



September 2016

Vol. 18 No. 9

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

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**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, September 18, at 2:00 p. m. – Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center,  
2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004 - Phone: (713) 284-1994**

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

Hi Everyone,

I would like to start off by thanking Larry Rucker for hosting our Fall Social. I'm glad so many were able to make it. It is always great to visit with everyone. For those who couldn't make it, I'm really sorry you missed the party. Larry has a lovely home and I put on five pounds because of all the wonderful food. I do hope I will see you all in December at the Holiday party at Biruta Claunch's home in Kingwood.

September means it time for our '*Plant Swap*'. Is everyone ready to swap your plants for someone else's? All the details of the swap are included in the Program Note. I'm looking forward to seeing what new plants/or plant related items I will be bringing home with me.

At our October meeting we will have the privilege of hearing from a new member of our Society, George Yatskievych. George has been part of the fern world for years, has been a big part of the Missouri Botanical Garden as Curator, and now Texas is lucky to have him at the University of Texas at Austin. He has a PhD in Plant Sciences and his work includes papers on the Pteridaceae family of ferns with Robbin Moran. He will be speaking to us on the Cheilanthoid ferns. He is both well published and well respected for his work on ferns but he is not limited to ferns. This is going to be a real treat for our Society, so please plan on attending the meeting.

October is when we get our nominating committee together for next year's officers. I will be asking one of our members to chair this and we will be electing two members to help the chair on selecting our slate of officers for next year.

It is almost time to start preparing your ferns for winter. Can you believe that winter will be upon us in just a few months? This is also a great time for us here in the South to plant our ground hardy ferns so they will

be already for spring when it's time to push all their new foliage.

Take care and hope to see you at the swap!

*Darla*



### **September Program Note - Plant Swap**

Our September meeting will be our plant swap and the rules are as follows: each member may bring up to five plants or plant related items. Please bring established plants and no cuttings to trade. We will give out a number to each participating member and draw to see who gets to select first. After that, the person who picks next will be the one who brought the item selected by the first person. The third person to pick will be the one who brought the item selected by the second person and so on until everything is chosen. So you want to bring something that everyone wants so they will choose your item and then it will be your turn to choose. Your items do not have to be ferns, but ferns are always good. Any plants, or plant related items are welcome. This is always fun and getting to take home some new treasures makes it extra special.

Due to the Plant Swap, there will be **NO RAFFLE**.



### **Editor's Note**

My apologies to everyone for not having pictures from our party and Larry Rucker's beautiful home in the newsletter. The photographer did remember to bring her camera to the party but then forgot to take any pictures. It is hard to get good help these days.

Again my apologies especially to Larry,  
Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



## Up and Coming Attractions:

### 2016:

- 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



## Refreshments:

Refreshments for September will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Beth Ayer  
Savory: Raini Cunningham, Ruth McDonald  
Desserts: Raini Cunningham, Cherie Lee  
Service ware: Ruth McDonald

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!



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society General Meeting Minutes for August, 2016

This year's summer party was held at the home of Larry Rucker, Houston, Texas. The party began around 2:00 pm.

**General:** Darla Harris welcomed everyone to the party and thanked all for bringing such great food. She reminded everyone about the September plant exchange and that each member could bring up to five plants (not restricted to ferns) or plant related items they think others would like.

**Plant Raffle:** No plant raffle was done.

**Attendance:** 26 members and 2 visitors present

Submitted by: Diane J. Hudnall, secretary



## 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  
Cherie Lee (Past Pres)  
Education Chair: Darla Harris  
Hospitality Chair: Raini Cunningham and  
Ruth McDonald  
Library: Ruth McDonald  
Membership Co-chairs: Beth Ayer and  
Marcia Livingston  
Newsletter: Cherie Lee  
Spore Exchange: Patrick Hudnall  
Ways and Means: Larry Rucker  
- Raffle, Store, etc. Biruta Claunch  
Web Master: Malcolm McCorquodale  
Welcoming at Door: Beth Ayer and  
Marcia Livingston



## 2016 Dues

If you have not renewed your membership for 2016, please 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.

## Microgramma

Microgramma are small epiphytes consisting of about 20 species from the New World tropics, with just two exceptions coming from Africa and Madagascar. These are zone 10 ferns and are collected for terrariums due to their petite size but can also be grown in hanging baskets or on moss poles. They tend to prefer high humidity and also do well in a greenhouse.

Microgrammas grow on long-creeping rhizomes with entire simple fronds. The sori are lined in two rows on either side of the midrib but between the margin and are almost always round. They do not have indusia covering the sori. The veins are netted and generally easy to see.

The name *Microgramma* comes from the Greek mikros, small and gamme, line. The funny thing about the name is that the gamme or line refers to the sori of the original fern named in this species that was elongate sori but this is not typical of the genus as a whole.

The Society members who participated on the moss ball or the terrarium ferns should have one or two of the *Microgramma*. *M. heterophylla* is the tiny fern on the moss ball and *M. nitida* is a larger fern frond that grows on a long rhizome. My favorite one is *M. lycioides* due to the veins that are so prominent.

These are all easy to grow. They don't like to be over watered but just kept evenly moist. Give them high humidity but I have found them to be forgiving on our days that drop off to 35%. They can take bright light but also do well in high shade. These ferns are all considered collector ferns and are not normally found in the trade generally.



***Microgramma nitida***



***Microgramma lycioides***



***Microgramma heterophylla***



## September Book Review

### Native Ferns, Moss & Grasses

by William Cullina. Houghton Mifflin, 2008

William Cullina, currently Director of Horticulture at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Maine, has written a great introductory reference to the ferns, mosses, and grasses native to the United States. His purpose, however, is not to attempt to cover every genus and species, but rather to illustrate the myriad of textures and green shadings these plants can bring to our garden landscapes. While his scope is national, plants native to our area are well represented and beautifully photographed. Of note is the section on Soil and the fact that soil information is available for each species entry. Whether you are just browsing or looking for specific information, this book is well worth a read.

Submitted by: Ruth McDonald



## 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. If there is a particular book you would like to check out at the meeting, please contact Ruth McDonald at [rmmcdonald0@gmail.com](mailto:rmmcdonald0@gmail.com) or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.



## Editor's Comments

**Deadline for the October Newsletter is September 29, 2016. Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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## 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 meeting is:  
October 6, 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:  
September 20, 2016

### **Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Garden Autumn Plant Sale and Market**

22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble, TX 77338

September 24, 2016

9AM – 3 PM

Includes fall growing plants (Mercer), bromeliads (Bromeliad Society/Houston), ferns (Fern Plantation), orchids, carnivorous plants, etc