



February 2007

Vol. 9, No. 02

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 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,

I hope everyone that got to attend last month's meeting enjoyed the birds-nest plaquing project. Now that you have some practice we would like you to help us at the February meeting. We are going to have a PowerPoint presentation on how we organized last year's Fern show. We will be showing pictures of some ferns and discussing some of the rare ones we displayed. This will let those of you that did not get to go just how the set up turned out. After that we would like some help plaquing some ferns for the sale part of the show this year. I know some of you will not be able to work at the show, but we can still use your help getting some plants ready.

For the show/sale itself the schedule is as follows:

Set Up	Wednesday	8 AM to 6 PM
Set Up	Thursday	8 AM to ???
Setup Sales	Friday	8 AM to 10 AM
Sales Open	Friday	10 AM to 7 PM
Setup Exhibits	Friday	8 AM to Noon
Exhibits Open	Friday	Noon to 7 PM
Show and Sales Open	Saturday	10 AM to 7 PM
Show and Sales Open	Sunday	10 AM to 5 PM
Show Takedown/cleanup	Sunday	5 PM to 10 PM

We need to know who will be donating ferns for the table sale and who will supply ferns for display only. As you can see there are a lot of hours to cover. We started a list at the January meeting and we will have it at this meeting so others can sign up and you can reconfirm the hours you have already volunteered for.

I know this looks like a lot of work and it is, but it is a labor of love, and it really is fun getting to know each other and learning more about different ferns you may not be growing yet. So I urge you to join in; this will be quite an experience for us all.

As always I'm looking forward to seeing and talking with you at the meeting.

See you then,

Darla



DUES ARE DUE

If you haven't paid your dues for 2007 yet, this is a reminder – **please don't forget!**

Dues amounts:

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

Our Treasurer will be available to collect them at the next meeting or you may mail your payment to:

Mary McConnell
6218 Wister Lane
Houston, TX 77008

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: Larry Rucker
- Secretary: Patsy Geiger
- Treasurer: Susan Peacock
- Board Members at Large: Ted Richardson & Cecil Strange, Jr.
- Membership Chair: Mary McConnell
- Newsletter: Paul Geiger
- Library: Patrick Hudnall
- Raffles: Jean Keiser
- Hospitality: Jessica Sheldon
- Welcoming at Door: Emma Lee Payne



Meeting Refreshments

Jessica Sheldon, our Hospitality Chairperson wants to remind everyone that we now have several categories of refreshments each month to encourage more participation from our members. The categories are: **Drinks** (sodas, ice tea, water, etc.); **Snacks** (chips, dips, crackers, cookies); **Fruit or Veggie Tray** (seasonal foods); **Desserts** (bought or yum, homemade); **Service Ware** (plates, cups, plastic ware, napkins). And for those who would like to express their culinary talents, think outside the usual and surprise us with your own creation!

February Refreshments:

Refreshments for our next meeting will be furnished by **Jessica Sheldon and Cherie Lee**

Come out and enjoy some really good and delicious food!





Society Tee Shirts

The T-shirts are in and I got a couple extra if you forgot to order. They are \$10.00 each. Call Darla at 281-733-5564 or send an email to: darla@fernplantation.com to place your order for color, size and quantity.



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.

Don't forget to visit our web site (see link in header, page 1) and click on **Library** to see the current list of books available. There you will see some pictures of the books we have and links to reviews at Amazon and elsewhere.



Adiantum raddianum delta

A-di-an'tum is the genus generally known as maidenhair fern. Its named is derived from the Greek word adiantos which means ungettable.

Maidenhair ferns are mostly terrestrial, and do well if planted in or around concrete. This family of ferns likes the lime that they leach out of the cement. They also like calcium rich soil. In nature you will find maidenhair ferns along river beds, liking the moist, but not wet soil and the high humidity the water offers.

