



February 2017

Vol. 19 No. 2

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 19, 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,

I wonder if spring has arrived. This is the difficult time for our area. You never know when the last freeze may occur. A lot of my yard plants and ferns really burned with this last freeze. We were about 23 degrees for 16-18 hours. It has taken a month to show the damage on a few things, and time will tell on a few other plants. I hope you faired ok.

I enjoyed Larry's presentation on etching. The picture frames turned out so nice. He went to a lot of work for us to have a nice clean picture frame to use for our fern stencil. We will have to give Larry a break for a few months before we can get him to do something else for us. Thank you Larry.

This month we will be doing a presentation on terrarium ferns. We will be learning how to put a terrarium together and care for it once it is done. So you need to bring a container to use as your terrarium. Glass is best, but a good clear plastic can work too. You will also need something to use for a lid that will seal and hold the moisture in to make the greenhouse effect. We will provide you with perlite, charcoal, potting mix, and three ferns. The ferns are different than the ones we used last time. If your terrarium from last time did really well and you need to divide some ferns, please bring them to the meeting and share with those who were not able to attend before.

In March we will have a guest speaker coming in from Miami FL to talk to us about the horsetail ferns, *Equisetum*. Chad Husby has had an active role in researching the many different *Equisetums* around the world. He had been associated with the University of Florida for years and is now with Fairchild Botanical Gardens in Miami. This will be a PowerPoint presentation and we will have some show and tell as well. These are amazing ferns and date back to the fossil records, so I hope you plan on attending.

April is our field trip and Larry is scoping out where we are going this time. We will have more information on this soon.

In May, Joan Hudson will be talking to us about another old fern with a prehistoric look and growing system, the *Psilotum nudum*. We will learn a lot from Joan on this very strange yet unique fern.

For the Board members, we will have a brief board-meeting after our February meeting. Let me know if you will not be able to attend.

T-shirts should be in for our February meeting if you ordered any.

We will have a membership table this year at Mercer Botanic Gardens' March Mart, March 17 & 18 8AM to 4PM. Volunteers are needed to man the table especially on Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>. If you can help out, please contact Beth Ayer or me.

Take care and see you soon,

*Darla*



**Board Meeting**

There will be a Board Meeting after the regular membership meeting on February 19, 2017 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.



**Please Welcome Our New Member:**

*Carolynne White*



## “Ferns for Terrarium or Bottle Gardens”

by Darla Harris

Who does not love that pop of nature in our homes but growing plants in our humidity free homes in the Houston area can be a challenge. We go from the AC to the heater with no time to just open a window so the humidity is sucked out of our homes. Glass containers can be found everywhere these days, very small to very large or tall to fit almost any size fern. Stores also carry miniature items so you can build landscapes to make your terrarium more interesting. The variety of ferns are amazing, you can pick and choose so many colors, textures, and sizes. *Adiantum* - maidenhair ferns; *Davallia* - a footed fern such as the rabbits foot fern; *Pteris ensiformis* 'Victoriae'; *Asplenium* - several miniature ones to choose from; *Selaginella*; just to name a few.

Getting started:

- A suitable container that can be sealed, glass works best but a clear plastic can work too. A lid, plastic wrap or a clear plate for a lid.
- Perlite: Helps to prevent over watering. Place in the bottom of the container.
- Charcoal: Keeps the soil sweet. On top of the perlite or mix together.
- Potting mix (moisten and microwave for 10 minutes on high let cool) or cut/sphagnum moss. Evenly moist not wet.
- Place your fern into the soil mix.

Maintaining your terrarium:

- Don't over water. You should see condensation on the lid. If there is a lot of condensation you may take the lid off part way and let it dry out some.
- Don't under water. If you do not see any condensation use a spray bottle of water and spray the sides of the container letting it wet the soil. Just moist.
- Don't fertilize your ferns. If you do see discoloration you can use 1/4 strength even number fertilizer.
- Temperature is best about 70 to 80 degrees.
- For light you can place on a window sill provided it is not a west window. You can use artificial light by using a table lamp or fluorescent light.
- Do not place your terrarium on a heat source such as a TV or heater.

