



October 2023

Vol. 25 No. 10

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

Our meeting this month will be a field trip to Mercer Botanical Gardens and Arboretum, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road Humble, Texas 77338

Note the time: 10:30am

TGCFS MISSION STATEMENT

Organized in 1998 by a group of fern enthusiasts (a.k.a. fern lovers, fernies, pteridologists), to cultivate, foster and promote interest in ferns and fern allies, the TGC Fern Society presents educational programs including “how to” sessions, presentations by local, national and internationally known fern experts, and field trips and tours-thus providing a forum for fern enthusiasts to visit, learn, share plants, ideas, information, and have a good time. A very informative monthly newsletter is published for members, and special events include presentations to other groups, fundraiser events, and a year-end holiday season party. **Regular meetings are held at 2:00 P.M. on the third Sunday of each month at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Herman Drive, Houston, TX, 77004. Phone (713) 284-1994.**

A message from our President:

Hi everyone!

FIELD TRIP!!! 15 OCT AT 10:30am. This is a time change so we will be able to see everything. The venue is **Mercer Botanical Gardens and Arboretum, 22306 Aldine Westfield Road Humble, Texas 77338.** This will be a fun field trip for all. There are pathways built for easy walking, benches to sit on and lots of ferns to see and talk about. After our walkthrough, we will go to the Harris County Mercer Greenhouse and see all the upcoming color and fern/plants that will be making their way out to the gardens. Then, third on the line is the Friends of Mercer greenhouse that puts on the March Mart and all the Mercer sales throughout the year. This should be an enjoyable day and it looks like the weather is going have a taste of fall for us.

The nominating committee has been chosen and will be bringing us a slate of officers for the 2024 calendar year. I have appointed Cecil Strange as the chair. It is possible I may have to appoint a second person as Cecil has come down with Covid 19 and is currently in the hospital. He is doing much better and is out of ICU and in a room now. The society voted in Christopher Goodgame and Carolynn White to assist Cecil. I appreciate everyone’s willingness to help on these different committees, thank you!

Starting November 1, 2023 Christopher Goodgame will be our new Membership Chair. So, anyone that has not renewed before then needs to see Christopher. We are looking into credit card payments so you can take care of renewals via the website in the future, I’ll have an update in the November newsletter for you. You will still be able to mail in your dues and, of course, pay in person with cash.

We want to make the process easy for everyone. I think those that have paid multiple years in a row have found this the easiest way not to forget.

For those that ordered the ‘The King of Ferns’ book, I will have them with me at the field trip so you can pick it up there. The shipping of \$12 is due at the time of pickup.

Next month, the November meeting, Ceil and Rick Dow, will be leading our “building fern printed stepping stones” presentation. You can read more on it in the next newsletter or go back to the September newsletter when we were set to do it the originally. Please plan on coming in person and have fun with the group.

We have a two-part growing-from-spore presentation scheduled for the January and February meetings. This will walk you through the process and give you all the tools you need to be successful including a small light shelf. Looking forward to sharing this information with you. More in the January newsletter.

The rain has finally come our way and the temperatures have settled down some so we can enjoy our fall season.

See you at Mercer 1030am sharp

Darla



Calendar of Events for Remainder of 2023

Darla advises the following events planned for this year:
November: Hands-on Project: Garden Steppingstones with Fern Impressions. Project leaders: Ceil and Rick Dow
December Party: TBD. Still need a host.





Dues!

Dues for 2024 are currently being collected. If your 2024 dues have been paid you should have received an email from me in September. If you have any questions about the status of your dues, please contact me (Beth Ayer) at either: beth.ayer@yahoo.com or 713.729.0994 (landline; you may leave a voicemail message).

Your dues may be paid in person at a meeting or sent by mail to: Beth Ayer, 5815 Portal Dr., Houston, TX 77096. Checks should be payable to: Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society (TGCFS).