When planted in containers the plants need one part sand and two parts peat moss, with enough perlite to make for good drainage. Peat moss tends to be on the acid side so be sure and enrich the soil with some dolomite lime or oyster shells. Do not over pot these ferns or you may cause root rot. So keep on the dry side of moist.

The Adiantum raddianum delta should be ground hardy for our area in most winters. It can be deciduous in winter and slows its growing cycle until spring when it starts pushing off new fronds. Over winter be sure not to keep to wet or you may kill your plant. The best time to divide your fern is before the active growing season starts up again.

There are about 200 species worldwide and a lot in cultivation. Most are characterized by having dark to black stipe (stem) with mostly triangular shaped leaves with three to four pinnate blades of wedge shaped segments. The leaflets are without a rachis (midrib). The sori is marginal and protected by a reflexed leaf margin which is a false indusium.

The Adiantum is subject to slugs, snails, pillbugs and aphids in the spring, but be careful with insecticides because they may burn the tender leaves, so use it about 1/4 strength. If you should see your fronds shriveling or crinkling, the humidity has dropped too much and you need to provide more moisture in the air. If potted place your plant in a saucer, on a bed of pebbles, with water just low enough the pot does not sit in the water.

When watering you maidenhair, be careful not to water the leaves, if they continuously get wet without adequate air movement, you will end up with grey mold on the leaves

These are really a beautiful fern and are easy to grow. They can be grown from spore easily as well. Happy growing!

- Darla

Pictures of Adiantum raddianum delta:



Photo by Darla Harris



Spore Pattern

Photo by: Darla Harris



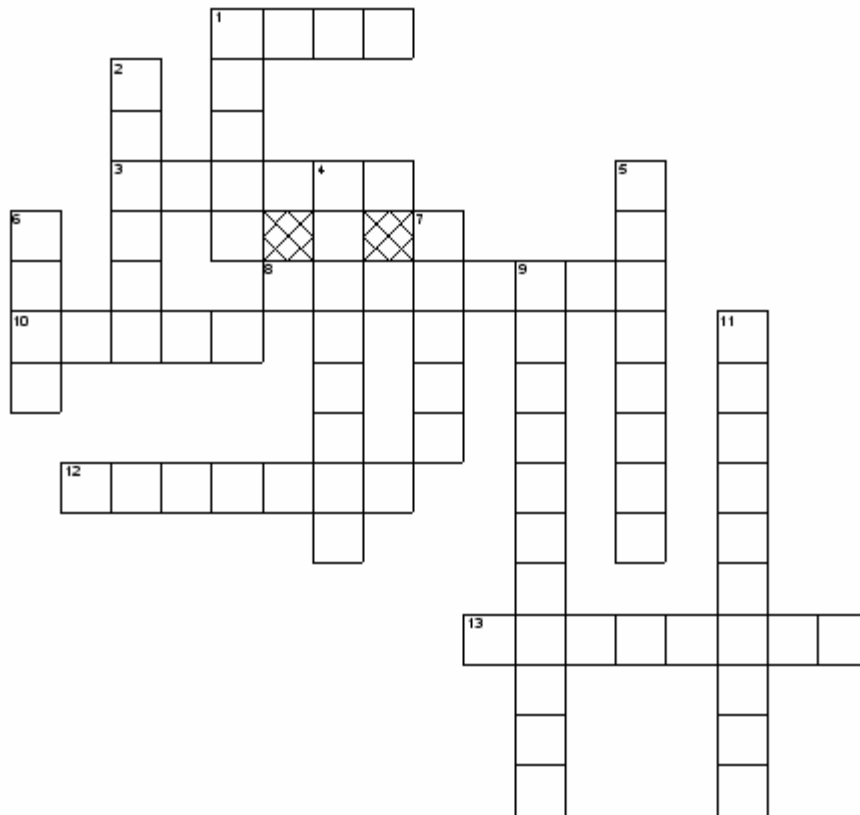
Theme Crossword Puzzle

This month we have another crossword puzzle (page 3) that you should be able to solve with the information above or with some research – e.g., Barbara H's book. Please let me know how you enjoy this feature.

