



April 2016

Vol. 18 No. 4

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Saturday, April 16, at 10:30 a. m. – Peckerwood Gardens,  
20571 Farm to Market 359, Hempstead, TX 77445 - Phone: (979) 826-3232**

### **A message from our President:**

Hi Everyone,

Spring is here! What a mild winter we had this year. I bet most of you have been cleaning your yards and planting your spring color, but don't forget the ferns. With so many ground hardy ferns for our area that have a bust of color and different textures, we should be including them in our yards. The spring fiddleheads are also popping and are quite beautiful.

Okay, no peeking! I know we are all excited to see our spore sowings turn into lush carpets of green gametophytes, but it is still too soon. Make sure they are staying moist, but NOT wet. Also, make sure they are getting 12-16 hours of light a day but not in the hot west sun window. If you have not already sprayed the soil once, open the lid and give it a quick squirt or two with the spray we sent home with you. Close the box up tight and be patient. I would like to thank Larry Rucker for helping with measuring the solution for our soil and watering. Larry is always a great help and is especially wonderful preparing and presenting our hands-on programs.

Field trip! Don't forget our annual spring field trip on Saturday the 16th of April, the day before our normal meeting time. **Remember there will be no meeting on Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>.** Please read the VP article for more information. Peckerwood Garden here we come!

Our May meeting will be back at the Judson Robinson Jr. building and we will be in the back room for a presentation on 'Ferns of Mexico' by Alejandra Vasco. We will have more information to come including whether or not the Saturday night get together will take place.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank all the members who came out to the opening of my Nursery. You do not know just how much your support meant to me!! Your feedback was appreciated! I hope you will come out again, I will be adding more ferns over the next few

months. Let me know if you're looking for something specific.

See you at Peckerwood Garden.

*Darla*



### **Field Trip Peckerwood Garden**

Peckerwood Garden is located on FM 359 just a few miles south of Highway 290 (map on last page of newsletter). The garden was founded by John Fairey who purchased the first 6.75 acres in 1971 and later named it Peckerwood Garden. Over the years he expanded the property to 39 acres. The garden was first opened to the public in 1998. Peckerwood Garden is now owned by the Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation, a non-profit organization, which is dedicated to preserving, maintaining, and promoting the garden, to continuing plant exploration and trials, and to developing the facilities.

John Fairey recognized the need to preserve the many plant species in Texas and especially in Mexico that were in danger of being lost forever. Sadly this is now true in the wild for many of them. Thanks to his foresight and dedication of collecting seeds and taking cuttings, we are able to see some of these plants for ourselves and students can come from all around the world to study them. How lucky we are to have this treasure in our own back yard.

We will be taken on a guided tour by the new Director of the Gardens Adam Black. We will venture to parts of the garden that are off the beaten path and not included on the normal tour routes. For those of you who have been there before but want to see more, this is your golden opportunity. We will see trees, plants, and of course, all the ferns on the property will be covered. This should be around two hours of mostly walking so please consider your own health requirements.

Adam is also a collector of ferns and rare plants. He is planning on having some of his oddball ferns from his collecting trips to Taiwan and other places on display for us to see and a few to purchase. I know I can't wait!!

We are planning to meet at 10:30 AM at the gardens and start the tour at 11:00 AM. Our members Ruth McDonald and Brenda Wilson, who volunteer at Peckerwood, will be bringing some drinks and nibbles for the field trip, but if you feel you need to bring something from home, please do so. For those who would like to have a bite of lunch afterwards, we are going to go to *The Boat* that serves seafood and Vietnamese food.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and remember for members it is \$10.00 per person and \$15.00 for non-members. Please let me know if you're planning on attending so we have a head count and send me your cell number in case you have any issues getting there. Also, if you think you would like to join us for lunch, let me know so we can give the restaurant a heads up on numbers.

Drive carefully,  
Darla  
281-733-5564 (my cell)



### Up and Coming Attractions:

#### 2016:

- Apr 16: Field Trip "Peckerwood Gardens"  
(Sat.) 20571 FM 359, Hempstead, TX 77445  
10:30AM \$10 per person
- May 15: "Ferns of Mexico Systematics"  
by Alejandra Vasco
- June 19: "Fern Gametophyte Growth & Development"  
by Joan Hudson
- July 17: TBD
- Aug 21: Summer Party  
at Larry Rucker's home
- Sept 18: Annual Plant Swap
- Oct 16: Cheilantheid ferns  
by George Yatskievych, Ph.D.  
Botanist, Curator, Plant Resources Center,  
University of Texas at Austin
- Nov 20: "Fern Holiday Ornaments"  
by Larry Rucker (hands on, cost TBD)
- Dec 11: Holiday Party  
at Biruta Claunch's home

Submitted by: Lisa George & Larry Rucker, VPs



### 2016 Dues

If you would like to be included in the 2016 directory, please get your 2016 dues in by April 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.



