



December 2023

Vol. 25 No. 12

<http://www.tgcfernsoc.org>

Holiday Party: Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 pm – Malcolm McCorquodale’s home
2905 Drexel Drive, Houston, TX 77027 – Home phone: 713-621-6217

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,

As we bring this year to a close, we have one more opportunity to reach out to our society members and enjoy each other at the end-of-the year party on the 17th of Dec at 1Pm at Malcolm McCorquodale’s home inside the loop 610. It’s pretty easy access for everyone. Look at the map later in the newsletter for address and details. We will be bringing food and I will have the food list later in the newsletter too. Remember that you are welcome to bring wine/beer for yourself and to share; we have mostly done BYOB the past ten years or so. We will have the gift exchange and this is by drawing numbers. Gifts should be wrapped and have a value of \$15-\$25 so we can keep the trades pretty even between us. Ferns or plant related items, please. This is always fun and hope all attending will participate. We would like to reach out to those that have not been able to attend the meetings this year and let you know we have missed you and would love to see you at the party!! Don’t forget you can bring one extra if you are a single. We would love to meet them.

Ceil and Rick Dow presented our program last month on how to make stepping stones and press a fern into the cement for a fossil look. They had a nice PowerPoint demo (**see attachment to this Newsletter**) and the kits were all measured out and everything you needed was provided. This took a lot of time to pull off so please make sure you thank them for the wonderful job they did. Ceil has provided the measurements for the water and the cement mix in her minutes later on in the newsletter.

I would like to thank everyone for a wonderful year at the society, we have gained some new members and sadly we have lost some. We are in a process of new growth so we

have been trying to start back with the basics on ferns and will continue in that direction for next year too.

I would like to thank our two outgoing board-members for the continued contributions that they have done for our society over several years now. Beth Ayer, has been membership chair off and on over many years and as treasurer for the last few years, has done a great job on both. Ken Warren has been a board member at large for us more than once as well and feels it’s time to turn it over to younger members for some new feedback and direction. We really appreciate all you have done!

We will be welcoming two new board- members: Larry Rucker as Treasurer, and Christopher Goodgame as “at large”. So, we are looking forward to the new year!

At the November board meeting we decided to move forward to accept Credit/Debit cards for membership payments, both online and in person if you need it. There is a convenience fee of \$1.50 to do so, but we think it will make it easier on those that are not able to attend the meeting in person and don’t use checks anymore. We will continue to take cash and checks; it just gives you a third option.

The January and February meetings will be linked together by subject. We will be doing a study of fern spore and will be putting a lamp stand shelf together with LED lights and will be putting down some spore for everyone to experience the process. We will have more details in the January newsletter.

Well, that’s all for now, but looking forward to seeing and talking with everyone at the Party.

Darla



Party Food List

We have the following coming:

Turkey and Dressing
Sweet potato casserole with marshmallows
Greenbean casserole
Salad
Pumkin Mouse
Bottle water
Mini Cheesecake topped with banana foster.

Please let Larry or Darla know what you would like to bring...



Dues!

Dues for 2024 are currently being collected. If your 2024 dues have been paid you should have received an email from Beth Ayer in September. If you have any questions about the status of your dues, please contact Christopher Goodgame at: chris.goodgame@protonmail.com.

Your dues may be paid in person at a meeting or sent by mail to: Christopher Goodgame, PO Box 66116, Houston, TX 77266. Checks should be payable to: Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society (TGCFS).



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/>



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:	Christopher Goodgame
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



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting November 19, 2023 Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Meeting was brought to order at 4:10pm.

President: Darla Harris, Vice President: Patrick Hudnall, Secretary: Ceil Dow, Treasurer: Beth Ayer, Board Members-at-Large: Ruby Adams, Hospitality Chair: Larry Rucker, Library: Fred & Betsy Robinson and Web Master: Malcolm McCorquodale, & Membership Chair: Christopher Goodgame, were present.

Ken Warren was absent because his children were visiting.

Issue: We must decide on which type of credit card processing company we want to move forward with as we enter renewal time.

*To allow for credit card transactions, Malcolm McCorquodale, & Christopher Goodgame researched Credit Card payment processors, Stripe & Helcim.

*Stripe is 2.9% + 30 cents per transaction. Reader is \$59.00. In person transactions are less expensive. Online transactions are more expensive. If you want express transactions that speeds the money to the seller's account, then there is a monthly processing fee added. Either a tap or swipe option would be convenient. However, the tap feature would be 10 cents extra.

*Helcim does not have a link. TGCFS would have to change our website to allow for more secure transactions. The reader is more expensive to purchase but it is also more sophisticated. It would take time to re-design TGCFS website to accommodate Helcim. Because member provides name, address, e-mail and other personal information, credit cards should require credit card number as well as 3 or 4 digit code.

Darla Harris commented that Stripe would be easier since we would not have to re-design the website.

