



July 2013

Vol. 15, No. 7

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 21, 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,

We do not need a calendar to know that summer is officially here. Wow, did it turn HOT! We could sure use some regular rain to help our plants get through this heat.

We had a very good meeting in June on understanding tissue culture. I personally had never heard of Mitochondrial DNA genotypes in nuclear cells so I had to go home and read some more on this. I found it quite interesting that this part of the cloning process has to be a perfect match to result in a 100 percent clone and that these only come from the female half of the DNA. This was a very informative meeting presented by Joan Hudson. Thank you Joan for sharing the science behind the process with us.

I had the opportunity to go to Los Angeles to the Fern show and sale. The *Platynerium ridleyi* took top honors. It had been grown by Don Callard of the San Diego area. Don came to speak to our group about 4 years ago. I know we have a few members growing this fern so I thought you might like to see how his looked. It is not known to be an easy fern to grow but with work can be very rewarding.



I'm sorry I will miss our next meeting. Unfortunately I'm not alone. Darlene Morris who was going to talk to us about Crotons has a family conflict so will have to reschedule. Luckily Larry Rucker has stepped up, as he has done so many times before, and will be presenting a surprise hands-on project. Come see what he has in store for you all. I'm sorry I will miss it. Enjoy the meeting and tell me all about it at the August Party.

Speaking of the Party, we would like to thank Marcia Livingston and her husband Jimmy for agreeing to share their home with us for the Summer Party. This is an excellent opportunity to see how other members grow their ferns and other plants. Remember they won their Subdivision Yard of the Month early this year so come check it out. This will be a pot luck party and the sheet is already being passed around. Please contact Betty Mooney and sign up to bring your favorite dish. We welcome all our members and their families to attend.

Remember the Plant Swap will be our September meeting. If you don't have anything to divide or have not grown anything up for this meeting, there are a lot of sales going on and for a good price you can get a very nice plant to swap. Most of our members grow many plants other than ferns so keep an eye out for the plant that everyone is going to want. Remember it is up to 5 plants per member to be swapped. We will hand out a number to each person who brought plants to swap and draw one time to see who goes first. Then when the first plant is picked the member who brought that plant gets to pick next. So the bigger, nicer, rarer plants normally get chosen first. It is a very hot time of the year, so please only bring established plants for your fellow member to take home with them. You can also bring plant related objects to swap so be creative. I'm looking forward to this. It's always interesting to see new and unusual plants and I have gotten some very nice new plants at these swaps.

Remember if a plant does get too dried out this time of year, water it, but don't over water it. You will not help it get its legs (roots) back under it if your drown it. Most plants will come back from being a little too dry, but die if too wet. If their outer smaller root system dies due to the drought then there are fewer roots to drink up the water, they will get too soggy, and you will smother the remaining roots. So take care, and try to keep them medium moist throughout this harsh summer weather.

Take care everyone and see you in August. Stay safe and don't get too HOT out there.

Darla



**Statement of Income & Expenses
April 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013**

Up and Coming Attractions:

- July 21: "A Surprise Project"
presented by Larry Rucker
- Aug 18: Summer Party
at Marcia and Jimmy Livingston's home
- Sept 16: "Annual Plant Exchange"
- Oct 20: "Spores"
presented by Ann Herrington
- Nov 17: TBD
- Dec 15: "Holiday Party"
location to be announced later

Submitted by: Jessica Sheldon, Vice President



2013 Officers and Committees:

- President: Darla Harris
- Vice President: Jessica Sheldon
- Secretary: Frank Lee
- Treasurer: Mary McConnell
- Board Members-at-Large: Malcolm McCorquodale
Donna McGraw
Larry Rucker
- Membership Chair: Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston
- 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
- Society Store: Larry Rucker
- Hospitality: Betty Mooney
- Welcoming at Door: Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



Need Supplies?

Larry Rucker will be organizing an order of supplies through the Society Store so take an inventory, make your shopping (wish) list, and get with Larry at the next meeting.



