



May 2025

Vol. 27 No. 05

<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. **Doors open at 1:30pm and regular meetings begin at 2:00pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Herman Drive, Houston, TX, 77004. (713) 284-1994.**

A message from our President:

Hi Everyone,

I hope each of you had a wonderful April, missed seeing you however! We have an exciting month of May!!! We have **Adam Black** and he will be leading our **Field trip to the Big Thicket** as well as being our speaker at the meeting on the **“Ferns and Lycophytes of Uruguay”**

First. May 17th the Field trip! Big Thicket National Preserve

We plan on meeting in Kingwood on Saturday morning at 845am. Right off I69/59 at the Kingwood Dr. exit we will meet at the Texas Road House parking lot – it’s in the same parking lot as the Luby’s. Luby’s address is 24004 US 59 Kingwood Texas 77339. Then we can carpool or caravan up to The **Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve** is a 501c (3) non-profit organization in Warren Texas. The Fern Society has not been to this location before and Adam has set it up with them for us to meet at 1030am. So, if you are driving there on your own, please be there NO later than 1015am. That is the caravan’s planned arrival time.

From there we plan to go to the Turkey Creek Trail and then to the Pitcher Plant Trail.

There is no place to go have lunch but if we all brown bag a lunch they do have picnic areas where we can all go and have our lunch. Please bring water and mosquito spray.

Second. May 18th The Fern Society Meeting talk is at 2p

Our normal meeting place at the Juddson Robinson Jr Community Center.

For the month of June, it is Father’s Day weekend so our Room is not available so we will have our **Summer Party on the Sunday June 22nd (Fourth Sunday) at 1PM** At Bob and Anne Swansons house. We will have a food signup sheet at the May meeting. . All the details in the June newsletter.

July we will have our Talk on Filmy Ferns by Dan Yansura.

Everyone is invited and looking forward to seeing you at the field trip and Sunday at the meeting. You’re welcome to bring your significant other or a friend. This will be a great time to see a lot of ferns growing in nature.

In case anyone gets lost or needs help, my number is 281-733-5564.

Darla



Dues!

Dues for 2025 are currently being collected. 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).



2025 Officers and Committees:

President:	Darla Harris
Vice President:	Carolynne White
Secretary:	Ceil Dow
Treasurer:	Larry Rucker
Board Members-at-Large:	Anne Swanson Christopher Goodgame
Education Chair:	Darla Harris
Hospitality Chair:	Anne Swanson
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



Anisocampium niponicum 'Godzilla'

Formally known as *Athyrium niponicum* 'Godzilla'
Correct your tags!



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/>



From the Library:

Ferns to Know and Grow; by F. Gordon Foster; Timber Press, 1984; 174 pages, illustrated.

"Ferns to Know and Grow" by Gordon Foster is a fairly comprehensive guide for anyone interested in ferns. The book covers everything from identifying different species to growing and caring for them. Foster's writing is clear and easy to understand, making it accessible for both beginners and experienced gardeners. The detailed descriptions and practical advice help you feel confident in your ability to cultivate these plants.

One of the good features of the book is the extensive coverage of 132 hardy and tender fern species. Foster provides information on each species' characteristics, ideal growing conditions, and potential uses in landscaping. It's not as comprehensive as "Fern Grower's Manual", but enough for an introductory overview.

