



November 2019

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<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, November 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,

Fall has arrived, followed closely by winter. We got down to 31F for 3-4 hours at our house and that is early for us. Normally it's the middle of November before it gets that cold. The good news was the trees still had their leaves so we got very little damage to our fall blooming plants. Our Texas challenge has always been our weather. Cooler is nice after such a hot summer, but for me it's all about spring. So I'm hoping for an early long spring in 2020!

The plant swap was a success again this year! Everyone seemed to enjoy taking new plants home and this year we had plants that we have not had in years previously. The only thing that marred the meeting was that so many were out of town that weekend. We sure missed you!

The November meeting will be a great meeting! We are sharing a speaker from Denver with Peckerwood Gardens. *LOOKING FOR FERNS IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES* by PANAYOTI KELAIDIS! With a title like that, who would not want to come hear what he has to share with us! Please read more about it in the following Program Article. Thank you to Adam Black and Peckerwood Gardens for sharing this great speaker and making it possible to include him in our lineup this year.

Beth Ayers and her committee members, Alicia Baker and Ruby Adams, presented the membership with a slate of officers for the 2020 year. The slate included Darla Harris for President, Patrick Hudnall for Vice President, Donna Williams for Secretary, Beth Ayer for Treasurer, and for board at large, Ceil Dow and Jere Noerager. The slate was passed unanimously without discussion. This will be another great year for our Society with new voices being added to the board. Thank you ladies for your work on this!

Please get with Larry Rucker (herbie39L@att.net) on what you would like to bring for refreshments this month. Larry is also passing the list around for the December Party that will be held at Malcolm McCorquodale's home. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Take care and see you at the meeting!

Darla



**“Looking for Ferns in All the Wrong Places
(and Finding Them)”**

by Panayoti Kelaidis

Unlike much of eastern and southern Texas, where ferns are everywhere and grow with abandon, Colorado is comparatively “unferny”: you could drive across Colorado in almost any direction and never see a fern unless you got out of your car and hiked a bit--and knew where to look and what you're looking for. A lot of our ferns don't *look* like ferns. Even so, there ARE nearly 100 ferns and fern allies that grow within the rectangular boundaries of this state, and many hundreds more that can be induced to grow (if you work at it) from other parts of the globe.

I grew up in an old, shady neighborhood of Boulder, where the nearby mountains have a good many more ferns than much of the state. The black maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*) for instance, has one of very few North American occurrences at the edge of town there. From the time my interest in plants burgeoned as a child, unfurling crozier-like as it were, I became fascinated with ferns and tried growing as many as I could. Although my specialty became alpine plants and plants of dry regions, I was astonished as I traveled in unlikely places: the deserts of the Southwest; the high, cold steppes of Asia; the near desert karoo and alpine areas of South Africa; the

alpine heights of New Zealand, the Alps, the Caucasus and even the Andes—everywhere I have explored I've found ferns in abundance.

In this presentation I will bring you along on my ferny journey, sharing a bit about ferns in and around the Rockies, and in similar unlikely places around the globe. And how we have made a home for many of these at Denver Botanic Gardens (and in my own garden too).

Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator and Director of Outreach - since 1980, has represented Denver Botanic Gardens in educational, professional and promotional endeavors as an expert in horticulture. He also acts as a liaison to botanical societies, professional horticulture organizations and green industry members. He helped create Plant Select®; designed and implemented numerous gardens; and has led tours to Asia, Europe and South Africa. He works with rock garden, perennial, native plant and succulent societies nationally and internationally, and has served on the boards of horticulture societies. Panayoti has received numerous awards, including the 2000 Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal from the Scott Arboretum and the 2003 Liberty Hyde Bailey medal of the American Horticultural Society, two of the highest honors in American horticulture.

Submitted by: Jere Noerager, VP



Refreshments:

Refreshments for October were generously furnished by: Beth Ayer, Ceil Dow, Darla Harris, Diane & Pat Hudnall, Cherie Lee, Paulette McNeese, Betsy Robinson, Larry Rucker, and anyone else who may have forgotten to sign the list.

Refreshments for November will be generously furnished by:

Drinks: Beth Ayer
Savory: Darla Harris, Larry Rucker, Donna Williams
Desserts: Paulette McNeese, Larry Rucker
Service ware: Larry Rucker

Please let Larry Rucker, herbie39L@att.net / 832-453-2992 cell, 713-649-3535 home, know if you can help with the refreshments for the November meeting and what you plan to bring so he can make sure everything is covered and we don't have a lot of duplicates. It will make his job much easier. Come out and enjoy some really delicious food!



