



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

January 2011

Vol. 13, No. 1

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, January 16, at 2:00 p. m. – Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center,
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004 – Phone: (713) 284-1997 - Map included**

A message from our President:

Hello Everyone!!

I hope this year brings each of you good health and joy! This looks like it will be a great year for our society. We have so many good people doing so much for our club, it can't help but be a great year! I would like to take my hat off to all the officers, chair people, those who brought the wonderful food to the meetings, those who brought raffle plants, and those who bought raffle tickets this past year. It takes every one of us doing our part to keep this a great society..... so, pat yourselves on the back!

I would like to thank Jean and Ted Richardson for being the gracious hosts for our Holiday party! You guys are the best! Everyone always enjoys the warm welcome we receive when we are invited to your home...this year was no exception. The food.... what can I say...our people know how to put on a spread. The weather could not have be more beautiful... just an all round perfect way to wind up the year! Good Friends and Good Food.

I have not had a chance to talk to everyone yet about all the different committees and unfortunately, I will have to miss our first meeting. I do regret not being there with you but a family obligation will take me away for this weekend. I know Patrick Hudnall with put on a very good program so someone please take notes, so I won't miss out!

I would like to announce one committee change. Larry Rucker will take over the Raffle from Patrick. Please continue to bring your extra plants or an extra you have purchased for the society. I would like to thank Patrick for the great job he has done with the Raffle and for agreeing to be our spore exchange person. At the next meeting, he will go over with you what he needs in the way of spore and what you need to do to get some to try.

Jessica has a great start on this year's programs, and if it comes close to the job she did for us last year, we should all be excited to see what she has up her sleeve. Way to go girl!

Normally I would have had a board meeting the first month to set the budget and so on, but we will have to set that for February. Board Members, please email me any agenda items and I will put out an agenda before the February meeting. If anyone else has questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel

free to email them to me as well. This is after all, our society. It takes everyone's ideas to come up with the best!

Take care and see you next month,
Darla



A message from our Vice President:

The Good, The Bad, and The Buggy

January 2011

Got bugs? I do. Well, not me, rather my ferns. You see after being in the fern society for 5 years now, I have collected quite a few ferns. As the years have gone by, I have learned that many of the ferns we have are tropical. Elementary, my dear Watson. However, some of us are slower than others to realize that that means these tropical ferns do not like the cold. Some of mine survived outside in Houston; sadly not in The Woodlands. So I did what any compulsive "ferner" would do, I created my room into a virtual vertical garden of ferns (I have very high ceilings). I have glass jars, aquariums, ceramic pots, plastic pretzel jars, crockery, and the center wire gizmo from my compost bin (hopefully I can get more of these gizmos for a workshop later on in the year). I have "flip-up" hobby lights everywhere to provide light; if you drive by our house at night, my room looks like a glowing nuclear hub.

What I also got for all my efforts are BUGS - BAD BUGS, bugs that suck the life out of my ferns, bugs that follow me from one plant to the next, bugs that taunt me in the winter only to follow me outside in the summer! There are Aphids, Scale, Mealy Bugs, White flies, Earwigs, Staghorn Beetles, Nematodes, Thrips, Fungus Gnats, Spider Mites, Snails, Slugs and I'm sure others which I haven't mentioned! In years past, I would cut the fern back and anxiously await the new fronds to peek above the surface of the soil, only to find the bad bugs are back. But this year, I plan to fight back.

So we have the buggy, the bad, and now for the GOOD. Patrick Hudnall is the good guy in this drama of bug warfare. Patrick has been a member of our society for 10 years. He is a San Diego native who, with his two brothers, has worked at various retail nurseries over the years. In addition to a couple of semesters of formal horticultural education, much of Patrick's training has come from lectures, books, observation,

research, and examination. A third generation Staghorn grower, Patrick received a hands-on apprenticeship in Staghorn culture under Clarence Turner, owner of Turner's Tropicals. He has traveled in a dozen tropical countries and visited botanic gardens across the US and around the world! His presentation to us will be on fern pest management.

Feel free to bring your questions and "bugs" to the meeting, but please bring the bugs in a sealed baggie. I know I will have some of these bad bugs in my baggies.

We will be offering two plants this month:

The Rosy Maidenhair fern – Adiantum hispidulum

Maris's Hardy Maidenhair fern – Adiantum x mairsii

These have been bug free for me!

