



May 2022

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<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Our meeting this month will be “blended” by meeting in-person at the Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center and/or via *GoToMeeting* – member’s choice.

A message from our President:

Howdy everyone,

This month’s meeting will feature a presentation by George Diggs, PhD, on *Ferns & Lycophytes of Texas*. See below for further information on our speaker. The meeting will be at the Judson Robinson Center and “blended” using the *Go-to-Meeting* platform as we have done before.

Our April 23rd field trip to the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary was great! Whoever missed this missed a great adventure. The weather was near perfect. Sergio Henao and his wife Wanda, long time active members of the Nature Preserve, also members of the TGCFS served as our guides on our two-part adventures on the trails. We started with a leisurely walk along small rolling hills and soon started seeing various ferns. Six species of ferns were located during our hikes. For me, the most unusual was the Cutleaf-Grape Fern. I don’t remember seeing it last time we were there, and it is unlikely to be seen in cultivation. A bit of excitement followed the finding of an unusually colored snake near one of the streams. After lunch we proceeded by cars to the meadow. From there we walked to the location of another fern. Along the trail a couple of truly huge trees were encountered, including a massive *Sycamore*. I believe we all had a wonderful time on the trip. Sergio and Wanda were wonderful guides and suggested members may enjoy joining the *Outdoor Nature Club*. Information can be found online.

Our June gathering will be our Summer Party. We will move the get-together forward one day to Saturday the 18th of June. Lisa and William George will be hosting this year. It’s always nice to visit other member’s homes.

Refreshments and visiting go hand in hand. Often times it has been a challenge not knowing who or how many members and guests will be attending our meetings as we are still getting back to our normal schedule.

As we learn about ferns and share our plants at the raffle table we like to have a snack and a cold drink. This should not be a one man job. We all need to participate and let Larry Rucker know what you plan to bring so he does not have to foot the bill and do that much work. He buys up and

plans on what to serve by Thursday or Friday before each meeting. If you are planning to bring something, please do not wait until Saturday afternoon to tell him what you want to bring. If you wait that late then you need to ask what to fill in with, but normally he has taken it upon himself to have it ready to load Sunday.

We all know our meetings are almost always the 3rd Sunday of the month (even if our newsletter is running late. Note: It has not been our newsletter chair’s fault for the lateness but the information he needs for the newsletter has been getting to him very slow. We are working on correcting that). So please contact Larry ASAP and let him know your intended refreshment contribution. Thanks. Larry’s contact information is 832-453-2992 and herbie39L@att.com; Put his phone number in your contact list so it’s an easy call each month. At this upcoming meeting we may circulate a list for the June party, regarding what members would like to bring in the way of food and beverage.

We don’t have to bring a lot of things, but if everyone will bring something then the burden is a shared one! Ten people bring one thing is easier than one person bringing ten things. Thank you for all you do.

See ya Sunday!

Patrick



This month’s speaker: George Diggs, PhD

Dr. George Diggs is an evolutionary biologist and botanist who has taught for more than 40 years at Austin College in Sherman, and a Research Associate at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. His research interests include the plants of Texas, evolution as it relates to human health, the systematics of the Ericaceae, and biogeography.

He has co-authored four books, including *The Ferns & Lycophytes of Texas*, with Barney Lipscomb, and more than 30 scientific articles. In his research he has traveled to all seven continents. He helped found the Public Health program at Austin College and teaches Environmental and Evolutionary Health, including the impact of diet and toxins on human health.

He will be speaking to us about the process of compiling and writing such an extensive reference. He will also highlight many of his favorite ferns and state “record holders”, and discuss why Texas has such a high diversity of ferns and lycophytes.

Sincerely submitted by:
Lisa George



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Dues! 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



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



Shapshots of the April 2022 Field Trip to the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

The pictures on the next page were taken and contributed by: Sergio Henao, Darla and Joe Harris

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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