INCOME

Membership dues	\$ 45.00
Raffle Income	208.00
Club Store	7.00
Bank Interest	0.45
Total:	\$ 260.45

EXPENSES

Speaker	200.00
Total:	\$ 200.00

Bank Balance 3-31-2013: \$5,908.08

Bank Balance 6-30-2013: \$5,968.53

Net Gain Loss for 2nd Qtr: \$ 60.45

Net Gain Loss for 2013: \$ 302.23

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



Summer Party

Don't forget our Summer Party at Marcia and Jimmy Livingston's home August 18th. Please let Betty Mooney know what you plan to bring to add to the festivities.



Refreshments

Refreshments for June were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Midge Gorman
- Savory: Jessica Sheldon
- Veggies: Noreen Tolman
- Desserts: Beth Ayer
- Service ware: Beth Ayer

Refreshments for July will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Cherie Lee
- Savory: Cherie Lee
- Desserts: Larry Rucker
- Service ware: Cherie lee

Please let Betty Mooney know if you can help with the refreshments for future months. Email to: jcmbzm@att.net or call 713-468-3834. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



2013 Dues:

2013 dues are now being accepted. If you have not done so already, please complete the membership form and return it with your payment to our Treasurer Mary McConnell or our Membership Chair Beth Ayer at our next meeting or mail it to:

Beth Ayer
5815 Portal Drive
Houston, TX 77096

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.

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting - June 16, 2013

A regular monthly meeting was held at the Houston Garden Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting commenced at 2:00 PM with President, Darla Harris calling the meeting to order.

General: Darla discussed the Miami Fern Show & Sale that she and Donna McGraw had attended recently and the LA Fern Sale she attended the previous week. She discussed the difference in available ferns from the dryer LA area and the humid Miami area. She also discussed her packing methods for transporting plants via airplane which included removing plants from the pots, wrapping them in newspaper and then packing them in a suitcase.

Darla also informed members about two events coming up advertised by the American Fern Society (AFS), a taxonomy class in Maine in August with Robbin Moran and the AFS meeting in July in New Orleans with a field trip. She mentioned that there were a limited number of spaces available so sign up soon if interested. She has already signed up for the taxonomy class in Maine.

Darla also reminded members that the July meeting would be our last meeting at the Garden Center. August would be our pot luck party at Marcia Livingston's home and September would be our annual plant swap at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center.

Hospitality: Signup sheet for refreshments for our July meeting was passed around and please contact Chair Betty Mooney if you can sign up for refreshments in future months and/or to let her know what you plan to bring to the August Party.

Program: The program for June was a very informative discussion presented by Joan Hudson on tissue culture and cloning. She discussed cell structure and making a true clone.

Plant Raffle: Larry Rucker ran a very nice plant raffle with many plants finding new homes.

Attendance: 17 Members and 2 guests, Lisa Reed and Kenneth Gardner, were present.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Submitted by: Secretary Frank Lee



July Book Review

"Indoor Ferns" by Boy Altman

This book explains in great detail the correct treatment for ferns: light, water, temperature, fertilizer, repotting – all aspects of caring for the plants are discussed in simple language, and with no complicated scientific terminology. In addition, each variety (about ninety of them are available) is discussed separately in summary form. It tells you how to keep tropical and sub-tropical ferns growing in peak condition and is lavishly illustrated with over 150 color photographs.

This book is intended for every fern lover and there will no longer be any excuse for letting an indoor fern die after only a few months. Every room in the house can be home to some of the many splendid varieties of ferns.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



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 August Newsletter is August 1, 2013.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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, there 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. If there is a particular book you would like to check out at the meeting, please contact Frank Lee at f.a.lee@sbcglobal.net or 281-999-8368 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.

Upcoming Events in the Houston Area:

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

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 July 16, 2013

The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

www.houstonorchidsociety.org

Regular meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at the First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd.

Next regular meeting is August 1, 2013.

“Tissue Culture” presented by Joan Hudson



Joan Hudson and Darla Harris