A sealed terrarium should be checked for water every six months unless you see an issue with the condensation. If you should see a buildup of salt (a white crusting of the soil), just remove the affected soil and replace with fresh.

Submitted by: Darla Harris



### Up and Coming Attractions:

2017:

Feb 19: “Building a Terrarium”  
by Darla Harris

Mar 19: “The Enigmatic Horsetails:  
Ancient Plants in the Modern World”  
by Chad Husby

Apr : Field Trip – date and location TBD

May 21: “*Psilotum nudum*”  
by Joan Hudson

June 18: TBD

July 16: TBD

Aug 20: Summer Party & Plant Exchange  
at Malcolm McCorquodale’s home

Submitted by: Larry Rucker, VP



### Holiday Party Leftovers

The following items were left at the Holiday Party. If they are yours, please contact Biruta Claunch at (832) 541-5242 or [blclaunch@earthlink.net](mailto:blclaunch@earthlink.net). Thanks.



## *Hemionitis arifolia* - The Heart Fern

Family: [Hemionitidaceae](#)

Genus: [Hemionitis](#) hem-ee-oh-NYE-tiss

Species: [arifolia](#) air-ih-FOH-lee-uh

The heart fern is another one of those ferns that doesn't look like a fern. It has very dark green heart-shaped fronds that are on black stems. They are dimorphic meaning they have two sets of fronds, fertile and sterile. The fertile fronds can get to be about 10" tall. The leaves are thick and leathery and put on a rather pretty spore pattern.

This is a tropical fern and prefers warm temperatures but mine have been in the mid 30's and survived but with burnt fronds. High humidity is a must for them and they can be grown well in a terrarium setting. What they cannot take is over watering. They will rot. If they dry out too much the fronds will curl up. If you provide them with water soon enough, they will uncurl and be just fine.

They reproduce from spore but also with a vegetative reproduction. They pup, and can be grown easily from the plantlet.

This is a cute little fern and a nice addition to your collection.



Submitted by: Darla Harris



## Refreshments:

Refreshments for January were generously furnished by:

Beth Ayers, Cherie Lee, Jere Noerager, Ruth McDonald, Rodolfo Reyes, Betsy Robinson, Larry Rucker, Donna Williams, and Brenda Wilson

Refreshments for February will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer  
Savory: Mary McConnell, Ruth McDonald  
Desserts: 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 2017. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern society General Meeting January 15, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Darla Harris.

Darla announced that a memorial service for Walt Hesson was scheduled for January 28 and that more details would be forthcoming. The annual plant swap would need to be moved to another month because a speaker is scheduled for September. At the next meeting, a decision will be made to reschedule or cancel this year. Malcolm McCorquodale volunteered to have either the summer or holiday party at his house. Cherie Lee volunteered to host as well. It would be decided later, who would host when. New club memberCarolynn White was introduced. Darla said that she wanted to wrap up T-shirt order, if anyone else wanted to order one. Biruta Claunch had items left at her house after the holiday party and showed them to the members. Darla announced that the February program would be making terrariums and that everyone would need to bring their own container. Larry Rucker thanked Biruta Claunch for hosting the holiday party and proceeded to lead the group in making etched glass with fern motifs.

**Attendance:** 24 members were present.

Submitted by: Mary McConnell  
for Secretary Diane Hudnall



## 2017 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Larry Rucker
Secretary:	Diane Hudnall
Treasurer:	Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large:	Terri Dolney Johnny Williams 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



### 2017 Dues

If you have not renewed your membership for 2017, 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.



## 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 March Newsletter is March 1, 2017. 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](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:  
March 2, 2017

### 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:  
February 21, 2017

## Mercer Botanic Gardens



### March Mart 2017:

Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18, 2017

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

22306 Aldine Westfield Road  
Humble, TX 77338

## the HOUSTON ORCHID SOCIETY presents **Orchids In Space** 2017 Spring Show & Sale



Museum of Natural Science  
5555 Hermann Park Drive

April 1-2, 2017  
SATURDAY 9 AM to 5 PM & SUNDAY 9 AM to 4 PM

---

**“Etching Ferns on Glass”**  
by Larry Rucker

