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# The Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

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Newsletter

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EDITION 02 | YEAR 2026





<https://tgcfersoc.org/>

2026 Officers and Committees:

- President: Darla Harris
- Vice President: Larry Rucker
- Secretary: Carolynne White
- Treasurer: Ceil Dow
- Board Members-at-Large: Anne Swanson  
Christopher Goodgame
- Education Chair: Darla Harris
- Hospitality Chair: Anne Swanson
- Library: Fred Robinson
- Membership Chair: Ruby Adams
- Newsletter: Christopher Goodgame
- Spore Exchange: Patrick Hudnall
- Ways and Means: Larry Rucker
- Raffle, Store, etc: Rick Dow
- Web Master: Malcolm McCorquodale
- Welcoming at Door: TBD

## A Message from our President

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone and their plants are safe from all this cold weather we have been having. Even Florida is seeing some really cold weather; we wish them well too!

We had a good turnout for our January meeting, especially since the Texans football game started at the same time as our meeting did. I think the meeting turned out better than the game for most Houston fans. The topic was on the fern genus *Pyrrosia*, and we had several examples you could look at with around 8-10 species that could be viewed closely if you were in person. Our speaker was not able to participate after all, but did send his PowerPoint on the species of lingua. I addressed the other species that were available.

This month we will bring the *Platynerium*s of the African/American regions of the world. We will bring as many from that group that we can and show everyone what they look like and how to grow them. So please plan on attending early the doors are open at 130p so we can get the room and food set up before the meeting starts at 2p.

For anyone that is having an issue getting signed in for the GoToMeeting please let me or Christopher know and we can do a practice session prior to meeting day. Meeting day we only have a little time to help and its not normally enough time to make it work. So ahead of time is great. Let one of us know.

We are still putting together our speaker/program list for the remaining part of the year so if you have something that you have a specific interest in, please get with me so we can consider it.

### The Fern Society will have booths at:

- March Mart at Mercer Botanical Gardens **March 20<sup>th</sup> 8a-4p** and **March 21<sup>st</sup> 8a-3p**
- John Fairy Gardens **March 28<sup>th</sup> 9am-3p**
- PlantCon on **April 25<sup>th</sup> 9a-5p**
- GCH's Bulb Mart in **October**

We will have signup sheets for these dates for membership drive manning the table. We will also have a new membership sign and revised handouts.

Refreshments have been great! Thank you, everyone. With more now attending in person, the refreshments are needed for sure! Please bring something - drinks or food.

The raffle table needs more contributions. Please bring your extra plants to share with your friends. The raffle also helps with expenses of the project programs.

**It is time to renew your Membership if you have not already. The membership booklet will be finished and ready to hand out at the April meeting. Those who have not renewed or joined by March 31, you will not be in the booklet and not receive the April newsletter. So please, don't let your membership lapse.**

Looking forward to seeing you guys at the next meeting!

