



November 2015

Vol. 17 No. 11

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, November 15, at 2:00 p. m. – Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center,
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004 - Phone: (713) 284-1994**

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all doing well and received some of that much needed rain. Things were getting very dry around here and the trees and plants were getting stressed even with our watering. It would be nice if Mother Nature would spread the rainfall out a little instead of all in a couple of days but I'm not going to get too picky. I'm just grateful for whatever we receive.

I hope you all enjoyed the *Platycerium* identification discussion last month presented by Darla Harris with some mounting instructions from Larry Rucker and some cultural suggestions from Patrick Hudnall. Staghorn ferns are my favorite ferns so it is always a joy to see so many beautiful plants and learn more about them. Thank you to Darla, Larry and Patrick for presenting such an informative program.

This month in addition to our program on ferns from Peru, see Darla's article that follows, we will be voting for our 2016 officers. Thank you very much to Committee Chair Beth Ayers, Biruta Claunch, and Midge Gorman for your hard work coming up with a slate of officers. They will present this slate to discuss and if agreed upon, to vote on by the membership.

Remember in December we will have our Holiday Party at Donna and Monty McGraw's home one week early on December 13th at 1 PM. We will have a fern/plant related gift exchange in the \$15-\$20 range if you'd like to participate. Remember your spouse, significant other, or friend is welcome to come with you. If you have not signed up for a dish, please do so at the November meeting or call Faye Stansberry to let her know what you plan to bring. Hope to see you there.

Take care and looking forward to seeing you soon.

Cherie



“Coastal Ferns of Peru – Xeric Environment” presented by Blanca Leon

If you're like me, you think of Peru as being the beginning of the Amazon River basin rainforest with its lush flora and fauna or the sheer beauty of the majestic Andes Mountains. Yet just two hours out of Lima, the country's capital, lies a coastal desert. Located between the Pacific Ocean and the western slopes of the high Andes, the 'lomas' extends from Peru into Chile.

Dr. Blanca Leon of the University of Texas at Austin and of the Museo de Historia Natural, Peru will be presenting her research on the arid landscapes that face the Pacific Ocean in Peru and Chile along the latitudinal line of 15 degrees and makes up a region called the Atacama-Sechura Desert. Amazingly within this region there are pockets of ferns and flowering plants that are growing under unique conditions. They have discovered 39 different colonies growing 34 different types of ferns.

Dr. Leon will be discussing how these plants have adapted to these conditions over time and how the record shows that even though the ferns have changed over the years, they still continue to grow in this environment. From fossil records to herbarium collections to current observations, the story of survival of ferns, one of the oldest plant families on earth, is told.

Dr. Leon is an energetic speaker who obviously loves working with ferns and sharing her vast knowledge of them. She spoke to our group a couple years ago and was very well received. She is also a member of our Society. She is the Membership Secretary for the American Fern Society so if you are not currently a member or would like to renew, this would be a good time to do so.

Come share a taste of the ferns in Peru with us and see how this desert transforms into a lush paradise of ferns at certain times of the year.

Submitted by Darla Harris, Vice President



2015 Officers and Committees:

President:	Cherie Lee
Vice President:	Darla Harris
Secretary:	Diane Hudnall
Treasurer:	Mary McConnell
Board Members-at-Large:	Patrick Hudnall Larry Rucker
Education Chair:	Darla Harris
Hospitality Chair:	Terri Dolney and Faye Stansberry
Library:	Frank Lee
Membership Co-chairs:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston
Newsletter:	Cherie Lee
Spore Exchange:	Patrick Hudnall
Ways and Means:	Larry Rucker
- Raffle, Store, etc.	
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston



Please Welcome Our New Member:

Jan Kramer



Up and Coming Attractions:

Nov 15: "Coastal Ferns of Peru – Xeric Environment"
presented by Blanca Leon

Dec 13: Holiday Party
at Donna and Monty McGraw's home

Submitted by: Darla Harris, Vice President



October Raffle Results:

Thank you to our Donors: Bret & Raini Cunningham,
Pat Foreman, Darla Harris, Lu Lu Leonard, Jere
Noerager, Larry Rucker, and Beth Whitley

Congratulations to the Winners: James Arbogast,
Beth Ayer, Midge Gorman, Darla Harris, Jan Kramer,
Cherie Lee, Lu Lu Leonard, Mary McConnell, Ruth
McDonald, Jere Noerager, Fred Robinson, Donna
Williams, and J. H. Williams



2016 Dues

2016 dues are now being accepted. Please review the 2015 directory for any updates to your information, complete the membership form, and return it with your payment and any changes noted to our Membership Co-chairs Beth Ayer and Marcia Livingston 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.



