



August 2009

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<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Meeting: Sunday, August 16, at 2:00 p. m. – Summer Social at the Home of Mary McConnell:  
6218 Wister Lane, 77008 – Home Phone: (713) 880-2530**

**A message from our President:**

Greetings, everyone,

This month's meeting will be our annual Summer Social at Mary McConnell's home. If you haven't signed up to bring something, check with Jessica Sheldon to see what's needed.

Our Mini-workshop for September will be another interesting project from Jessica. If you weren't at the meeting last month she reminded us to be looking at our ferns with an eye toward picking out something we'd like to see framed to hang on the wall. We're to bring a photocopy/scan of a leaf and an inexpensive frame to the meeting so be on the lookout for sales or recycle a frame that's been collecting dust in a closet.

I hope a lot of you are planning on going over to Austin for their 3rd Annual Fern Symposium. The dates are August 28 and 29 (Friday evening and Saturday) at the Zilker Botanical Garden, located at 2220 Barton Springs Rd. There will be plants for sale and talks by some great fern experts. Their website is [www.fernfestival.org](http://www.fernfestival.org).

I hope to see you all at Mary's this Sunday.

Donna



**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



**New Members**

We have two new members this month. Please give a warm welcome to Noreen Tolman and (First name unknown) Klein.



**Minutes of General Meeting, June 21, 2009  
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society**

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

The meeting commenced at 2:10 PM with President, Donna McGraw calling the meeting to order.

**General Meeting:** Donna McGraw discussed several upcoming events. Among these was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fern Festival being held by the Garden Club of Austin at Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin, Texas on August 28 & 29. Additional information is available on the website [fernfestival.org](http://fernfestival.org). Also, the decision was made not to participate in the Mercer Arboretum Garden Faire September 26 & 27 this year.

Donna suggested that interested people get together this fall or next spring to propagate ferns. They could be kept in her greenhouse. Let Jessica Sheldon know if you are interested in participating.

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

**Upcoming Meetings:**

August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the summer party. Mary McConnell has graciously offered to host the party at her home. Hospitality Chair Jessica Sheldon is coordinating the event. As in the past, everyone is requested to bring a dish. Malcolm McCorquodale will put the directions to Mary's house on the website.

September mini-workshop will be Framing Ferns presented by Jessica Sheldon. Don't forget to press your ferns for several days and then copy them on to nice paper. Purchase your preferred frames and bring it all to the meeting.

October meeting will be "Mixing Potting Soil" at Donna and Monty McGraw's home. Sharon Banister has a recipe for potting soil that we will be using. This should be very educational as well as fun.

**Program:** Donna McGraw presented a program on "Footed Ferns". The discussion included their culture and propagation. Thanks to Donna and Monty, Sharon Banister, and Jean and Ted Richardson, there were over 20 different examples of footed ferns to admire and learn about.

**Mini-workshop:** Larry Rucker presented a hands-on workshop showing how to mount a rabbit foot fern on cork. Ferns and the

necessary supplies were available for anyone interested in giving it a try.

**Plant Raffle:** Patrick Hudnall ran the plant raffle with many plants finding new homes.

**Visitors:** Welcome to Master Gardeners Judy and Hernando Franko who are in the process of putting in a fern garden.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary



### Meeting Refreshments

Refreshments for the **July meeting** were generously furnished by Terri Dolney, Faye Stansberry, Helen Spiers, Jean Richardson and Lulu Leonard.

Thanks to all of you.



### July Book Review

By: Frank Lee

**“Common-Sense Pest Control”** by William Olkowski, Sheila Daar, and Helga Olkowski

This book offers an effective alternative – Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a strategy that relies on a variety of physical, mechanical, cultural and biological methods to keep pests under control. The authors discuss least-toxic chemical controls only as a last resort, so you always have a choice of practical and cost-effective solutions that present the least risk to yourself and your environment.

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](http://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 July 21, 2009

#### The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

[www.houstonorchid.society.org](http://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 August 6, 2009.



### Directions to Mary's home:

If traveling on I-10 take the T. C. Jester exit and go north.  
If traveling on 610 take the W. T. C. Jester exit if coming from the west or the Ella Blvd. exit if coming from the east and go South. Ella and T. C. Jester cross at about 18th street.

