



February 2020

Vol. 22 No. 2

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

**Next Regular Meeting: Sunday, February 16, 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,

Well we are off to the races so to speak! We had a great January meeting on how to define and divide a footed-type fern by Patrick Hudnall. Patrick presented a nice PowerPoint with several different examples of what was and what was not considered to be a footed fern complete with a firsthand demonstration of how to divide an over grown *Aglaomorpha coronas*. He demonstrated the best way to mount half the plant on to a cedar board and plant the other half into a wire hanging basket. Being the great grower that he is, he was able to give a lot of cultural advice to those in attendance. Great Job Patrick!

In the day and age we live in, we all have a camera with us nearly all the time in the form of our cell phones, snapping pictures of life's events as they happen. Our February meeting will be on planning your pictures composition when photographing plants. This will be another interesting meeting. You might bring your phone or your real camera and test what you learn. It should be a lot of fun.

Looks like our field trip will be in March and I believe it might be to the little thicket. Several native ferns live there, it has a nice picnic spot, and should be a pleasant afternoon. The trails are fairly smooth, but not paved.

I know everyone loves our newsletters. Cherie Lee has done a great job of editing our newsletter for the past ten years but feels it is time for some new blood and ideas. She has also taken on some new responsibilities which have become very time consuming. Thus, we are looking for someone to take over this position. This job entails gathering the information/articles from the Board members and committee heads, taking pictures at the meetings/events or arranging for someone to do so, and editing/formatting the newsletter in WORD. It also includes emailing the newsletter to the members and

printing and mailing approximately seven newsletters to members without computer access. I'm sure Cherie will be willing to help you get started and provide the template she has been using. So if you will please let me know if you have the skill or want to learn this skill to keep our society current on our publication. This is very sad to lose Cherie and her wonderful contribution, but exciting for us to start a new chapter too.

The raffle has been supported well by all our members and I would like to take this moment to thank everyone who brings things and for buying your tickets to win something. In addition to our regular raffle, we are going to start a signup sheet for a special raffle where a member will volunteer to contribute a nice item or plant. We hope everyone will participate because this will help support our upcoming projects. We will talk more on this at the February meeting. Keep in mind this is our fund for all our hands on projects for the year. Our next big project will be another terrarium project with each member hopefully getting three ferns to work with, plus supplies. You will need to start looking for your container and any miniature items you might want to use for decorating.

The refreshment table is always full! You guys bring the best food!! It is always appreciated. Please just let Larry know what you're bringing. Even if you just know it is savory or sweet that would be a big help on his planning.

We will have a membership drive table at Mercer Arboretum, Peckerwood Gardens, the Azalea Trail, and Houston Bulb Mart this year so some volunteers will be needed to help man the tables. Please get with Beth Ayer. We will talk more on this at the meeting.

We have a great society with its awesome people and I really look forward to seeing you each month this year!

Darla



“Simple Tricks for Effective Photography”

by Carolynne White

I have been an avid photographer for many years and a gardener for even more. It is not surprising that I love to take pictures of plants although this presentation is not solely devoted to photos of plants. Sometimes photos are for documentation purposes but I especially like to take photographs that are interesting and show off my subject in the best light. Therefore, I have learned to pay attention to light, composition, and focus and for my efforts have received several blue ribbons in various flower shows in the Houston area. I have been a member of the Fern Society for a couple of years but am also currently the president of Houston Federation of Garden Clubs.

Submitted by: Pat Hudnall, VP



2020 Up and Coming Attractions:

Feb 16: “Simple Tricks for Effective Photography”

by Carolynne White

Submitted by: Pat Hudnall, VP



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.



Please Welcome Our New Member

Doug Rutherford



The American Fern Society (AFS)

The American Fern Society is over 120 years old. With over 900 members worldwide, it is one of the largest international fern clubs in the world. It was established in 1893 with the objective of fostering interest in ferns and fern allies. It exchanges information and specimens between members via their publications and spore exchange.