Thanks -- Beth



2023 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Patrick Hudnall
Secretary:	Ceil Dow
Treasurer:	Beth Ayer
Board Members-at-Large:	Ruby Adams Ken Warren
Education Chair:	Darla Harris
Hospitality Chair:	TBD
Library:	Fred Robinson
Membership Chair:	TBD
Newsletter:	Paul Geiger
Spore Exchange:	Patrick Hudnall
Ways and Means:	Larry Rucker
Raffle, Store, etc.	Rick Dow
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	TBD



3rd Quarter 2023 Treasurer's Report

Income:

Dues:	\$190.00
Raffle:	\$50.00
Interest:	\$5.21

Expenses:

Program Exp.	\$253.72
Plants/Books	\$50.00

Balance on 12-31-2022:	\$14,691.46
Balance on 09-30-2023:	\$114,868.60
Net loss for 3 rd Quarter:	\$33.51
Net gain for 2023:	\$177.14

Respectfully submitted, Beth Ayer, Treasurer



Minutes of Blended Meeting via "GoToMeeting" and In-person September 17, 2023

Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Meeting was held at the Justin Robinson Community Center in Hermann Park. Members unable to attend the in-person meeting could still participate on the "GoToMeeting" app.

President, Darla Harris, called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. Darla welcomed all who were attending.

Darla apologized for the meeting last month when the facility was not opened due to illness of an employee. Because of this the steppingstone program that was intended for that meeting will be presented in November.

PROGRAM:

The program for this meeting was given by Patrick Hudnall and Darla Harris on Aglaomorpha and Drynaria ferns. Patrick brought in a huge, beautiful specimen for demonstration. It was mounted on a very large, heavy wooden mount with galvanized screws, plastic fencing, 40-pound fishing line, coir, and sphagnum moss. After cutting it up he remounted a piece of this fern. He said he will use a root activator to water it. He said bird netting can be used to discourage squirrels from stealing the moss for their nests. He stressed that each piece that is to be remounted must have a rhizome on the cut frond or it won't take root. This fern's habit is to grow in a circle or ring, so it is important to keep that in mind when remounting or repotting. It also should be remembered that it can grow to an extremely large size.

The huge fern Patrick brought for demonstration was an Aglaomorpha cornans whose fronds can get as large as four to five feet in length. These are also known as "crown" ferns. The Drynaria are considered "basket" ferns because their dry parts form a "basket." They usually die (go dormant) down around November. Interestingly, however, they also dislike extremely hot temperatures.

Aglaomorpha and Drynaria are two groups of ferns that are very similar and are being studied to see if they will be staying in the same group. Drynaria typically die back in winter and Aglaomorpha typically do not die back. This trait is determined by the plant's DNA. There are a number of hybrid ferns and scientists are currently trying to determine parentage of these hybrids.

Darla passed around examples of these two kinds of ferns in various containers: mounted on boards, in metal baskets, and in pots.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. It began in 1998 with the first meeting at Teas Nursery!

Darla said that September is the month we select a nominating committee. Cecil Strange has agreed to chair the committee again this year. He will need two additional members for the committee. Chris Goodgame and Carolynne White volunteered. Beth Ayer made a motion to accept these three for the nominating committee and Malcolm McCorquodale seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Darla reminded us that our October meeting will be a tour of Mercer Arboretum. At that meeting, before the tour begins, we will vote on the slate of officers. Members should be at Mercer by 10:30 on Sunday, October 15, for the meeting and tour. This information will be reprinted in the newsletter.

Darla thanked Larry Rucker for managing the hospitality table and thanked all who contributed. She reminded members who have not yet paid dues to please do so with Beth Ayer.

Raffle tickets were handed out for the beautiful door prize which was a *Microsorium* species. It was won by **Lynn Blair Huberd:**



Darla adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Donna Williams for Ceil Dow, Secretary

New Member:

At your first opportunity, please welcome our newest TGCFS member: **Lynn Blair Huberd.** (Picture above.)

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/>

Pictures from our September Meeting
(Pictures taken and submitted by Betsy Robinson)