Ceil Dow motioned to accept Stripe as the credit card processing service. Patrick Hudnall seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

*For every membership purchase, the option of Student, Individual or Family membership, person's name, address & email are required, then this information is sent to Chris Goodgame as Membership Chair.

*It would be a good idea to redesign the website because it is 20 years old.

Issue: We need information to provide insurance to cover TGCFS officers.

*Larry Rucker says that the Los Angeles Fern Society carries it for their officers at about \$500 per year. He also verified that the Glembroke Valley Home Owner Association carries it for their officers at \$800 per year.

Beth Ayers said that because TGCFS meets at the Houston Community Center, we are covered by the city. However, if on a field trip, members need to sign a waiver because if a member gets hurt on a field trip then that member has signed the waiver that they would not sue.

Issue: Donation to Mercer on behalf of Jacob Martin, as appreciation of tour guide at Mercer Field Trip In October.

* Darla Harris stated that Jacob Martin did a great job touring the TGCFS group around Mercer Botanic Gardens on the October field trip. In appreciation of his efforts, Darla would like to make a donation in his honor. Beth Ayers says TGCFS can only donate to a 501c organization like The Mercer Society. Instead, we could donate a plant that Jacob could use in the garden. Darla will contact Jacob and ask what kind of plant he would want. Our usual speaker fee is \$100.

Darla motioned that we allocate \$200 for the purchase of a plant to be delivered to Jacob's greenhouse. Ruby Adams seconded the motion. Moved unanimously.

*Also, Darla recommended that we give Jacob an honorary membership to TGCFS for one year. Ceil motioned that we give Jacob Martin a year gift membership to TGCFS. Ruby Adams seconded the motion. Moved unanimously.

Issue: Should we accept anonymous donations whether it be in buying a membership for someone or a direct donation to the society?

*Darla asks why would an individual chair be privy to information that is not shared with the president? A discussion ensued about whether someone who wants to remain anonymous should be outed/revealed/exposed to the president. No conclusion was drawn. Darla suggested that this topic be continued until the next board meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.



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 sign up and shop at AmazonSmile:

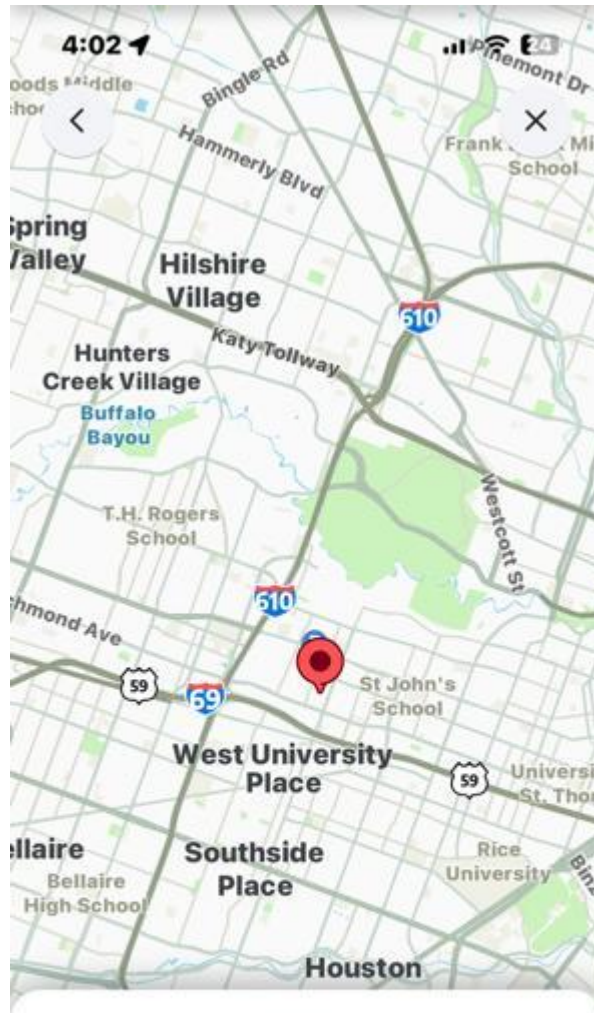
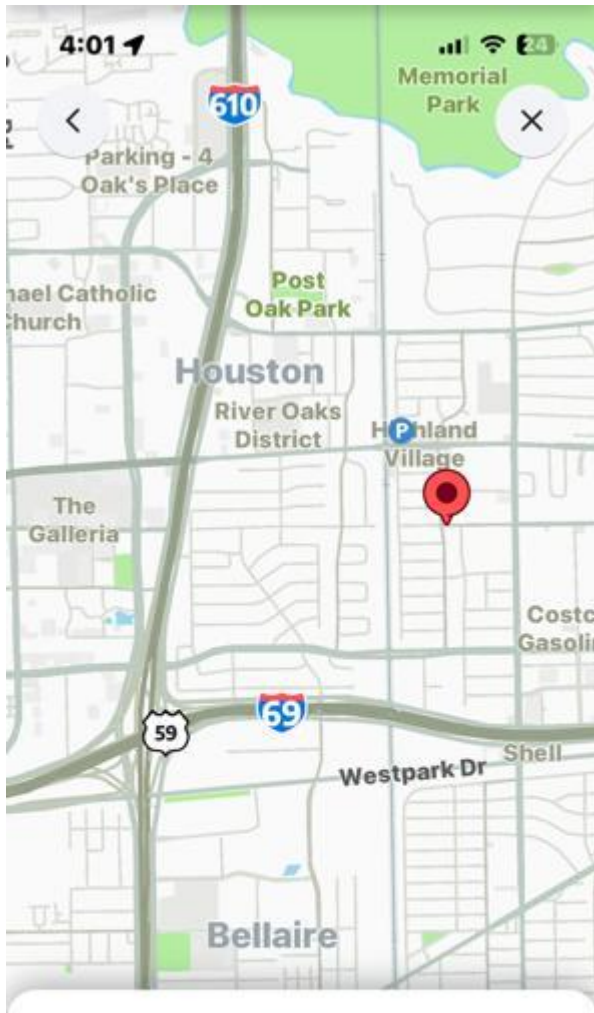
1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon username and password.
3. Then either go to "Your Account", and under the box "Shopping programs and rentals", select the option to "Change Your Charity"; or you can also hover your mouse over the small arrow next to the charity you are currently 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.



