Chair: Christopher Goodgame  
 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

and home study. Please contact Fred Robinson, our Library Chairperson. And please remember to return the books in a timely manner to allow others equal access.

A book recommended by Darla at last month's meeting:



It is a good quick reference to light needed for different ferns. It is useful to see if they would grow well indoors without added light. **Note this book is included in our library.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024 Treasurer's Report  
 January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024**

(NB: The Treasurer's report for the opening quarter will be included in next month's *Newsletter*.)

**Minutes of Blended Meeting via "GoToMeeting" and In-person  
 March 17, 2024**

**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 through the "GoToMeeting" app.

**Editor's note:** There are no recorded notes from this meeting, however, pictures are displayed later in 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/>

**March 2024 Door Prize**

**A new member won: Zoe Maranda.** It is a *Didymochlaena truncatula*, Mahogany Fern. Congratulations Zoe!



**Library**

Please be reminded about the very nice collection of books in our library. It's easy to borrow a book for your use

**Pictures from our March 2024 meeting:  
(Submitted by Betsy Robinson)**



**Fern of the Month - April 2024  
Coniogramme emeiensis, 'Golden Zebra'**

This is one great looking variegated fern! The color and even pattern of the variation makes nearly everyone fall in love with it.

The origins of the plant is in the mountains of China, the magical Mt. Emei, for those familiar with the area. This fern will grow to be about 2' tall with a slow-spreading growing habit extending around 4' wide when planted in the ground. The fronds will form arching fronds that are beautifully colored that dance in the breeze. If we get back to our normal summer temperatures, of just the high 90's and occasional 100F it is ground hardy. Yes, it will take our winters but not the summer we had last year. It is a zone 7-10. So, you might want to leave it potted this first year so you could bring it into the house and keep it as a house plant for tremendously hot days like last year.

This is a perfect house plant! Thick leaves for the low humidity in our homes, moderate water and moderate light. Potted, you will still get your height, but the pot will contain the spread so you can keep it in what size pot you need for your space. This is a very easy and forgiving plant to grow in doors.

Defiantly worth giving a try.

See following pictures of **Coniogramme emeiensis, 'Golden Zebra'**:



All above “Fern of the Month” pictures submitted by Darla Harris



**Our membership booth at NRG Stadium:**



Picture by Christopher Goodgame