2019 Up and Coming Attractions:

Nov 17: "Looking for Ferns in All the Wrong Places"

by Panayoti Kelaidis

Dec 15: Holiday Party

hosted by Malcolm McCorquodale

Submitted by: Jere Noerager & Fred Robinson, VPs



Meeting Raffle:

Do you have some really special plant or horticultural related item that you'd be able to part with for a very good cause? Well, I've got just the place! Our very own society!! We've been making some nice money to bolster our treasury with the wonderful speakers, projects etc. that we support. Think about something that you yourself would be willing to pay extra for i.e. the special raffle. If you would like to donate an item, please call me at 832/541-5242 to coordinate so I will be prepared to sell tickets etc. Thank you.

Submitted by Biruta Claunch



2020 Membership Dues

Renewals for 2020 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.



x-Phlebisia ‘Nicolas Diamond’

A new variety of fern has become available on the market, referred to as *x-Phlebisia* ‘Nicolas Diamond’. It is a hybrid of *Phlebodium aureum* ‘Mandaianum’ x *Pyrrosia lingua* ‘Cristata’. It arose in 2016 from the open pollination of the two ferns, with *Phlebodium* being the female parent. The plant was found in the greenhouse of James Georgusis of Metairie, Louisiana. It was patented by Burgh-Haamstede from the Netherlands. It is sterile and is propagated by Mericlone.

The cultivar ‘Nicolas Diamond’, being a new introduction, does not have much information available regarding its cultivation. It is expected to exhibit a relatively fast rate of growth along with drought tolerance and cold hardiness. I have had a plant under cultivation for the past six months. I have found it grows fairly fast in a medium sized terra-cotta Azalea Pot, in regular quality potting mix with a little added Perlite. Fertilization was standard for similar ferns. Regarding pests: I have not observed any, including scale, except for some sort of butterfly larvae/worms that very quickly devoured many of the tender emergent fronds.

This plant is expected to have a maximum height of about 20 inches. The width will likely depend on how it is grown. I do not expect it to be frost tolerant. Given its form, I placed it out of the wind though with good air circulation. The individual fronds can be expected to average 30cm long and 18 cm wide. They are rather thin. The fronds are simple and Pinnatifid, eventually becoming deeply lobed and moderately undulated. They are generally flat with a downward curl at the apex. They emerge light green-to-yellow eventually becoming darker green. The rhizome is medium creeping, about 0.8 cm in diameter and is moderately covered with soft pubescent scales.

If you have the opportunity, I encourage you to try this new form of fern.

Reference: US Plant Patent - Georgusis

Submitted by Pat Hudnall





**Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
October 20, 2019**

The October 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 2:04 p.m. by President Darla Harris.

General Meeting:

Darla thanked the nominating committee Beth Ayer, Ruby Adams, and Alicia Baker for their work developing a slate of officers for 2020. Beth Ayer stated that the nominations were: President, Darla Harris; Vice President, Patrick Hudnall; Secretary, Donna Williams; Treasurer, Beth Ayer; Board Members at Large, Ceil Dow and Jerry Noerager with Cherie Lee as Past President. No additional nominations were made from the floor. A move to accept these nominations was made by Jacqueline Smith and seconded by Fred Robinson. The vote was unanimous to accept the slate.

Darla discussed the November meeting program and stated that the November meeting and the December Holiday Party would be on our regular meeting dates, the third Sunday of the month.

Treasurer Beth Ayer stated that she was accepting 2020 dues.

Program:

This meeting was our annual Plant Swap. Darla Harris reviewed the rules for the swap. Darla and Patrick Hudnall discussed the various plants in the swap. Larry Rucker gave a ticket to each person who brought an item for the swap. He then called out the winning ticket number to start the swap and it belonged to Faye Stansberry. There were many very nice items in the swap and everyone had a great time.

Because of the plant swap there was not a raffle at this meeting.

Attendance: 16 members

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cherie Lee for Donna Williams, Secretary



2019 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice Presidents:	Jere Noerager Fred Robinson
Secretary:	Donna Williams
Treasurer:	Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large:	Jacqueline Smith Johnny Williams Cherie Lee (Past Pres)
Education Chair:	Darla Harris
Hospitality Chair:	Larry Rucker
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:	Faye Stansberry



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 rmcdonald0@gmail.com or 979-530-6186 prior to the meeting to make sure it will be available.

If you have books checked out, please bring them to the November meeting as Ruth will be performing a year-end inventory. Thank you.



Editor's Comments

Deadline for the December Newsletter is November 25, 2019. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*



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

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 to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Upcoming Events in the Houston Area:

Bromeliad Society/Houston Inc.

– 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:
November 19, 2019

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 meetings are:
November 7, 2019

“Annual Plant Swap”



First Pick Winner - Faye Stansberry



Photos courtesy of Cherie Lee