



February 2022

Vol. 24 No. 2

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

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

A message from our President:

Howdy everyone!

This month’s meeting will be another virtual meeting after Ceil was unable to do the hands-on project the local people were expecting. I am very much looking forward to Daniel Yansura’s presentation this month. He’s a brilliant man, world traveler and super fern enthusiast.

Our January meeting ended up being virtual after the latest variant of COVID was making lots of folks sick. Don Delano presented a great program with explanations of different types of soils and what fertilizers to use on ferns and when to apply them. It was a great opportunity for our group to learn more and how to keep our plants healthy and growing.

In February we’ve finally had a few days of sub-freezing temperature. Fortunately, it was nothing like last year’s “Big Freeze”. I think everyone learns a little each year in the way of protecting our plants from the cold. This year I learned that too much heat without good air circulation will damage frond just as bad as the cold will.

March’s meeting is still pending on the subject and presenter.

April’s meeting is shaping up to be a visit to the Little Thicket. Several native ferns live there, it has a nice picnic spot and should offer a pleasant afternoon. The trails are fairly smooth, but not paved.

We are looking for someone to take over the raffle. When we get back together in person, I believe there will be many fine plants on the table. This is a great way for the Society to help raise money we need to operate.

We are still looking for someone to take over the library. This is a great position. I did this for a few years and totally enjoyed having ready access to look up puzzling things. People will let you know which book they’d like to check out from our list, and you’ll simply bring it to the meeting. At the meetings, people will return the books, etc.

I’d like to provide my contact information so anyone and everyone can reach me. My Cell # is 832-859-5471. If I don’t pick up, please leave a message. If I don’t recognize the number or are otherwise detained, I may not answer.

My email address is pchudnall@gmail.com. I usually check it in the morning and normally periodically through the day. If you would like to reach me by mail, Diane and I are at 2625 Werlein Ave, Houston, 77005.

The Budding Out at John Fairey Gardens is on for 19 March. I’m looking for people to man a “Membership” table there.

March Mart is on 25 & 26 March and we will have a membership table there. If you live around Houston, please try to help out at one of these events.

Again, please consider volunteering for the two open positions in *your* Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society.

With any luck this virus will soon abate, things will go back to normal and we can look forward to seeing everyone in person again.

Pat Hudnall



Dues! Dues!

Reminder: Dues are due for 2022.

As of January 1, 2022, Ruby Adams is handling membership. She may be contacted at: radams13@sbcglobal.net or cell 281.830.4633.



Sunday’s Topic:

Ferns and Lycophytes of Japan

By Dan Yansura

This talk is based on three different trips to Japan with The British Pteridological Society. Many of the ferns we grow today in the US originate in that area of the world.

This will be an awesome walk through the county for those that have never been there before.

This is a virtual meeting. Please plan on attending. If you need any help getting signed into the meeting please contact Darla Harris, 281-733-5564.



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/>



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Woodwardia

By: Pat Hudnall

The *Woodwardia* genus has about a dozen species. I've grown the two most common; *Woodwardia radicans* and *Woodwardia orientalis*. Specialty nurseries may carry another few species. They are commonly called Chain Fern(s). They are fairly large being around 2-5ft in size, although in their native habitat a few will grow much larger and are considered the largest fern native to North America.

The genus is native to the northern hemisphere in temperate and subtropical areas. I find them quite hardy in Houston, though, with last year's 14F freeze, I placed frost cloth on mine, and they showed only a little frond damage.

They are primitive looking ferns to me. Their emerging fronds have an uncommon form; not a typical fiddlehead.

Their fossil record goes back to the Paleocene. Perhaps that is due to their 3 ways of reproducing. Their rhizomes can fork, the fronds have sori which are found in lines on the underside. This characteristic gives the chain ferns their name. When mature, the upper surface of Houston's most common species; *orientalis*, the fronds carry bulbils towards the apex of its fronds. These occur in the axils of the distal pinnae.

These miniature plants can be detached and rooted as you would any small sporophyte. *Woodwardia radicans* will grow a new plant only at the tip of the frond. I find them easy to grow if you meet their minimum requirements.

Woodwardia tend to prefer medium shade, damp to moist friable soil. They have a short, creeping rhizomes.



Woodwardia orientalis from the author's collection:
Photo by Pat Hudnall