*Darla*

# A Study of Platycteriums

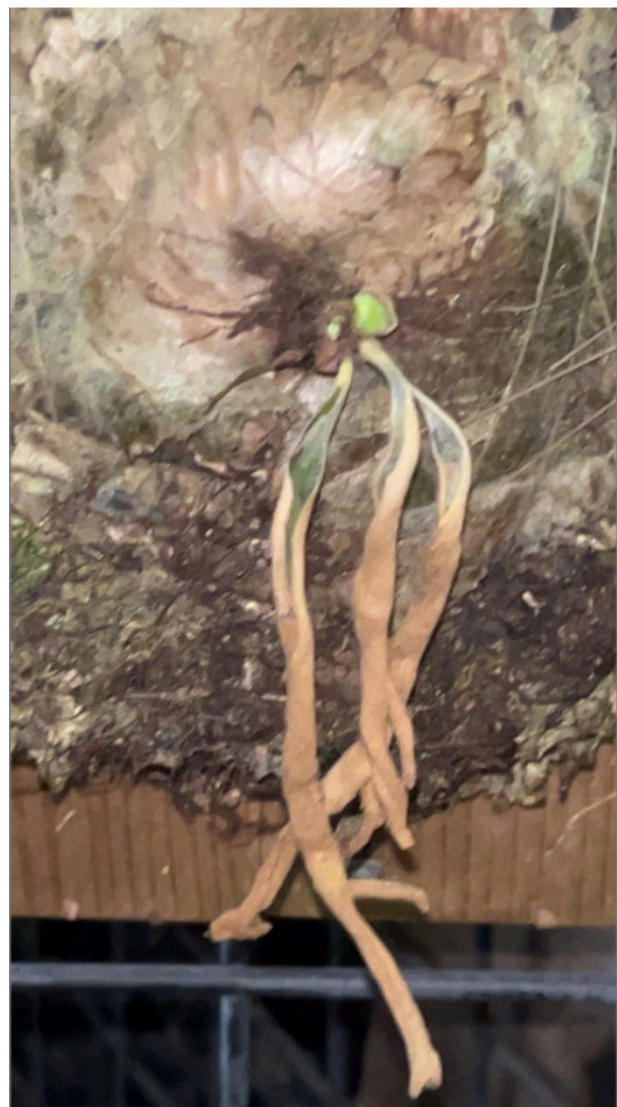
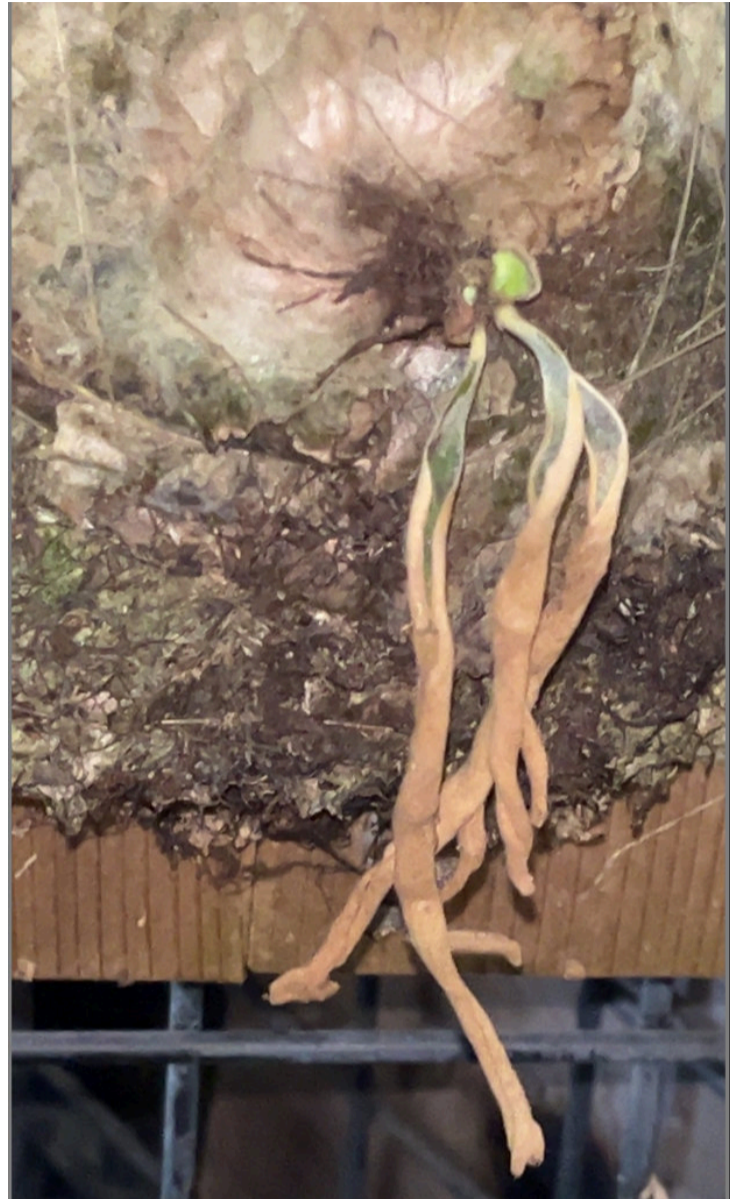
## The African-American Group

*Platycterium quadridichotomum*

This staghorn is mostly called quad, due to its difficult name and nature. It's a medium sized fern that is endemic to Madagascar. Its closest relative is *P. andinum* of Preu, the Americas only staghorn. They share a lot of similarities, however quad is smaller and has a definant dormant stage to its life-cycle. The fronds get between 8"-20".

Some feel it is easier to try to keep it from going dormant than trying to get it to wake up again. I have been successful to grow them for a couple of years, but that's it so far. For us here in the US it goes dormant during winter, however mine is trying to set a shield frond. We will see. It likes to get watered well during its active growing season and allowed to dry out before rewatering. It likes bright conditions but not direct sun. It is a pupping fern and the pups do well until they start getting picky.

The unique part of growing this fern is the dormant stage, it is a challenge and why many have a difficult time having all the species at one time.





*Pyrrrosia piloselloides* "Crestata"

Minutes of the January 18, 2026, meeting of The Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

President Darla Harris called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Herman Drive, Houston, TX, 77004.

