



September 2005

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<http://www.rwsarchitects.com/fern.htm>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 18, at 2:00 p. m. – Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77044 – Phone: (713) 529-3960

A message from our President:

Hi, everyone:

You will be happy to learn that our fern friends in Louisiana are all fine. Larry and Glenda Weed are staying here in Houston with Family. Last year we had Mary Elliott speak to us and she is from the Baton Rouge area and is fine, but lost some of her shade trees.

The August social at Malcolm's home turned out very nice. About 17 people attended with lots of food. Malcolm has a lot of nice plants: several ferns, begonias, and orchids rank the highest. We had a great time and would like to extend our thanks to Malcolm for allowing us the privilege of come to his home. For those who were unable to attend, you were missed.


Linda Gay, director of Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens in Humble, is known to have a thing for plants. She will be our speaker for September. Her enthusiasm for ferns and tropicals is contagious, and her exuberance will make you want to have every plant she talks about. Her lengthy list of shade plants is a tonic for the soul.

Watering seems to be a question that is often asked. Do I keep the fern wet all the time? Do I let it dry out between watering? And my best answer to that is "Yes!" It could be either depending on the fern. I find that what works for one person does not work for another person living in the same area. The main reasons for this difference can be what the fern is planted in. If it's a mixture that stays wet you would want to water less often. If it is a mix that dries out quickly you may need to water everyday this time of year. If the plant is root bound, that can make a difference. I try to look up the fern in a good fern book or on the internet and see what type of conditions it grows in in nature and try to copy that as best I can. Unfortunately, some of the learning experience is trial and error, but ask someone in the club how they are growing something if you are having trouble.

Another question I get is what works best for marking tags. I know before I was a member of a society I did not think much of keeping names of plants. Then you find out there are a lot of plants with similar names. Like the Mother fern - I have 4 mother ferns that are in total different fern families. The best I have found is a graphite pencil. I have some tags that get wet everyday that look as good as they did 5yrs ago. If you have that special plant you might also try clear paint or even hair spray to help seal the tag.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Darla


Members: - Spread the word – encourage someone you know to visit us - we always have room for more!

Membership dues:

Individual: \$10.00
Family: \$15.00
Student: \$5.00



Officers and Committees:

President: Darla Harris
Vice President: Martha Burg
Secretary: Patsy Geiger
Treasurer: Al and Susan Peacock
Board Members at Large: Ted Richardson, Cecil Strange, Jr. and Larry Rucker
Membership Chair: Cecil Strange, Jr.
Newsletter: Paul Geiger
Library: Patrick Hudnall
Raffles: Jean Keiser
Hospitality: Lulu Mae Leonard
Welcoming at Door: Emma Lee Payne



**Minutes of Meeting
August 21, 2005**

No formal minutes were recorded since this was a social gathering, only.



September Refreshments:

Refreshments for our next meeting will be furnished by Sharon Banister and Sara Chumley. Come out and enjoy some really good and delicious food!



Library

Don't forget the great resource of information available in our library. At each meeting there are take-home sheets that contain a brief review of available books. Also at each meeting is a wide variety of books available for immediate checkout.



Our Next Meeting – September 18:

As mentioned earlier by Darla, our speaker for September 18th is **Linda B. Gay, Director of Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens**. Her topic will be *Shade loving Plants and Plants that go well with Ferns*.

Linda began her career with Mercer in October 1985 working as a horticulturist with the herb garden, vine garden, and color gardens as her responsibility. She became head horticulturist in 1988 supervising and working side by side with the field horticulturists. She was appointed Assistant Director in August 1997 and appointed by the Commissioner Eversole as Director in December 1999.

She says her favorite groups of plants right now are tropicals, ginger, and clumping bamboos, but other pet plant groups are bulbs, perennials, ferns, woody ornamentals and vines.

Since becoming Director, many new improvements have been added into the garden. “We have added a wonderful playground on the west side; rebuilt the Hickory bog bridge and put a boardwalk to view the wonderful cypress swamp on the west side,” she said.

She has collaborated on several books, including:

- “Tropical Gardening”, “Water Gardening” by American Garden Guides
- “The Book of Lists for Texas” by Bill Adams
- “Backyard Secrets from Expert Gardeners” by Rodale Press

The meeting promises to be very informative and entertaining so come out and **BRING A FRIEND**.



Looking ahead to October 16

Don't forget that our speaker for October is Robin Moran, Curator of Ferns at the New York Botanical Garden. You definitely do not want to miss that meeting experience.



Ferns and Going Beyond Ferns

This is a link to a web page recommended by Barbra Joe Hoshizaki:

http://www.cnps.org/publications/fremontia/Fremontia_Vol32-No2.pdf.

Your *Newsletter* editor found it to be a wonderful read. It is a mixture of technical articles and stories of human interest. After reading it, like me, you will probably want to join up and receive more like this.