Refreshments:

Refreshments for October were generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Terri Dolney, Darla Harris, Rodolfo Reyes
Savory:	Beth Ayer, Martha Burg, Mary McConnell, Larry Rucker
Desserts:	Pat Foreman, Diane Hudnall, Patricia Ross
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

Refreshments for November will be generously furnished by:

Drinks:	Rodolfo Reyes, Cecil Strange
Savory:	Mary McConnell, Ruth McDonald, Faye Stansberry, Beth Whitley
Desserts:	Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Bret & Raini Cunningham,
Service ware:	Cherie Lee

Please let Faye Stansberry or Terri Dolney know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2015. Email to stansberry.faye@yahoo.com or call 713-734-0170 or email to 102666@email.hal-pc.org or call 713-592-9029. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!

Drynaria Bonii

Family: [Polypodiaceae](#)

Genus: [Drynaria](#) dry-NAR-ee-uh

Species: [bonii](#)

The basket fern is made up of about 16 species and comes from tropical Africa, Asia, Australia and Islands of the Pacific. The typical characteristics are two types of fronds, the fertile foliage fronds and the sterile fronds that make up the nest. The fertile fronds are green, long fronds while the sterile fronds are normally short and turn brown with a totally different type leaf. The sterile fronds collect leaf matter that protects the rhizome and can help retain moisture for the plant.



D. bonii is native to India, Southeast Asia, and China. One of the smallest species of *Drynaria*, it can be distinguished by rounded nest fronds. The foliage fronds are pinnatifid with few widely separated lobes. The sori are arranged in two irregular rows between the secondary veins.



For me the *D. bonii* seems to be more cold-hardy than some of the other *Drynaria*. Most go dormant at about 40F and will not survive a freeze while *bonii* seems to keep its leaves over winter better. Over the winter months very little water should be given as it can rot out the rhizome and kill the plant. The rest of the year they like a fair amount of water since they come from the rainforest regions, but still do not want to be overwatered. They need a well drained medium and can be grown in a basket or on a plaque.



I find this to be a slow grower. It can be grown from spore or from a division of a larger plant from rhizome cuttings.

This entire family is worth growing.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
General Meeting – October 18, 2015**

The general meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 2:20 pm by President Cherie Lee.

General:

Cherie opened the meeting by thanking the people who brought food and refreshments and asked people to sign up for the next few months. She then introduced Beth Ayer, Committee Chair for the 2016 nominating committee, and requested volunteers from the membership for the two remaining committee members. Biruta Claunch and Midge Gorman volunteered and the membership voted and approved their selection. She then discussed the Holiday Party to be held at Donna and Monty McGraw’s home. Map and directions will be posted in the December newsletter.

Darla Harris talked about the November meeting by Secretary of the American Fern Society, Blanca Leon, on xeriphytic & epiphitic ferns of Peru.

Frank called attention to the library that is available for checkout to be returned the following meeting.

Program: Darla Harris presented many examples of Staghorn Ferns and explained ways of identifying the different types of ferns. Larry Rucker demonstrated how to mount a staghorn onto a plaque. Patrick Hudnall discussed the culture including fertilizing and disease treatment.

Attendance: 28 members were present

Raffle: \$94.00 was raised

Lenses sold: \$20.00

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



November Book Review

**“The Ornamental Ferns of Peru”
by Blanca Leon, Elluz Huaman, Jose Roque,
Maria I. La Torre and Asuncion Cano**

This book includes information on the various parts of ferns and types of fronds. It also discusses and shows examples of the various types and locations of sori for different ferns. But best of all, it has a discussion and description of each of the ferns with lovely photographs. Although the book is primarily in Spanish, it does contain a paragraph on each of the ferns in English.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Board Meeting – October 18, 2015**

The Board meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 4:20 pm by President Cherie Lee.

Income and expenses:

Current ending balance is \$8,192.14. Slightly above January 2015 balance of \$8,002.84

General:

A member asked if we would consider changing the day of the monthly meeting. The board members discussed and determined that due to the long commute by many members, a mid-week meeting would not be viable and Saturdays are generally very busy for many of the members. Thus, it was decided to keep the meeting on Sundays.

Next year’s speakers - currently there is one speaker lined up for next year requiring assistance for airfare.

Attendance: Cherie Lee, Darla Harris, Larry Rucker, Pat Hudnall, Mary McConnell, and Diane Hudnall

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



Library

We encourage you to take advantage of the great resource of information available in our library. At each meeting there are a wide variety of books 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 832-566-5788 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



Editor’s Comments:

Deadline for the December Newsletter is November 26, 2015. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFs Newsletter*



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.

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., Houston, TX 77005

Next regular meeting is:
November 5, 2015

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

–www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org–

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Moody Community Center,
3725 Fulton St., Houston, TX 77009

Next regular meeting is:
November 17, 2015

“The Ultimate Trophy Plant: Platycerium – The Staghorn Fern” presented by Darla Harris



Presenter Darla Harris with cultural tips from Patrick Hudnall and mounting tips from Larry Rucker (not pictured)



Many examples of platyceriums on display



Identifying
different
platyteriums