The meeting was well attended in person and 5 members joined remotely. Darla asked if everyone was receiving the monthly Club Newsletter and pointed out that Christopher Goodgame, the newsletter editor, had recently redesigned the format to make it more useful. A mockup of the membership directory was passed around so that members could check their personal information that was going to be included and make necessary edits if needed, Darla emphasized that accurate email addresses are necessary as that is the society's main contact mode.

Darla announced that next month's meeting would be on February 15th with the program on Platyceriums – African-American species.

January Program: Pyrrrosia  
Speaker: Darla Harris

These are evergreen epiphytic ferns that have simple fronds usually with a reddish hue on the back (from the Greek word meaning red). She pointed out that some species of Pyrrrosia are hardy to 29° F. Additionally, some of the species have fronds that are taller and fertile while others are shorter and male. Their rhizomes are creeping and densely scaly. They prefer filtered light and are more tolerant of dry conditions than most ferns. Rhizome division is the most reliable method of propagation.

There are some that are the size of a dime and others that can grow to 2.5' tall.

Another interesting fact is that none of the Pyrrrosia are native to the New World; they are all from the Old World from Asia to Australia but will grow in US, some as low as zones 7-9 such as *P. lingua*. For fertilizing she recommends the BioAdvanced Rose & Flower Care 3-in-1 fertilizer, or other fertilizers at 25% normal dilution if you want to fertilize.

Program ended at 3:11 PM.

Board Meeting:

Attending: Board Members: Darla Harris, Ann Swanson, Ceil Dow, Larry Rucker, Christopher Goodgame, and Carolynne White

Non-board members: Ruby Adams, Fred and Betsy Robinson also attended

Sign in Sheets – Ruby Adams

Darla suggested that everyone should pay their dues or they would not receive any newsletters after March.

First order of business was the passing of the Budget for Speaker for 2026, after a discussion Ceil Dow motioned to continue with the \$1,500.00 budget like last year. Larry Rucker seconded the motion and all board members voted to accept this.

Darla asked members if we wanted to continue with the Attendance Prize for another year. The purpose of this raffle is to encourage our members to start fern collections including more unusual plants. Ceil Dow made the motion to continue the raffle for another year, Ann Swanson seconded. The motion passed.

There are several opportunities to find new members in the spring. (March Mart – 3/19.20.21, John Fairey Garden, PlantCon) She proposed that we need new signage for our table at these events. Anne Swanson volunteered to investigate options for new signage.

Board meeting ended at 3:50

Respectively submitted by Secretary, Carolynne White



*Pyrrrosia hastata*



*Pyrrrosia subfurfuracea*, from Vietnam



*Pyrosia abbreviata*



*Pyrosia lanceolata*



*Pyrosia lanceolata*



*Pyrosia piloselloides* "Crestata"



*Pyrrhosia stigma*



*Pyrrhosia stigma*



*Pyrrhosia lingua* crested, grown from division by Darla Harris



*Pyrrhosia nummularifolia*, photo taken in 2019 in Bali by Darla Harris

# 2026 Calendar

Date	Topic	Speaker
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Platyceriums – African-American species	Darla Harris
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Fern: Lessons in Survival from Earth's Most Adaptable Plants	Jacob Suissa
April	Field Trip	
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tree Ferns	Dan Yansura
June	Social – Date TBA	
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Project - Coasters to Match our Serving Trays	Ceil Dow
August 16 <sup>th</sup>		
September 20 <sup>th</sup>		
October 18 <sup>th</sup>		
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ferns of Jalisco	Adam Black
December	Social – Date TBA	