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



January's Meeting Location Change

Due to some work being done at the Garden Center in January, our meeting will be held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Please see the maps at the end of the newsletter.



Welcome New Member

Beth Ayer

Please welcome her at our next meeting.

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Membership Chair



2010 Officers and Committees:

- President: Darla Harris
- Vice President: Jessica Sheldon
- Secretary: Cherie Lee
- Treasurer: Terri Dolney
- Board Members at Large: Sharon Banister, Donna McGraw, and Lulu Leonard
- Membership Chair: Mary McConnell
- Ways and Means: Ted Richardson
- Special Projects: Larry Rucker
- Web Master: Malcolm McCorquodale
- Newsletter: Cherie Lee
- Library: Frank Lee
- Raffles: Larry Rucker
- Spore Exchange: Patrick Hudnall
- Hospitality: Cecil Strange
- Welcoming at Door: Marcia Livingston



Refreshments:

Refreshments for January will generously be furnished by:

- Drinks: Jean and Ted Richardson
- Chips & Dip: Mary McConnell
- Cheese & Crackers: Terri Dolney
- Fruits/Veggies: Susan Peacock
- Desserts: Marcia Livingston & Cherie Lee
- Service ware: Cecil Strange

Please let Cecil know if you can help with the refreshments for future months: c2strange@comcast.net or 281-481-3884. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



2011 Dues:

2011 dues are now being accepted. If you haven't paid for 2011, please complete the membership form included with your Newsletter or with your email Newsletter notice and return it with your payment to our Treasurer Terri Dolney or our Membership Chair Mary McConnell at our next meeting or mail it to:

Mary McConnell
6218 Wister Lane
Houston, TX 77008

TGCFS dues amounts:

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

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



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.



**Statement of Income & Expenses
January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010**



INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 495.00
Raffle Income	367.00
Plant Re-imbursement	793.00
Miscellaneous	675.00
Petty Cash	172.29
Bank Interest	<u>2.69</u>
Total:	\$2,504.95

EXPENSES

Plants	\$ 886.84
Projects	230.65
Lecturer Fees	880.33
Lecturer Gifts	124.19
Miscellaneous	<u>592.53</u>
Total:	\$2,714.54

Bank Balance 12-31-2009:	\$5,971.93
Bank Balance 12-31-2010:	\$5,516.13
Petty Cash 12-31-2010:	\$ 172.29

2010 Net Loss: \$ (283.54)

Submitted by: Terri Dolney, Treasurer



January Book Review

By: Frank Lee

“Fern Finder” by Anne C. Hallowell and Barbara G. Hallowell

This book is a pocket guide to identifying native ferns that grow in the U.S. Midwest and Northeast, and eastern Canada. The "Fern Finder" leads the user step-by-step through a series of choices to the species being identified. It is heavily illustrated with line drawings and is perhaps the most popular nontechnical guide to fern identification ever published in this country. Check it out.



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Holiday Party

December 19, 2010

This year's Holiday party was graciously hosted by Jean and Ted Richardson at their beautiful home inside the loop. All those attending had an enjoyable time: great place, great food, and great people. The gift exchange was full of surprises with a wide range of gifts including live plants, books, candles, and many other ferny items. Thank you Jean and Ted for a wonderful time.

We missed those of you who couldn't make it, maybe next year.

Submitted by: Cherie Lee, Secretary

Editor's Comments:

As most of you are aware, the Newsletter is posted on the TGCFS website at the same time as it is mailed out to the members. In an effort to save money on mailings, it has been suggested that email notification be sent that the Newsletter has been posted on the website instead of mailing the Newsletter. Members can then visit the website to view the Newsletter and print it for themselves if they wish. **If you have not done so already, please let me know if you are willing to accept the email notification and forgo the mailed Newsletter.** You can contact me by calling 281-999-8368, emailing cherie.d.lee@sbcglobal.net, or let me know at the next meeting. If I don't hear from you, you will continue to receive the Newsletter as usual. Thanks.

Deadline for the February Newsletter is February 4, 2011.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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.

The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

www.houstonorchidsociety.org

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

Next regular meeting is February 3, 2011.

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

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

Next regular meeting is January 18, 2011 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center.

December 19, 2010 Holiday Party





January 16th Meeting Location
Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas 77004
Home phone: 713-284-1997



**Judson Robinson Jr.
Community Center**

