



July 2024

Vol. 26 No. 6

<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,

First, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Diane and Patrick Hudnall for their offering their home again this summer to host the June Party. The weather was nice and not too hot, so all the ferns and other rare and unusual plants that we saw there were growing well and quite happy considering we had another winter with an extremely cold few days and spring changing over to summer temperatures long before any of us were ready for it to do so. The food was wonderful and a great variety both hot and cold. What a perfect day and surroundings to catch up with our friends and make better friend with those newer ones. Thank you to all that attended and participated.

Our speaker this month will talk to us about bugs, how to live with them, their purpose for our ego system, and what to do if we get those that attach our ferns. We will be welcoming Erin Mills as our speaker this month, please read further in the newsletter for her bio.

In August, we plan on addressing growing from spore again, we did not have very wide spread success with our program we did back in February, so we are going to give it another try. We will be adding to the conversation on how to know when to collect spores, how to package and store them for use later. We will go through the steps of a couple of different methods of growing them and putting some spores down so everyone can try these from home. We will demonstrate a way to make your own light stand for a small area.

We will be having a board meeting following the meeting this month.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Christopher Goodgame on become our 4th editor of our newsletter. As Christopher makes the newsletter his own, we will give him some time to get acquainted with this new job. We want to thank Paul Geiger for his last four years of being our editor. See more on this later in the newsletter.

We want to encourage everyone to bring raffle plants and refreshments to the meeting. This always gives us something more to enjoy!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting!

Darla



Board Meeting

There will be a Board Meeting after the regular membership meeting on July 21, 2024 at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center at 2020 Hermann Drive. Board members and all interested members are welcome to attend.





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:	Christopher Goodgame
Spore Exchange:	Patrick Hudnall
Ways and Means:	Larry Rucker
Raffle, Store, etc.	Rick Dow
Web Master:	Malcolm McCorquodale
Welcoming at Door:	TBD



2nd Quarter 2024 Treasurer's Report Income:

Deposits:	\$110
Withdrawals:	\$0
Balance on 4/31/24:	\$14894.62
Deposits:	\$81
Withdrawals:	\$0
Balance on 5/31/24:	\$14975.74
Deposits:	\$80
Withdrawals:	\$370.81
Balance on 6/31/24:	\$14685.04
Net loss for 2 nd Quarter:	\$99.81



July Speaker:

Erin has a Bachelor of Science in Entomology from Texas A&M University and as a Board-Certified Entomologist, has dedicated most of her career to the study of insect biology, behavior, and plant-insect interactions. After 15 years as an Entomologist, Curator, and finally Director of the Cockrell Butterfly Center in the Houston Museum of Natural Science, she felt a calling towards education and joined the Houston Botanic Garden education team.

As associate director of family programs, she oversees youth and adult programming, leads outreach and conservation efforts, and speaks on many insect and plant related topics. Erin is passionate about insects' crucial role in sustaining a healthy ecosystem and encouraging gardeners not only to tolerate them in the garden, but to welcome and celebrate their presence.

Erin Mills
Associate Director of Family Programs
Houston Botanic Garden
erin@hbg.org
[713-715-9675 ext. 122](tel:713-715-9675)



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/>



Paul Gieger retiring editor of our Newsletter

I would like to take a moment to thank Paul for his dedication to this society! Paul was our second newsletter editor taking over back in the early 2000's, he and his wife Patsy have been members of our Fern Society for many years now. Back in about 2006 Paul and Patsy retired from their company here in the Houston area and moved home to New Orleans and with that move he stepped down from being our editor. They have maintained their membership all these years even though they are rarely in the area and have not been back to a meeting since they moved. So don't be surprised if you don't know them personally.

Cherie Lee became our third newsletter editor after Paul, and when she retired, we did not have anyone as replacement for her. I called Paul and he took up the job without hesitation for that I will always be grateful!! However, that temporary help out at the being of Covid 19 lasted longer than we thought and at 83 he is ready to take a break again. Thankfully we now have Christopher Goodgame with the enthusiasm to take over that position and let Paul retire for the last time we hope!

I could not have done these last four years without you Paul, and your no hesitation step-up when our society truly needed someone to take over a very big job,

you did so without a complaint. A better friend I could not ask for! Thank you, Paul, from all of us!



The June Party

The June party festivities started at 1pm & was celebrated at Diane & Patrick Hudnall's home in Houston Texas. Members present were Patrick & Diane Hudnall, Faye Stansberry, Larry Rucker, Craig Jackson, Darla & Joe Harris, Rick & Ceil Dow, Hannah & Sewell Martin, Betsy & Fred Robinson, Carol & Larry Smith, Bob & Anne Swanson, Trenda Salas, Claudia Leffler & Will Fleming.

Patrick and Diane were gracious hosts! There was a huge buffet of glazed ham, incredibly delicious sauerkraut, multiple sumptuous casseroles, delectable appetizers and, of course, amazing desserts!

Patrick kindly gave tours of his garden many times over. Members milled about joining groups in serious discussions or frivolous anecdotes. We ended the afternoon with smiles on our faces. A good time was had by all.

Submitted by Ceil Dow



Photo by Patrick Hudnall



Fern of the Month:

Elaphoglossum metallicum

Elaphoglossum is a group of ferns that are endemic to Central and South America. They are a tropical species that typical like temperature range between 55F-90F but mine have grown fine up to high 90's and lows around 40F. I find *E. metallicum* to be one of the easiest of the *Elaphoglossum* to grow, making a great starting point to some of the best collection ferns out there.

It is famous for its metallic blue color on all the new growth, it is a tallish fern topping out about 18". I find it to be a slow grower so it makes a very nice house plant. It is not as picky on its water requirements as some in the family are. It is a low light fern again making it a great house plant. It is an epiphytic plant growing on trees in nature rather than in the soil. I use sphagnum moss for my substrate, but an orchid bark or even a tree fern fiber could be used. Just match up your watering for the dryer substrates. It like moderate, but regular water.

This is definitely worth growing.

