



April 2009

Vol. 11, No. 04

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, April 19, 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:

Greetings fellow fern nuts. I think Spring has finally arrived, but then again, I thought that last month. I hope the curve ball Mother Nature threw us didn't harm any of your ferns. I was out of town; fortunately Monty wasn't with me. He and our daughter spent hours throwing plants back into the greenhouse - reminded them of the "good old days" before we had a greenhouse and had to watch the weather for that first freeze warning.

The Loupes and Sphagnum Moss arrived and will be distributed at the April meeting. For those of you who didn't get in on the original order, Larry will have some extras in the Club Store. The sphagnum cost per 5 kilo bag was a little more than expected. The final cost was \$42 after adding in shipping costs. Even with the additional cost, it's still a good deal but if you decide that it's more than you wanted to pay you are not obligated to buy it.

Speaking of our "store," please let Larry know if there is something special you'd like to see added to the inventory.

The program for this month will be a discussion about growing tree ferns in Houston. Barbara Hoshizaki has tried to encourage us to grow them here, saying that there's no reason why we can't and I know some of our member do grow them. We need to share our experiences with regard to which specie you have tried to grow here and whether you grow them in pots or actually plant them out in the garden. I hope to have a couple of varieties for you to take home and try. Did you know that some of them are hardy?

Malcolm will be presenting our Mini Workshop this month. He's designed a unique hanging basket and has agreed to show us how to make them. You don't want to miss this one!

Next month Duane Peterson is coming down from Kansas to talk to us about growing Maidenhair ferns. Duane grows about 20 varieties of Adiantum and will be bringing lots of plants for sale.

I hope to see you Sunday!
Donna



Up-coming Mini Workshop

The following is contributed by Jessica Sheldon:

It's Springtime and the ferns are at their best! We will be doing a 'mini' workshop sometime in the future that will involve framing ferns. While framing fresh ferns is possible, they will not stay green and you will have to replace them. If

you want a more permanent picture, make a photo copy of ferns you want to frame. We had some experience with photo copying when we made gift bags last November so you have time to expand, experiment, or improve on your fern copying skills. Make the standard copy size 8 1/2 x 11 to fit into an 8x10 frame (some of the image will be covered), and 11x14 size paper for an 11x14 frame. Also check out your stash of stuff for frames, go to garage sales, or keep your eye out for special deals at Marshalls, Ross, Goodwill, etc. Aaron Brothers has a sale in June (or July, I'm not sure which) where you buy a frame and get the second frame for a PENNY!!!!
Happy Ferning



DUES

TGCFS 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.



Officers and Committees:

- President: Donna McGraw
- Vice President: Sara Chumley
- Secretary: Cherie Lee
- Treasurer: Terri Dolney
- Board Members at Large: Sharon Banister, Darla Harris and Lulu Leonard
- Membership Chair: Mary McConnell
- Ways and Means: Ted Richardson
- Special Projects: Larry Rucker
- Newsletter: Paul Geiger
- Library: Frank Lee
- Raffles: Jean Keiser
- Hospitality: Jessica Sheldon
- Welcoming at Door: Emma Lee Payne



**Minutes of General Meeting, March 15, 2009
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas.

The meeting commenced at 2:05 PM with President, Donna McGraw calling the meeting to order.

Mini-workshop: Due to the special program, there was no mini workshop in March.

General Meeting: Donna McGraw began the meeting by discussing the items ordered after the February meeting. Loupes are on order and should arrive by the March meeting, few extras were ordered for the store. Sphagnum has been ordered but not sure of delivery date. Donna has cork and will handle this at the March meeting.

Store: Chair Larry Rucker informed members that some items may be marked up slightly to help earn money for the society. He also may put together kits for sale in the store for various projects such as mounting a plant.

Ways & Means Committee: Chair Ted Richardson informed members that the Fern Society had become an affiliate member of the Texas Garden Club Inc. for \$15 per year. He will send paperwork to the state to help obtain tax exempt status.

Library: Chair Frank Lee reminded attendees that the Library was open for checking out books and to please return books at the next meeting.

Membership: Chair Mary McConnell reminded attendees to pay dues if have not done so and membership books should be available by the March meeting.

Fern Exhibit at Orchid Show: Fern exhibit was discussed. Set up is Wednesday, 4/22, with take down on Sunday 4/26.

Other Plant Societies: San Jacinto Branch of American Begonia Society Plant Sale: April 17 & 18, 8 AM to 3 PM, 4322 Iroquois Dr., Pasadena, TX; Contact Helen Spiers for information

Program: Donna McGraw introduced Don Callard, Platycerium expert, who presented a program "World of Platyceriums A-Z". Don gave an excellent slide presentation and talk describing the various staghorn ferns including identification and growing tips. A silent auction was held for the plants Don brought and each attendee received two staghorn ferns to take home.

Plant Raffle: Jean Keiser ran the plant raffle with the member plant going to the lucky winner Helen Spiers.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



Meeting Refreshments

Refreshments for the **March meeting** were generously furnished by Gary Wooldridge, Patsy and Paul Geiger, Mary McConnell, Cherie Lee and Angie Casas. Thanks to all of you.

April Refreshments:

Refreshments for our next meeting will be furnished as follows:

- Drinks: Cecil Strange
- Snacks: Jessica Sheldon & Darla Harris
- Veggies/Fruit: Jessica Sheldon & Darla Harris
- Desserts: Pat Hudnall & Marcia Livingston
- Service Ware: Mary McConnell

Come out and enjoy some really good and delicious food!



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.



March Book Review

By: Frank Lee

"Ferns for American Gardens" by John Mickel

Written by the curator of ferns at the New York Botanical Gardens, this reference describes more than 400 types of ferns and many subspecies, varieties, and cultivars. Each entry explains the habit, frond size and color, hardiness zones, ease of cultivation, and includes suggestions for the best use of the plant in the garden. Soil preparation, garden maintenance, and propagating ferns are also discussed.

If you don't have your own copy you can check it out of our library. Just see Frank for the sign-out sheet.



Upcoming Events – Other Societies in Houston Area:

If you have the time and would like to expand your horticultural activities, take note of the following announcements by the Houston Bromeliad and Orchid Societies.

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.:

www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at: The Houston Garden Center.

Next regular meeting is 21 April 2009

Upcoming Special Events:

BSHI Annual Show and Sale

May 15, 16 & 17
Mercer Arboretum

The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

www.houstonorchid.society.org

Regular meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at: The Houston Garden Center.

Next regular meeting is 7 May 2009.

Upcoming Special Events:

2009 AOS Spring Show: "ORCHIDS, TEXAS STYLE"

April 22-26, 2009 at the HILTON HOUSTON NORTH

(Formerly the Wyndham Greenspoint)

12400 Greenspoint Drive
Houston, TX 77060
Tel. 281.875.2222

Visit the following web site for details:

<http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org/show/show09/show09.html>