**November Door Prize Winner:
Christopher Goodgame with Microsorium sp**



Holiday Party - Malcolm McCorquodale's Home
2905 Drexel Drive, Houston, TX 77027
(Just off 610 – Galleria Area)
Home Phone: 713-621-6217



2905 Drexel Dr
32 miles away

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32 miles away

[View routes](#)

[View routes](#)

(NB: Routes not available in this Newsletter)



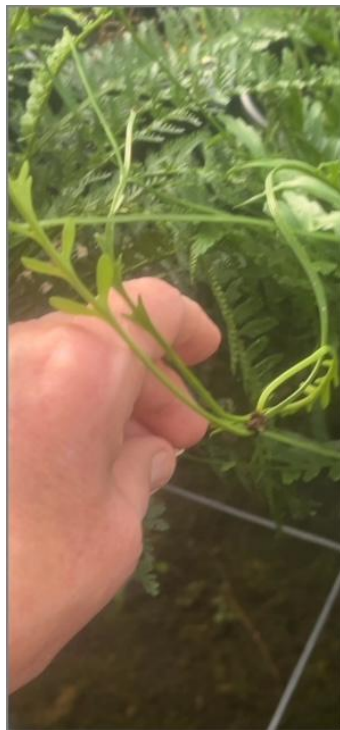
Fern of the Month - December 2023
Asplenium prolongatum x A. antiquum
Asplenium cv. Kenzoi
Submitted by Darla Harris
(Photos by Darla)

Cv. Kenzoi is a form of a birdsnest fern that is a hybrid. The *A. prolongatum* is a terrestrial and epiphyte fern meaning it grows ingrown and on trees, and is native to southern Asia including India and Japan. The *A. antiquum* is a birdsnest most of us are currently growing and is from Japan and is an epiphyte. Most of us are growing a form of this one already.

The cross is sterile and only reproduces with pups that form at the tips of the fronds. This is known as vegetative propagation. These are pretty easy to get started, however they are pretty slow at growing and then takes a while to start pushing of the babies.

I find the *A. Kenzoi* easy to grow. It takes cool temperatures of 33F up to 110F with no problem. I have not tested below 33F myself, but the parent *A. antiquum* can go to the low 20's so it is very possible.

A. Kenzoi likes very well drained soil and bright growing conditions. Moderate water, like the other birdsnest.





Fun with Fiddleheads

By Betsy Robinson

Our cameras have changed a great deal in the last few years. They come with new features that make taking pictures easier (or harder if you aren't a geek). There are so many features available that learning a new camera is like learning a new car. The basic design is the same but there are so many bells and whistles. That means the photographer needs to practice with the new functions to get the desired results.

One of the new features is called Focus Stacking and plants offer good subjects for learning that technique. I found the perfect model in this pyrosia Subfaraceaasia putting on a new fiddlehead. Believe it or not I spent two days with that plant in front of my camera figuring out lighting, number of photos and all the angles to get a picture I wanted.



The way that focus stacking works is that you choose a menu selection that allows you to select the number of pictures you want to take and how far you want the focus to be adjusted between each picture with the objective to turn 250 photographs into a single one with every part of the photograph to be in focus. That little fiddlehead has more to it than simple clean lines. All that fuzz required the focus to be adjusted.

Below are 2 pictures. The first is a picture of the fiddlehead taken as a single picture. The second is the focus stacked picture. Was it worth it? Heck ya!!!





Program Photos
Pictures by Betsy Robinson