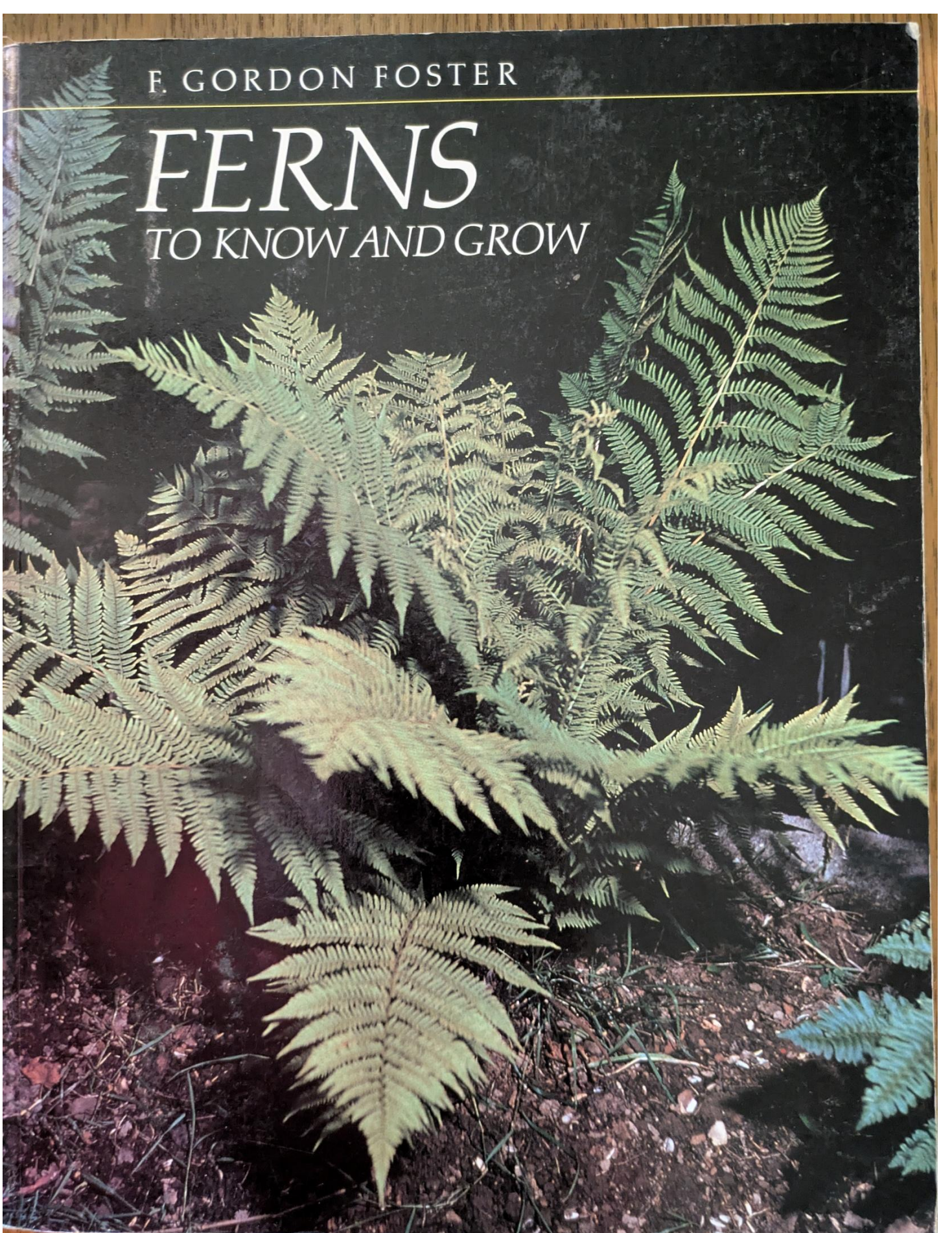
The photos in the first part of the book are black and white. I especially liked that many of them show ferns in a garden setting. Most introductions and overviews skip on this. There are line drawings for individual species.

Overall, "Ferns to Know and Grow" is a good book for any gardening enthusiast. But nothing really stands out strongly above other overviews of the hobby. Still available via Amazon print on demand or borrow it from the club library.

F. GORDON FOSTER

FERNS

TO KNOW AND GROW





A Study of Platyceriums

By Darla Harris

The Giant Four which make up part of the Malayan-Asiatic species

First, the *P. superbum*

Platycerium superbum (su per bum not pronounced super bum) is a non-popping staghorn. It reproduces by spore only. It grows in nature in Australia, where they nick named it the Staghorn.

This is not the largest of the four but is the one most are able to purchase here in the US and so it seemed a good place to start.

Superbum gets a shield frond that gets about 3.5 foot wide and tall, the fronds get about 3.5 feet long. You get two shields and two fronds a year on one side then the other. The fronds don't come onto the plant for 3-5 years and then you have a nice big plant. The frond will get one spore patch per frond. This is how you can identify it from *P. grande* it has two patches per frond.

Care for *superbum* is medium to high light, but no direct west sun for us. It is cold hardy to the upper 20's but the duration of the cold has a big part of it, it is better to subtropical temperatures. So we plan on having ours in a warm spot for any freezing temperatures. *Super* also does not like to be over watered. So moderate water once – twice a week over summer is normally good. Over winter once every couple weeks. Again, watering is always subjective to each person's watering habit.

If we go through extreme heat, sometimes growing it a bit cooler is helpful, under an AC for instance. You can't over water to try to keep it cool or you will kill it.

It is a very rewarding staghorn fern with its majestic size.