## From the Library:

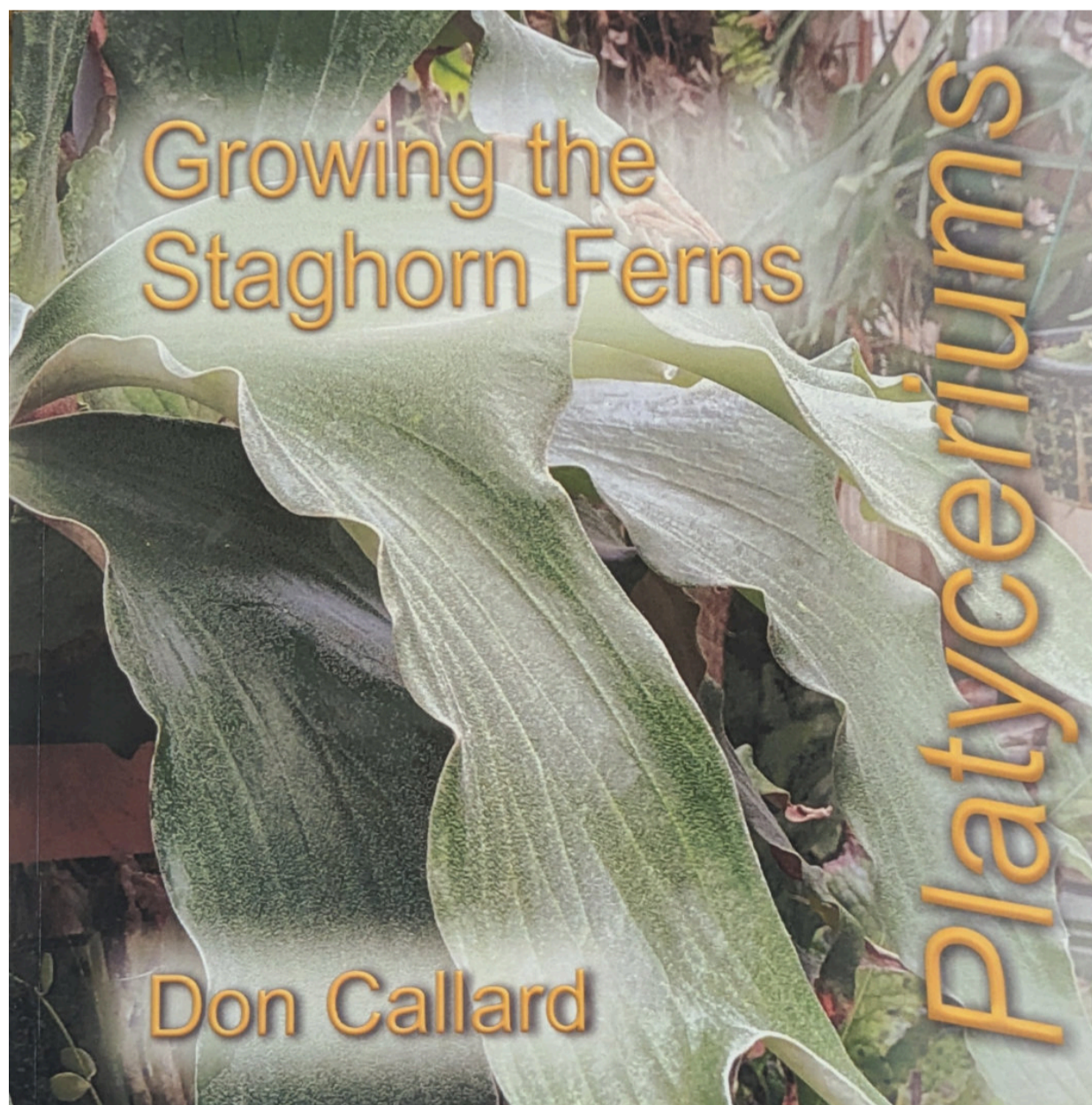
*Platyceriums: Growing the Staghorn Ferns*; by Don Callard; San Diego, CA: San Diego Fern Society; 1931; 68 pages; color photo illustrations; paperback.

by **Bob Swanson**

Since we've done so much with Platyceriums over the last year this month I'll describe the last Platycerium book in my library. After this we'll move on to other fern subjects.

This one is a good intro for someone new to staghorns. At fewer than seventy pages it gives an excellent overview. The bulk of the book, about forty pages, is devoted to the various species, cultivars, and hybrids. Each species gets a page or two with multiple photo illustrations. The writing is clear and straightforward. This is not one of those guides where you need to be steeped in Latin.

There are additional chapters on propagation and general care. But most of the care information is in the description of each species. Being a production of the San Diego Fern Society, most of the descriptions of how to grow staghorns are skewed to that climate.