AFS non-professional membership (\$20) includes access to the Spore Exchange and subscription to the Fiddlehead Forum.

Professional membership (\$40) includes the benefits above plus access to the American Fern Journal.

To find out more about the Society and/or join, visit <https://www.amerfernsoc.org/>.



2020 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice Presidents:	Patrick Hudnall
Secretary:	Donna Williams
Treasurer:	Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large:	Ceil Dow
	Jere Noerager
	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



Nephrolepis exaltata 'Bostoniensis'
'Tiger Fern' Boston

I think of those large southern porches with the big Boston ferns hanging on them as a welcoming sign. The gentle peaceful sway as they hang there in a soft breeze. The original Boston fern that we know and love/hate came into being in 1894 so the story goes. This unique fern was that different one in a shipment of 200 plants to a florists shop in Massachusetts. This was used as a parlor plant in the Victorian fern craze era. Skip forward close to a hundred years to the year 2000 discovered in Bogor, Indonesia and look what we have now, a variegated version of the old reliable fern our great grandmother could have grown. Much as the first one arrived, this one too was a mutant that someone was keen enough to recognize the value of the newly discovered fern.

So how do you become a successful Boston fern grower? The Tiger likes lower light to maintain that beautiful variegation, too much light will wash out the color and your plant will just look over watered and sick. It can be grown in low light or brightly lit spot but no direct sunshine. Works well in the house as our ancestors showed us. Keep in mind when the ladies of the Victorian era grew them they did not have air conditioning, so we would want to keep a tray of water under them, which has two purposes. One to keep the humidity up and the second is they like to stay moist, but do not let the soil become water logged. So let it get a little dry to keep the roots breathing. You can use a light fertilizer on them but it really is not a requirement if your soil is good with a high peat content.

Boston ferns are vigorous growers so they will need to be repotted every few years. When they get root bound, you need to move them up a couple pot sizes. You will know when it is root bound because you won't be able to keep it watered. It will drink it up very fast. It's really an easy fern, however it is not freeze hardy and would need protection on those cold nights if you have it growing outside.

It is a great addition to your fern collection.

Submitted by Darla Harris





Refreshments:

Refreshments for January were generously furnished by: Ruby Adams, Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Jan Kramer, Cherie Lee, Malcolm McCorquodale, Ruth McDonald, Jere Noerager, Betsy Robinson, Larry Rucker, Janice Shaw, Cecil Strange, Ken Warren, Donna Williams, Brenda Wilson, and anyone else who may have forgotten to sign the list.

Refreshments for February will be furnished by Brenda Wilson (cookies), Ken Warren (deviled eggs), Ruth McDonald (brie), Beth Ayer (drinks), Paulette McNeese (cookies, drink), Janice Shaw (water).

Please let Larry Rucker, herbie39L@att.net / 832-453-2992 cell, 713-649-3535 home, know if you can help with the refreshments for this month's 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!



Meeting Raffle:

Thank you to our January Raffle Donors: Biruta Claunch, Jan Kramer, Cherie Lee, Jim Migliavacca, Faye Stansberry, and anyone else who forgot to sign up. Thank you all for your generosity.

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



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society January 19, 2020

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 by President, Darla Harris at 2:00 p.m.

Larry Rucker thanked everyone who brought food to this meeting and asked that we notify him by phone or email if we intend to bring food so he can plan for additional items, if needed.

Darla wished all present a Happy New Year and welcomed guests. She thanked Malcolm McCorquodale for hosting the Christmas party and thanked Brenda Wilson for cleaning up after the party.

It is time to pay dues for 2020. Please contact Beth Ayer to do this. Darla then reminded us that there would be a Board Meeting following this general meeting. All Board members should attend and interested members are welcome.

Program:

Darla then introduced Pat Hudnall, our new Vice President, who has been working hard on lining up programs for 2020. He was the speaker for this meeting and presented a program on "Dividing Footed Ferns".

Footed ferns can be epiphytic, lithophytic, or terrestrial ferns that have rhizomes growing on the soil surface. Most are in the genus *Polypodium*. They have many common names such as rabbit's foot, squirrel's foot, ant fern, kangaroo fern, hare's foot, bear's paw, etc.

