



February 2024

Vol. 26 No. 2

<http://www.tgcfersoc.org>

Our meeting this month will be “blended” by meeting in-person at the Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center (2020 Hermann Dr., Houston, 77004 and/or via GoToMeeting – member’s choice.

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!

Spring is in the air!!! Our pecan trees are all budded out and that has been a good indicator for us in the Houston area. I guess the armadillo didn’t see it’s shadow. That works for me, let’s hope it’s true!

I hope all that attended last month’s meeting had a good time and learned a few things in regards to growing ferns from spore. I checked mine today and I’m starting to see green which is a good thing and what we are looking for. This is the very beginning; so get excited, but we are not near being done yet. Some of you might have a few more than me, I did not put mine down until Tuesday following the meeting. If you have not yet gotten your lights on a timer this is the time to do so. Rember to set it to be on 12-14 hours a day. By next month you will really be able to see them a lot easier.

I know this newsletter is going out late, I had hoped to get it to Paul, our newsletter chair before Joe and I went to Florida for ferns, but that did not happen; sorry. The good news is I was able to bring back several ferns for us to see at the meeting this month on: *Ferns for the House*. Ceil was able to get our meeting notice in the *Lazy Gardener* so we might get some new people attending this month so please help out with refreshments.

Next month’s meeting will be presented by Adam Black. Adam is a great speaker and horticulturer with a very broad knowledge of plants and propagation. Adams fern knowledge is outstanding and he will be telling us about the ferns of the Philippines. They have a very rich landscape of ferns throughout all the islands there. Very diverse and one of my favorite places to get tropical ferns from Asia. I will talk more on this for next month’s newsletter.

We had talked about a field trip in May, and we had asked for someone that would like to volunteer to have our June party there. So far, we have not heard from anyone. We were thinking maybe we skip the party and make our field trip in June. I know that’s Father’s Day, but the party or the field trip can be scheduled either on Saturday or even the weekend before. We were looking at maybe Moody Gardens or possibly the Butterfly Center that has a surprising number of ferns in there. So, we will discuss this at the next meeting. We might have a May meeting and a June field trip.

We will be posting our second half of our meeting schedule, I hope, in the next newsletter.

For those that have been having issues getting on the virtual meetings, we hope to have that issue fixed for this meeting. So please don’t give up!!

Take care all and happy spring!!

Darla



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).



2024 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Patrick Hudnall
Secretary:	Ceil Dow
Treasurer:	Larry Rucker
Board Members-at-Large:	Ruby Adams Christopher Goodgame
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



Please Note:

We need volunteers to work the TGCFS membership booth at “**March Mart**” 22/23 March. The times are 9:30am to 5:00pm. Please help! Thanks



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.



Pictures from our February 2024 Meeting

(Pictures submitted by Betsy Robinson)



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.

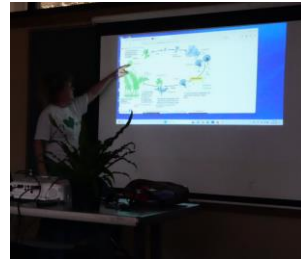
To find out more about the Society and/or join, visit <https://www.amerfernsoc.org/>



March 2024 Door Prize

Judith Neufeld wins an *Asplenium antiquum* 'Victoria': Congratulations, Judith!





Spores Germinating After One Month:



Picture by Darla Harris