



February 2019

Vol. 21 No. 2

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 17, 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,

What a great meeting we had in January! Jere gave a wonderful presentation on both *Drynaria* and *Aglaomorpha* from the wilds of the Old World tropics to our back yards. Several members brought in living examples of the two genera both as hanging baskets and on plaques. We had a wide variety of species to show their differences as Jere showed the details in a PowerPoint. Thank you Jere! Looking forward to the rest of the year!

The Board held a board meeting after the January regular meeting and discussed budget and other year to year issues. A new issue that was brought up and discussed was removing the four year term limit on the office of President in our by-laws. After some discussion it was motioned that the limit be lifted on the position of President. It was seconded and passed by the Board.

Subsequent to this meeting, a second board meeting was held via email in which a motion was made and passed to expand the previously approved motion to include removing the four year term limit from all offices. In addition, a motion was made and passed to move the timing of forming the nominating committee and voting for the following year's officers and board members forward by one month. A motion was also made and passed to include modern communication methods to replace written notice requirements. These proposed changes to the by-laws will be presented to the membership at our February meeting and if so motioned, will be voted on by the membership. More details on these proposals are included later in the newsletter.

The refreshments this month were wonderful! Thank you everyone who participated. If you are willing to bring goodies for the February meeting, please let Larry Rucker know so he can keep

everything organized. I'm looking forward to another feast!

The raffle did very well last month. Thank you everyone. Please plan to participate in this as well. We have a nice workshop planned and this is what helps pay for everything.

The library is going to be adding a couple of new books on ferns, so please check it out with Ruth McDonald. The full list of available publications will be published in our membership directory this year. Thank you for getting the list together for us Ruth.

I know this is just February, but I'm ready for spring. I hope the rain slows up some and the weather gets warmer, but all in all so far it has been a reasonably mild winter. Fingers crossed.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting this month.

Take care,

*Darla*



### **February Program Note “Fern and Lycophyte Diversity Throughout Florida” Presented by Adam Black**

Adam will lead a virtual tour through his home state where he first developed an interest in native ferns and relatives. Featured will be species from the lush subtropical Everglades to the more temperate forests, swamps and even dry sand hills of northern Florida.



## 2019 Up and Coming Attractions:

- Feb 17: Fern and Lycophte Diversity  
Throughout Florida  
by Adam Black
- Mar 17: Watering Plants Made Easy  
(DIY Automatic Watering)  
by Fred Robinson
- Apr TBD: Moody Gardens Field Trip

Submitted by: Jere Noerager & Fred Robinson, VPs



## Refreshments:

Refreshments for January were generously furnished by: Ruby Adams, Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Terri Dolney, Ceil Dow, Cherie Lee, Marcia Livingston, Malcolm McCorquodale, Fred Robinson, Larry Rucker, Ken Warren, Donna Williams, and Brenda Wilson.

Refreshments for February will be generously furnished by:

- Drinks: Beth Ayer
- Savory: Marcia Livingston, Ruth McDonald, Brenda Wilson
- Desserts: Cherie Lee
- TBD: Ceil Dow, Cecil Strange, Donna Williams
- Service ware: Larry Rucker

Please let Larry Rucker, [herbie39L@att.net](mailto:herbie39L@att.net) / 832-453-2992 cell, 713-649-3535 home know if you can help with the refreshments for any months in 2019. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



## January Raffle Donors:

**Thank you to our Donors:** Jan Kramer, Cherie Lee, Frank Lee, Fred Robinson, Larry Rucker, Faye Stansberry, and anyone else who forgot to sign up.



## Library Inventory

We are conducting an inventory of the library collection. Please look around at home and bring any checked out books to the February meeting. Thank you for your help.

Submitted by: Ruth McDonald



## 2019 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2019 membership are now being accepted. Thank you to all of you who have already renewed. If you have not renewed, 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.



## 2019 Officers and Committees:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| President:                               | Darla Harris  |
| Vice Presidents:                         | Jere Noerager<br>Fred Robinson                                |
| Secretary:                               | Donna Williams  |
| Treasurer:                               | Beth Ayer   |
| Board Members-at-Large:                  | Jacqueline Smith<br>Johnny Williams<br>Cherie Lee (Past Pres) |
| Education Chair:                         | Darla Harris  |
| Hospitality Chair:                       | Larry Rucker  |
| Library:                                 | Ruth McDonald   |
| Membership Co-chairs:                    | Beth Ayer and<br>Marcia Livingston                            |
| Newsletter:                              | Cherie Lee  |
| Spore Exchange:                          | Patrick Hudnall   |
| Ways and Means:<br>- Raffle, Store, etc. | Larry Rucker<br>Biruta Claunch                                |
| Web Master:                              | Malcolm McCorquodale  |
| Welcoming at Door:                       | Faye Stansberry   |



***Coniogramme japonica* - Bamboo fern**

Family: [Adiantaceae](#)

Genus: [Coniogramme](#) koh-nee-oh-GRAM-ee

Species: [japonica](#) juh-PON-ih-kuh

*Coniogramme japonica* is a terrestrial fern that spreads by rhizome. As the name suggests, it is native to the Old World Tropics and can be found growing in China, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan. There are about twenty different *Coniogramme* species. It is a ground hardy fern for our area zone 7-10 preferring lower light to morning sun and moist but not wet soil. It can be grown in pots as well, just make sure not to over water. It stands about 2 feet tall and is a slower grower. The leaves are thick and grow in a pattern that reminds of bamboo. This is a very nice fern and would make a great addition to your fern garden.