### 2016 Officers and Committees:

President: Darla Harris  
Vice President: Lisa George and  
Larry Rucker  
Secretary: Diane Hudnall  
Treasurer: Mary McConnell  
Board Members-at-Large: Biruta Claunch  
Terri Dolney  
Education Chair: Darla Harris  
Hospitality Chair: Raini Cunningham and  
Ruth McDonald  
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



**Statement of Income & Expenses  
January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016**

**INCOME**

Membership dues	\$ 330.00
Raffle Income	231.00
Club Store	12.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.64</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 573.64</b>

**EXPENSES**

Speaker	\$ 150.00
Website	155.40
Program Expenses	<u>397.57</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 702.97</b>

**Balance 12-31-2015:** \$8,646.75

**Balance 3-31-2016:** \$8,517.42

**Net Gain Loss for 1st Qtr:** \$ (129.33)

**Net Gain Loss for 2016:** \$ (129.33)

Submitted by: Mary McConnell, Treasurer



**Refreshments:**

Refreshments for March were generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Jane Lackow
- Savory: Cecil Strange, Donna Williams, Johnny Williams, and Beth Whitley
- Desserts: Cherie Lee, Mary McConnell, and Patricia Ross
- Service ware: Cherie Lee

For our April field trip, Ruth McDonald and Brenda Wilson will be bringing drinks and nibbles.

Please let Raini Cunningham, [bnrc@xmission.com](mailto:bnrc@xmission.com) / 801-891-2254, or Ruth McDonald, [rmmcdonald0@gmail.com](mailto:rmmcdonald0@gmail.com) / 979-530-6186, know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2016. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



**March Raffle Results:**

**Thank you to our Donors:** Raini & Bret Cunningham, Darla Harris, Cherie & Frank Lee, Malcolm McCorquodale, Rosalind Speed, Cecil Strange, Beth Whitley, Donna & Johnny Williams, and Brenda Wilson

**Congratulations to the Winners:** Beth Ayer, Sharon Banister, Raini & Bret Cunningham, Darla Harris, Chuck Hudson, Jane Lackow, Cherie & Frank Lee, Mary McConnell, Judith Neufeld, Fred Robinson, Cecil Strange, Beth Whitley, and Brenda Wilson



**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society  
General Meeting – March 20, 2016**

The general meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order by Darla Harris, President. Frank Lee sold raffle tickets.

**Announcements:** April Field Trip would take the place of the regular April meeting. Club is going to Peckerwood Gardens on Saturday, April 16. Members are to meet there at 10:30 AM, tour starts at 11 AM. Cost of the tour is \$15 but the club will pay \$5 per member, so individuals only have to pay \$10. There will be plants for sale as well.

Cherie and Frank Lee worked as volunteers at Mercer March Mart with Jere Noerager selling ferns.

Darla announced that the club needs a volunteer for Librarian. Frank Lee is standing down after 10 years holding that position.

Raini Cunningham asked members to sign up for refreshments and passed around the signup sheet.

Lisa Reed will be hosting Alejandra Vasco for the May meeting and might have a pot luck get together on Saturday evening before the meeting.

Biruta Claunch announced that the Kingwood Garden Club is having a Home and Garden Tour the weekend of April 15.

**Program:** Larry Rucker and Darla Harris presented a hands-on program on growing Staghorn Ferns from spores, based on the book "Growing Staghorns" by Wayne Boyce. The solution formula used is in his book. Members got to start five different ferns: Platycerium veitchii, Platycerium 'Mt. Lewis', Platycerium pumila, Pyrrosia lingua, and Blechnum brasiliense.

**Attendance:** 23 members and 3 guests were present.

**Raffle:** \$75.00

Submitted by: Mary McConnell  
for Diane J. Hudnall, secretary





## **Microsorium fortunei** **Fortune's Ribbon Fern**

Family: [Polypodiaceae](#)