## Door Prize



Ceil Dow wins the door prize, a Pycnosia lingua wide



## Upcoming Houston Plant Events



**MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS**  
**MARCH MART**

**20**

Mar 20 at 8:00 AM – Mar 21 at 3:00 PM CDT

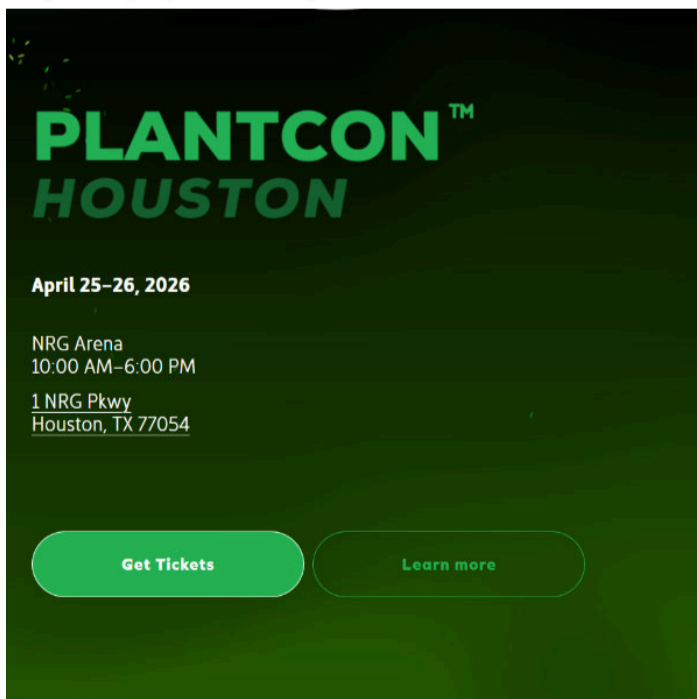
**March Mart Plant Sale**  
22306 Aldine Westfield , Humble, TX, United States, Texas 77338

**THE JOHN FAIREY GARDEN**  
**BUDDING OUT PLANT SALE & FESTIVAL**  
A Premiere Spring Event at The John Fairey Garden

**RARE AND DISTINCTIVE PLANTS • PLANT RELATED PRODUCTS • ART • CLOTHING • JEWELRY • CERAMICS DEMONSTRATIONS • GARDEN TOURS • FOOD • DRINK**

**Saturday, March 28th 10 am - 3 pm**  
20559 FM 359 Rd, Hempstead, TX

Member Early Entry 9 am General Entry 10 am  
Member Admission \$5 General Admission \$10  
Children 12 and Under are FREE  
Rain or Shine - Email [INFO@JFGARDEN.ORG](mailto:INFO@JFGARDEN.ORG) for details




**PLANTCON™**  
**HOUSTON**

April 25-26, 2026

NRG Arena  
10:00 AM-6:00 PM  
1 NRG Pkwy  
Houston, TX 77054

[Get Tickets](#) [Learn more](#)



A photograph of a large indoor plant sale event. The room is filled with people browsing through various plants and displays. A prominent sign in the foreground reads "KITCHEN, I'M A MICHELIN CHEF" and "PLANT SALE". Other signs for "TROPICAL" and "CARNIVOROUS PLANTS" are visible in the background.

# Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society 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 with previous issues available online at <https://tgcfersoc.org>, and special events include presentations to other groups, fundraiser events, and a year-end holiday season party. **Doors open at 1:30pm and regular meetings begin at 2:00pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Herman Drive, Houston, TX, 77004. (713) 284-1994.**



*Athyrium niponicum* 'Godzilla'

## 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/>

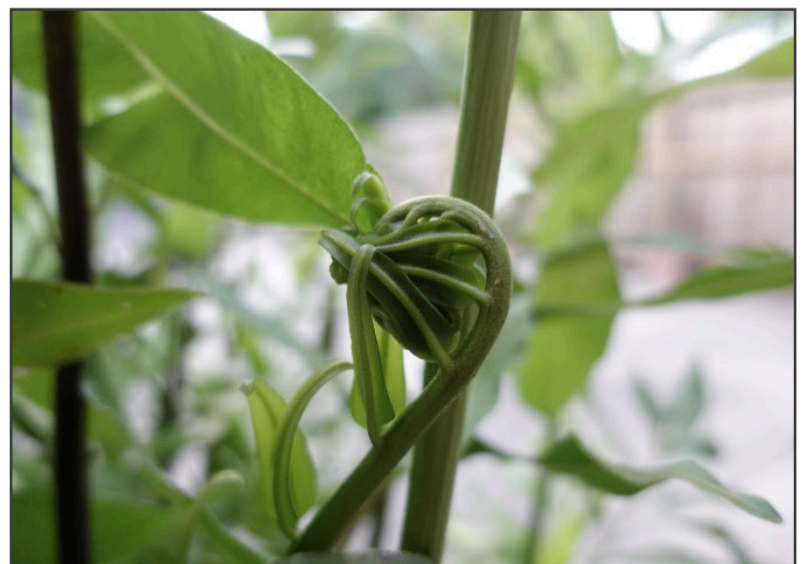


## Dues!

Dues for 2026 are currently being collected. If you have any questions about the status of your dues, please contact Ruby Adams at [radams13@sbcglobal.net](mailto:radams13@sbcglobal.net) Your dues may be paid in person at a meeting or sent by mail to:

**Ruby Adams**  
**3906 Woodmont Circle**  
**Houston, TX 77045-3514**

Checks should be payable to: Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society (TGCFs).



*Acrostichum danaeifolium*