

October 2020

Vol. 22 No. 10

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Due to COVID-19 restrictions our meeting this month will be another “virtual” one. See below.

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is well! This has been a tough year in so many ways so please stay well, mentally and physically as best you can. The stress of isolation can be really tough, but to stay well please try to limit your exposure to this virus. I surely miss seeing everyone, but it would really break my heart to lose you because of this disease.

I sent this month’s Newsletter information out late to Paul so I’m sorry for the lateness of its posting. I have been running late for several months, but I think things have settled down for me and I will be able to get the rest of the year’s information out on time.

We will be meeting virtually again this Sunday (tomorrow)!! We have several members that have not been able to attend virtually and I want you to know I’m here to help you get ready to attend. If you have a PC/Mac or a Smart Phone you can join these meetings very easily. Please join us!! Call me at 281-733-5564. We also have several that forget so I will send a reminder out on Sunday. I’m available today and tomorrow morning to help you get ready for the meeting.

Sunday’s meeting will be presented by Jeff Benca. I met Jeff in 2015 in Costa Rica at Robbin Moran’s two week training class on ferns. At the time, Jeff was a PhD student for Paleobotany. Now he has his PhD and is working at the Amazon Spheres in Seattle, Washington. Jeff studied the fossil record of ferns so it’s not surprising that his love of life examples gravitate to the old plants. His talk tomorrow will be concerned with terrestrial plants called *huperzia*, a big group that has recently taken the epiphytic part of the family out and named *Phlegmaria*. I have heard Jeff talk before and I think everyone will enjoy his discussion of these wonder ancient plants.

Our nomination committee has gotten a slate of offers together for you, the membership to vote on. So we will be having a business part of the meeting so please sign in early. Board members we will be having a virtual board meeting before the November meeting. It will be a virtual meeting, if

any of the membership would like to attend please email me and I will include you on the meeting list.

We will need to talk about the December meeting. It does not look like we will be able to meet in person, so do we want to have just a visit meeting or skip December and see each other in January? We will begin discussion on this during tomorrow’s meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow!
Talk care everyone!! And stay safe!

Darla



Jeff Benca is a horticulturist at the Amazon Spheres and paleobotanical research associate at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle, Washington. In paleobotany, Jeff uses experimental studies on living plant lineages to investigate the patterns and processes of widespread vegetation turnovers during mass extinctions. In horticulture, Jeff develops cultivation techniques for early-divergent lycophyte and fern lineages to aid in their ex situ conservation and accessibility. He completed his bachelors’ in Biology at the University of Washington and PhD in Integrative Biology at the University of California, Berkeley.



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.

Please note that donations to the AFS are not tax deductible.

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



2020 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	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:	Paul Geiger
Spore Exchange:	Patrick Hudnall
Ways and Means:	Larry Rucker
Raffle, Store, etc.	Biruta Claunch
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	Faye Stansberry



Minutes of Virtual Meeting via “GoToMeeting”

September 20, 2020

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

A *virtual* meeting was held due to COVID-19.

Darla called the meeting to order at 2:00.

There were 18 members in attendance.

Gerry has volunteered to head the nominating committee to nominate members to fill elected positions for the year 2021. The balance of the volunteers voted to assist were Cecilia Dow and Larry Rucker.

The meeting’s speaker was Garrie Landry, a distinguished Botanist from Louisiana. His presentation was on the ‘Rarest Fern and Fern Allies of Louisiana’. The presentation was similar to Power Point and included excellent photographs, maps, and other details. The presentation started with a most unusual “Filmy Fern” *Trichomanes petersii* and included the popular water fern *Ceratopteris pteridoides*, or “Antler Fern”. The importance of Salt Domes and dredge spoils was discussed as a prime habitat for ferns in the region. See below for sample pictures from last month’s presentation.

Upon conclusion of the presentation questions were fielded and answered.

The meeting was concluded about 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hudnall



3rd Quarter 2020 Treasurer’s Report

Income:

Interest: \$0.35

Expenses: None


Balance on 12-31-2019: \$10,657.63

Balance on 6-30-2020: \$14,926.83

Balance on 9-30-2020: \$14,927.19

Net gain for 3rd Quarter: \$0.36

Net gain for 2020: \$4,269.56




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Signing up is easy!

Here's how to sign up 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.
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Sample pictures from Last Month's presentation on Ferns of Louisiana. Thank you, Garry Landry!



Osmunda regalis, Royal Fern
very common in Louisiana

Ophioglossum



Pictures by Garry Landry