Submitted by:  
Darla Harris



## Proposed TGCFS By-Laws Changes

### Proposal 1:

#### Article VI – Officers and Executive Board

##### Currently:

Section 2. Officers of this Society shall hold office for a period of one year from the date of their installation at the January meeting or until such later date as their successors are chosen and installed. No Officer may serve in the same office for more than four consecutive terms.

##### Proposed Revision:

Section 2. Officers of this Society shall hold office for a period of one year from the date of their installation at the January meeting or until such later date as their successors are chosen and installed. ~~No Officer may serve in the same office for more than four consecutive terms.~~

### Proposal 2:

#### Article VI – Officers and Executive Board

##### Currently:

Section 7. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected Officers, the Immediate Past President, plus two Members-at-Large who shall be elected from the general membership at the November meeting.

##### Proposed Revision:

Section 7. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected Officers, the Immediate Past President, plus two Members-at-Large who shall be elected from the general membership at the ~~November~~ **October** meeting.

#### Article VII – Election of Officers and At-Large Board Members

##### Currently:

Section 1. At the regular October meeting, a Nominating Committee consisting of three members shall be established as follows:

- One member to be appointed by the President to act as Chairman of the committee.
- Two members to be elected by the Voting Body as defined in Article IX.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall present to the Body one name for each office, as outlined in Article VI, at the November meeting.

Section 3. At the regular November meeting, nominations may be made from the floor for each office. Nominee need not be present provided prior acceptance has been obtained.

Section 4. Election shall be at the November meeting by a majority of members present and voting.

##### Proposed Revision:

Section 1. At the regular ~~October~~ **September** meeting, a Nominating Committee consisting of three members shall be established as follows:

- One member to be appointed by the President to act as Chairman of the committee.
- Two members to be elected by the Voting Body as defined in Article IX.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall present to the Body one name for each office, as outlined in Article VI, at the ~~November~~ **October** meeting.

Section 3. At the regular ~~November~~ **October** meeting, nominations may be made from the floor for each office. Nominee need not be present provided prior acceptance has been obtained.

Section 4. Election shall be at the ~~November~~ **October** meeting by a majority of members present and voting.

### **Proposal 3:**

#### **Article XI – Amendments**

##### **Currently:**

These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the members present and voting, provided written notice of the proposed amendments has been sent to each member prior to such meeting.

##### **Proposed Revision:**

These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the members present and voting, provided ~~written~~ notice of the proposed amendments has been sent to each member **at least 72 hours** prior to such meeting. **Such notice may be delivered personally, by mail, by facsimile, or by electronic message such as (1) a notice may be placed on the Society's website or (2) emailed to all members who have registered their email addresses with the Society.**



#### **Support Our Society Using Amazon Smile**

AmazonSmile is a way for you to support our society every time you shop with Amazon.

At smile.amazon.com you will find the same Amazon items that you know and love, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society.

Signing up is easy!

##### **Here's how to signup and shop at AmazonSmile:**

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Sign in with your Amazon username and password.
3. Then either go to "Your Account", and under the box "Shopping programs and rentals", select the option to "Change Your Charity"; or you can also hover your mouse over the small arrow next to the charity you are currently supporting and click Change.
4. Type Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society into the search and the click select.
5. Start shopping! You can add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Submitted by Beth Ayer



#### **February Book Review**

*The Plantfinder's Guide to Garden Ferns* [Timber Press, 2002] is written by prolific British garden writer Martin Rickard. While there is a definite British slant, it nonetheless includes interesting reflections and information of interest to an American fern lover. A review retrieved from Amazon states that the book "provides a comprehensive introduction to ferns. From dramatic giant tree ferns to delicate filigreed maidenhairs, authoritative descriptions and cultivation requirements are accompanied by inspirational photographs. In addition, ideas for using ferns in the garden reveal that they are not just the stalwarts of difficult shady borders, but are also capable of making a stunning contribution in any situation, including dry or damp shade, sunny sites and wet, boggy areas. Martin Rickard's infectious enthusiasm for his subject shines through in his lucid text and will easily persuade every gardener that what their garden most needs is ferns. For established enthusiasts, the temptation to grow more ferns is made even more compelling by the striking selection of photographs."

Submitted by: Ruth McDonald



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society January 20, 2019

The January meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Darla Harris.

### **General Meeting:**

Darla reminded us that it is time to pay our 2019 dues. She also reminded us to talk to Jere Noerager or Fred Robinson if we have any program suggestions for the upcoming year.

The March Mart and Azalea Trail are coming up soon and our society has been invited to set up a membership booth at both events.