Page 4 shows January's puzzle with answers.

- Darla

Adiantum raddianum delta
AERISQ



Across

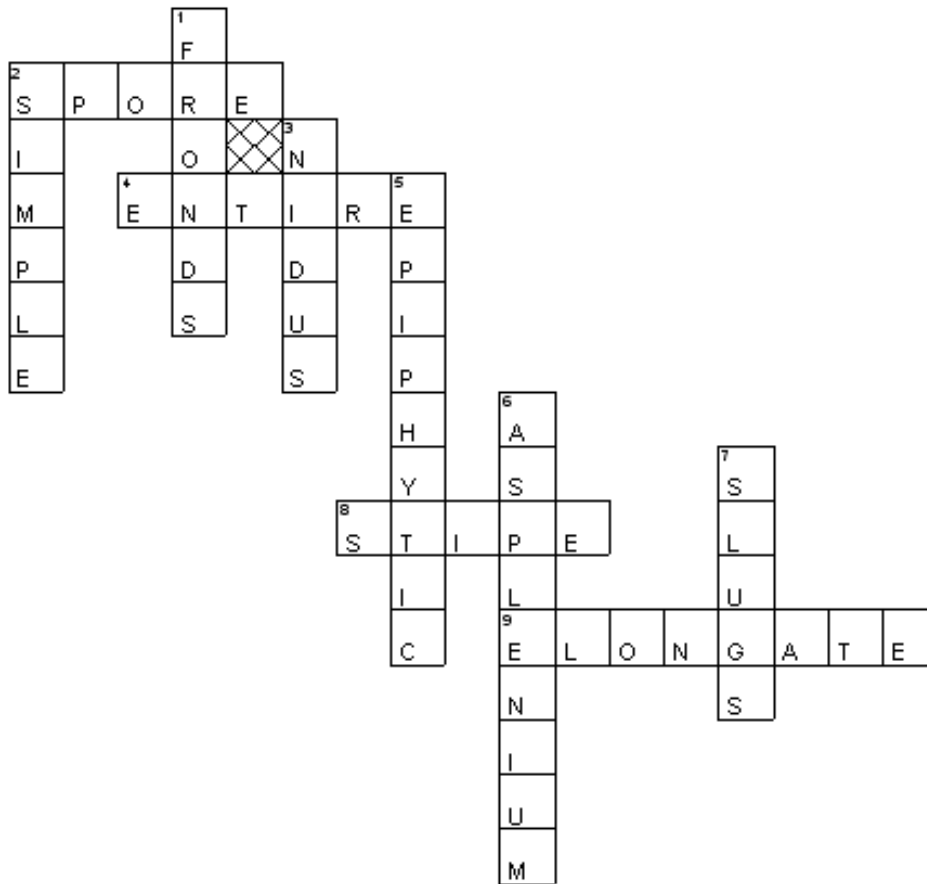
1. insecticides may _____ the leaves
3. the midrib of a compound frond
8. genus commonly known as maidenhair fern
10. grows in low to medium
12. Mineral that the delta likes added to the soil
13. perlite is added to soil to help with _____

Down

1. color of most stipe
2. active groth starts

4. the membrane surrounding or covering the sorus
5. moist air
6. wet leaves cause
7. _____ indusium formed by the enrolled margin of the leaf
9. plants growing on the surface of the ground in soil
11. Greek meaning of adiantos

Bird's-nest fern
AERISQ



Across

2. ferns are _____ bearing plants the lack flowers, fruits and seeds
4. leaf margin of the bird's-nest fern?
8. is where you would find the vascular bundles
9. sori shape?

Down

1. fern leaves are called _____?

2. fronds of the bird's-nest fern are what shape?
3. specie of Asplenium we are studing this month?
5. grows in trees
6. genus of the bird's-nest fern
7. pest of the bird's-nest

Answers to January 2007 Puzzle