Pat gave an excellent slide show and demonstrated dividing an *Aglaomorpha coronans*. He showed the tools he uses and showed how he mounts on a board plaque and how he sets them in pots. He showed mounting on a board that had many screws to which he strung fishing line to hold the fern division in place (after placing plenty of damp moss around the root portion). The mounted fern can be covered with bird netting or chicken wire to help deter squirrels. The potted section he placed into a pot that had the hole lined with black mesh to block soil from getting out, then added gravel and a thin layer of perlite. He uses a good potting mix that contains perlite but said you could also use expanded shale, sand, or gravel. Mulch can be added to the top of the potted ferns. He waters these newly planted ferns with a root activator in water.

This was an extremely helpful and interesting program as many of us have struggled with trying to figure out how to divide these lovely and treasured ferns. Thank you, Pat!!

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM by President, Darla Harris.

Raffle:

We held our raffle and there were many lovely plants available. The raffle brought in \$104.

Attendance:

There were 36 members present at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Williams, Secretary



Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Board Meeting
January 19, 2020

The January Board Meeting was held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, Houston, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by President Darla Harris.

Members present were Beth Ayer, Biruta Claunch, Ceil Dow, Darla Harris (President), Pat Hudnall, Cherie Lee, Jere Noerager, and Donna Williams.

Darla opened the meeting. Biruta made suggestions for a couple of programs for this year. (1) Have members bring back their successes from projects that we have done as programs and (2) Have a “show and tell” with members bringing ferns they have had particularly good success with. She also suggested that members sign up to bring or contribute to items for the special raffle as more money can be raised for the society from these greater value items. The Board agreed to consider these suggestions.

Darla asked for discussion on a budget item – speakers’ fees. This last year (2019) we allowed \$1500 in the budget for this, but we only used \$600 (in donations to Mercer and to Peckerwood). This line item is to cover speaker fees, travel, hotel, food, etc. The motion was made to keep the \$1500 for speakers’ fees in the budget for 2020. It was seconded and all approved the motion.

The question was asked whether we have other regular line items in the budget, and we do not.

The next item for discussion was concerning the membership booklets. Since the club has grown quite large and these booklets are printed and assembled by hand it has become quite laborious and expensive, especially since we are mailing them to members who do not attend meetings. Discussion ensued concerning possibly making the booklet available online, giving booklets only to those who attend meetings, doing a combination of both, etc. It was decided to bring this topic up at the next regular meeting and get opinions from the membership. It will then be addressed in a later Board meeting.

The next item for discussion was the TGCFS library which is managed by Ruth McDonald. Currently there is a \$60 limit each year for purchase of additional books for the library. Discussion followed concerning increasing this amount. It was decided to leave it at \$60 for the time being and to bring this topic up for discussion at a later Board meeting.

Darla told us that our society has been asked to have a membership table at the Mercer March Mart, the Peckerwood Budding Out Festival, and the Azalea Trail – all in March.

Jere asked how often Board meetings are held. Darla answered that per our bylaws we have them twice a year, but more may be “called” at the discretion of the President.

Pat asked that we bring him any program suggestions we may have. Cherie needs the program line-ups from him in time for the newsletter. If a meeting is unconfirmed, he can label it TBD so the newsletter can go out on time.

Beth handed out a copy of our current budget for members to review. The taxes have been filed but Beth still needs to update our Amazon SMILE account. It can only be updated annually AFTER the taxes have been filed. She also gave Pat the 501c3 forms which exempt him from sales taxes if he needs to make purchases for the programs.

Darla adjourned this meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Williams, Secretary



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.



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 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 24, 2020. Thanks.

Cherie Lee, Editor, *TGCFS Newsletter*

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:
February 18, 2020

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:
March 5, 2020

“Dividing Footed Ferns”

by Pat Hudnall



Our Speaker Pat Hudnall





Photos courtesy of Cherie Lee