Darla talked about the annual field trip and suggested either Moody Gardens or the Botanical Gardens in San Antonio. A vote was taken, and Moody Gardens received more votes. The trip will probably be in April, but it may have to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in April instead of the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday because of Easter weekend.

Larry Rucker thanked all members who brought food to this meeting. He asked that we email him ahead of time so there won't be duplicates at the meetings.

Biruta Claunch suggested we have another special raffle like we had last year – one nice item that would raise extra money for the society. The raffle money is used to pay for the special projects we do in our meetings.

Ruth McDonald said our book inventory is very good and we had two new book donations which were provided by Ruth. She will develop a “wish list” for the library and will also put a list of the library's holdings in the new yearbook. Please contact Ruth if you have any books to donate.

Darla reminded us of a brief Board meeting following the general meeting today.

### **Program:**

Our program today was “Tropical Hanging Basket Ferns: *Aglaomorpha* & *Drynaria*” and it was given by Jere Noerager. Jere has traveled to many jungle locations. He said polypodium can be epiphytic (most of them), epilithic (some), or terrestrial (a few) but never aquatic and almost all of them are tropical. The *Aglaomorpha* and *Drynaria* are both designed to collect leaves and are usually found high up in trees. Some have been used medicinally for centuries.

Jere gave a very nice slide show and discussion of many of these beautiful ferns and he, Darla Harris, Patrick Hudnall, and Cherie Lee provided some wonderful live examples from their collections. This was a very interesting and stimulating discussion and

introduced most of us to ferns we'd like to add to our own “wish lists”. Thank you, Jere!

### **Raffle:**

Following the meeting we had our raffle which brought in \$85. There were many very nice items.

### **Attendance:**

28 members and 1 guest attended.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Williams, Secretary



## Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Board Meeting – January 20, 2019

The January Board Meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by President Darla Harris.

### **General Meeting:**

Those present were: Darla Harris, Jere Noerager, Fred Robinson, Donna Williams, Beth Ayer, Jacqueline Smith, Johnny Williams, Cherie Lee, Larry Rucker, and Biruta Claunch.

Treasurer, Beth Ayer, stated that she can't file the society's taxes until the government is back in session as their website is currently down. However, she has until May 15 to file so we should be fine. We are a 501c3. Beth gave forms to our Vice Presidents that will allow them to make purchases for club programs without paying sales taxes.

Darla reminded us that this is the last year she can serve as President according to our by-laws. There was discussion about removing term limits from our by-laws. Johnny Williams proposed that we remove the term limits from the position of President and Beth Ayers seconded. A vote was taken, and the result was 4-2 to remove term limits from the position of President.

Larry Rucker suggested we work on programs for one year ahead. Our meetings consist of two parties, one field trip, and one plant swap. The rest are programs. Jere Noerager and Fred Robinson, Vice Presidents, asked that specific program suggestions with specific presenter names be passed along to them so they can contact the speakers. Darla strongly suggested that any programs stick to a theme regarding ferns.

Darla asked about a budget for upcoming programs. Last year \$1000 was allocated. Johnny Williams made a motion to increase the amount to \$1500 for speakers, and Jere Noerager seconded. This passed by a unanimous vote with the caveat that the Vice

Presidents may ask the board for additional money if needed.

Biruta Claunch discussed the pros and cons of having a special raffle or a silent auction and there was discussion about these ideas, but no definite decision was made.

Darla adjourned this meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Williams, Secretary



### **Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society Board Meeting – February 1, 2019**

The February Board Meeting was held via email. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 a.m. by President Darla Harris.

Those receiving emails were: Darla Harris, Jere Noerager, Fred Robinson, Donna Williams, Beth Ayer, Jacqueline Smith, Johnny Williams, and Cherie Lee.

Cherie Lee motioned to expand the motion passed in the January 20, 2019 Board Meeting to remove the four year term limit from the office of President to include all offices. Jere Noerager seconded. The motion passed with 5 votes.

Darla Harris suggested we consider moving the approval of the nominating committee and voting for officers up one month to September and October respectively. Jere Noerager moved to do this and Cherie Lee seconded. The motion passed with 5 votes.

Jere Noerager motioned to amend the bylaws to reflect modern communication methods to replace written notice. Cherie Lee seconded. The motion passed with 5 votes

Darla Harris adjourned this meeting on February 2, 2019 at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cherie Lee for

Donna Williams, 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. 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 February 27, 2019. Thanks.**

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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### **Upcoming Events in the Houston Area:**

#### **Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.**

– [www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://www.bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

Regular meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the West Gray Multi-Service Center  
1475 W. Gray St., Houston, TX 77019

Next regular meeting is:  
February 19, 2019

#### **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 7, 2019

**January Program**  
**Tropical Hanging Basket Ferns:**  
*Aglaomorpha & Drynaria*  
**Presented by Jere Noerager**



**Our speaker  
Jere Noerager**



*Drynaria rigidula*  
**'Whitei'**



*Aglaomorpha coronans*



*Drynaria rigidula*



*Aglaomorpha heraclea*



*Drynaria quercifolia*

Photos by Cherie Lee