



July 2006

Vol. 8, No. 07

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 16, 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!

For our July meeting we have planned a great hands-on class on mounting Platyceriums (Staghorn ferns) on cedar boards. Larry Rucker and Ted Richardson will be leading us through this class. We need a head count on those planning on participating in the project so **I'd like for you to RSVP to me at (281) 733-5564**. The club will be providing one free board and plant per membership address. That means if you hold a family membership you can work together as a team or you may purchase additional kits for \$10.00 each. Visitors wishing to participate will be requested to pay the same fee. This is always fun; remember this can be messy so dress accordingly.

Mary McConnell has volunteered to host the Summer Social at her home in August. Please be thinking of what you'd like to bring and let us know as soon as possible. We will have more information to follow, but will have a signup sheet for a food list at the July meeting so we can get the planning underway.

Our next field trip is scheduled for September 9, 2006. We do not plan on renting a bus, but I think car pooling would be great. As announced at the June meeting, we will be visiting the botanical garden in the San Antonio area which is a bit of a drive and our time there will make it a pretty full day. If any of you want to spend the night we might want to try to stay at the same place. We need to make these decisions at the next meeting so come prepared for discussion.

We have received inquiries about Society members being able to sell plants at some or all the regular meetings. We will open this issue for discussion at the meeting and hopefully make a decision.

As you can see, we have lots of things planned for this meeting, so please arrive early so we can start on time.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you Sunday, Darla



Membership dues:

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

Our Treasurer will be available to collect dues and membership applications at our meeting or you may mail either to:

Cecil Strange, Jr.
12002 Palmton
Houston, TX 77034

Please make your checks payable to Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society or simply TGCFS.

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



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



New Members

Please take note of our newest members and give them a warm welcome:

Frank and Cherie Lee
5515 Cactus Forest Dr
Houston, TX 77088
218-999-8368
f.a.Lee@sbcglobal.net



Library

We encourage you to take advantage of 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 and videos available for immediate checkout.



Refreshments

Refreshments for the July meeting will be provided by Malcolm McCorquodale and Cecil Strange.

Thanks to Ted and Jean Richardson for supplying the delicious refreshments at the meeting in June.


Fern of the Month for June 2006

Pteris vittata – Chinese brake fern (“cemetery fern” - very common in the New Orleans French Quarter).

This is hardy for our zone 8/9. It is a medium/large fern with short creeping rhizomes and clustered fronds.

This fern grows well in bright light. In fact it comes up free spore in our greenhouse that has no shade cloth. It gets very bright and often during the summer this greenhouse can get up to 110 degrees. This greenhouse has a concrete floor and the spore love this very alkaline surface although it does not grow into the floor, but rests on top with its rhizomes holding it upright in small clumps.


Our June Meeting – a Review

Margarate Swearinger, an arborist with Urban Harvest, gave an inspiring and very, informative presentation about the protection, nurturing, and conservation of the urban forest and other natural resources. She emphasized the environmental value of trees, and the critical importance of our water resources - emphasizing water conservation, by the use of rain collecting systems, recycling, and appropriate plant selection.


Members Talk about Ferns!!

This month’s fern of the month article is contributed by Mary McConnell:

In the fall of last year, as part of the raffle, I won an Australian Tree Fern (*Sphaeroteris Cooperi*). It was a cute little plant in a 3 inch pot. After the weather got warmer this spring I repotted in into a 6 inch pot and put it outside on the patio. It gets full sun from 10 o’clock to 2 o’clock. I’ve been watering it once or twice a week, depending on how hot and dry it is. The fern is now almost a foot tall and has easily tripled in size. I look forward to enjoying this fern for years to come, as I watch it become a real tree!



Photo by: Mary McConnell, 2006


Statement of Income & Expenses

January 01, 2006 to June 30, 2006

(Submitted by Al and Susan Peacock, Treasurers, TGCFS)

INCOME

Membership Dues:	\$505.00
Sale of Plants:	\$0.00
Raffle Income:	\$140.00
Sale of Books:	\$0.00
Interest Income:	\$12.71
Outstanding Checks:	\$0.00
Total:	\$650.09

EXPENSES

Program Expenses -- Materials:	\$0.00
Program Expenses -- Lecturer:	\$0.00
Member Education:	\$20.00
Field Trip Expense:	\$0.00
Newsletter:	\$0.00
Cost of Plants Sold:	\$0.00
Bank Charges:	\$0.00
Total:	\$20.00

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Cash Balance, June 30, 2006:	\$5,989.55
Cash Balance, January 01, 2006:	\$5,476.84
2006 Net Income:	\$512.71