Genus: [Microsorium](#) my-kroh-SOR-um

Species: [fortunei](#) for-TOO-nee-eye

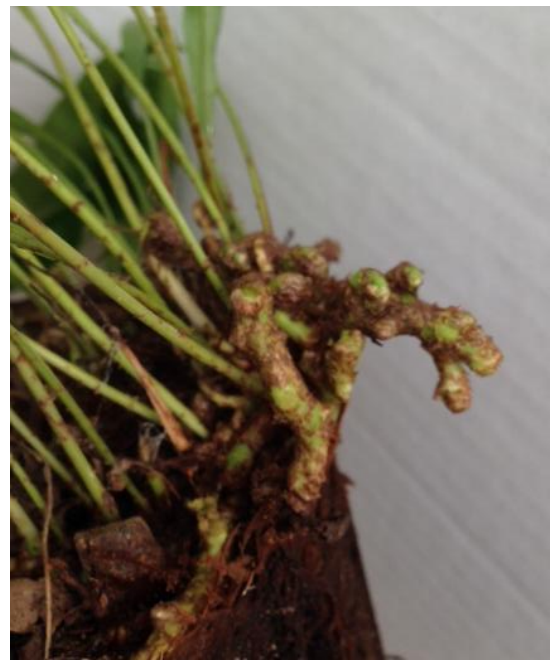
This is a very pretty strap fern that is hardy for our area. I have grown this in the ground, in a pot, and in a hanging basket and plan to mount it on a board. We should see this fern at Peckerwood Garden during our field trip.

This fern is a medium sized fern with short creeping rhizomes. It likes medium light and could burn in too high of light. It needs a moist-dry potting mix and prefers high humidity.

The blades (fronds) can get 2 feet long and about 1.5 to 2 inches wide. The sori on the back of the fronds are raised, round, and yellowish. They are placed on either side of the midrib in an irregular line.

This species is native to Indochina, China, Taiwan and Japan.

This is a beautiful fern and is under used in our area. Consider adding this to your collection if you are not already growing it.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



## April Book Review

### “Platynerium Fern Facts” by Wendy Franks

This is a straight forward book containing general information on platyneriums including watering, fertilizing, pest control, and propagating. It discusses 18 species describing the fronds, spore patterns, and specific growing needs such as temperature and humidity requirements. It is an older book but still has some interesting and beneficial information.

Submitted by: Frank Lee



### Editor's Comments

**Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 27, 2016. Thanks.**

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 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](mailto:f.a.lee@sbcglobal.net) or 832-566-5788 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.

### The Houston Orchid Society, Inc.

[www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://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 meetings are:  
April 7, 2016 and May 5, 2016

### 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 West Gray Multi-Service Center 1475 W. Gray St., Houston, TX 77019

Next regular meeting is:  
April 19, 2016

### Jimbo's Nursery Sale

15019 8th, Santa Fe, TX  
409-925-6933

### Rare Gems of the Garden Collectors Sale

Saturday April 23rd 9 am – 2 pm

We will have unique growers with rare plants of cactus, succulents, bromeliads, plumerias, ferns, and bulbs.

Located 10 miles north of Galveston and 25 miles south of Houston in Santa Fe, Texas, just off Hwy 6 or about 6 miles west of Interstate 45.

<http://jimbosnursery.com/>

## Bromeliad Spring Sale

Saturday  
May 7, 9am-3pm

West Gray  
Multi-Service Center  
1475 W. Gray St.

Bromeliad Society / Houston Inc.



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**“From Spore to Staghorn Fern in 6 Months”  
Presented by Darla Harris and Larry Rucker**

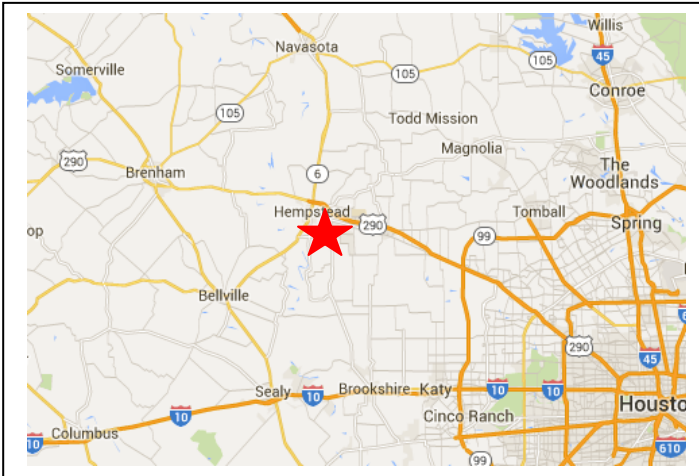


**Our Presenters hard at work:  
Darla Harris and Larry Rucker**



## Directions to Peckerwood Garden

**20559 FM 359 Road  
Hempstead, Texas 77445  
979-826-3232**



- North on Hwy 290 toward Austin.
- Take FM 359 Exit toward Brookshire just prior to reaching Hempstead
- Turn left (going south) on FM 359
- Go 3.2 miles on FM 359.
- Peckerwood Garden parking is on the right through a gate right after you pass a wooded area on the right while driving up a small hill.
- Slow down when you are approaching the 3 miles because it is easy to miss.