New frond on P. superbum



P. superbum sori, from the front



P. superbum Young Stages



P. superbum Young Stages



P. superbum



A fern we'll see on our trip – *Onoclea sensibilis*

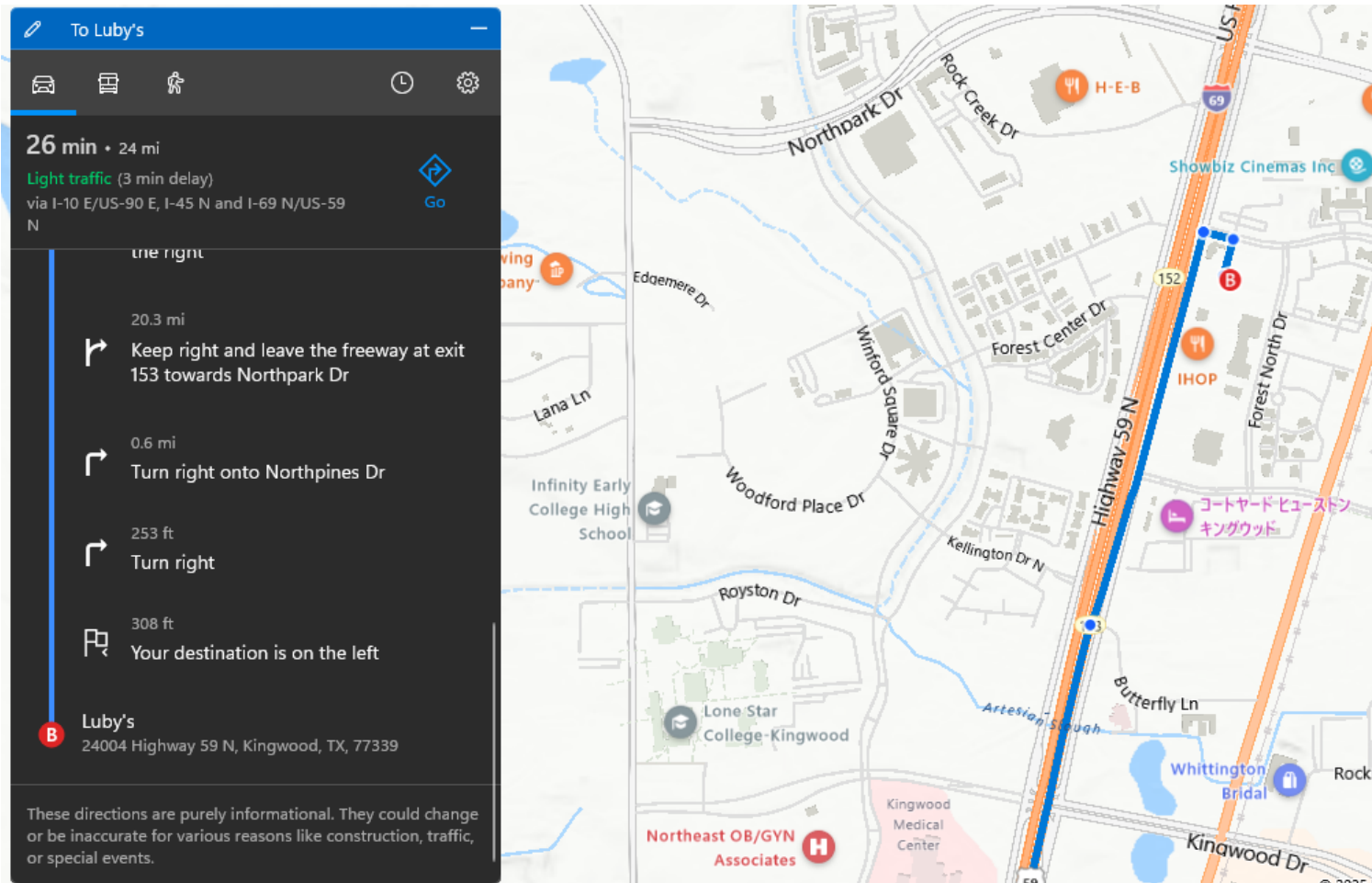


Maps to Watson Rare Nature Plant Reserve

There are two locations for meeting up as Darla pointed out in her President's Note on the first page. If you are going to the Luby's/Texas Road House meetup, please be sure to meet there by 8:45am. If you are going directly to the nature reserve, please be sure to be there by 10:15am.

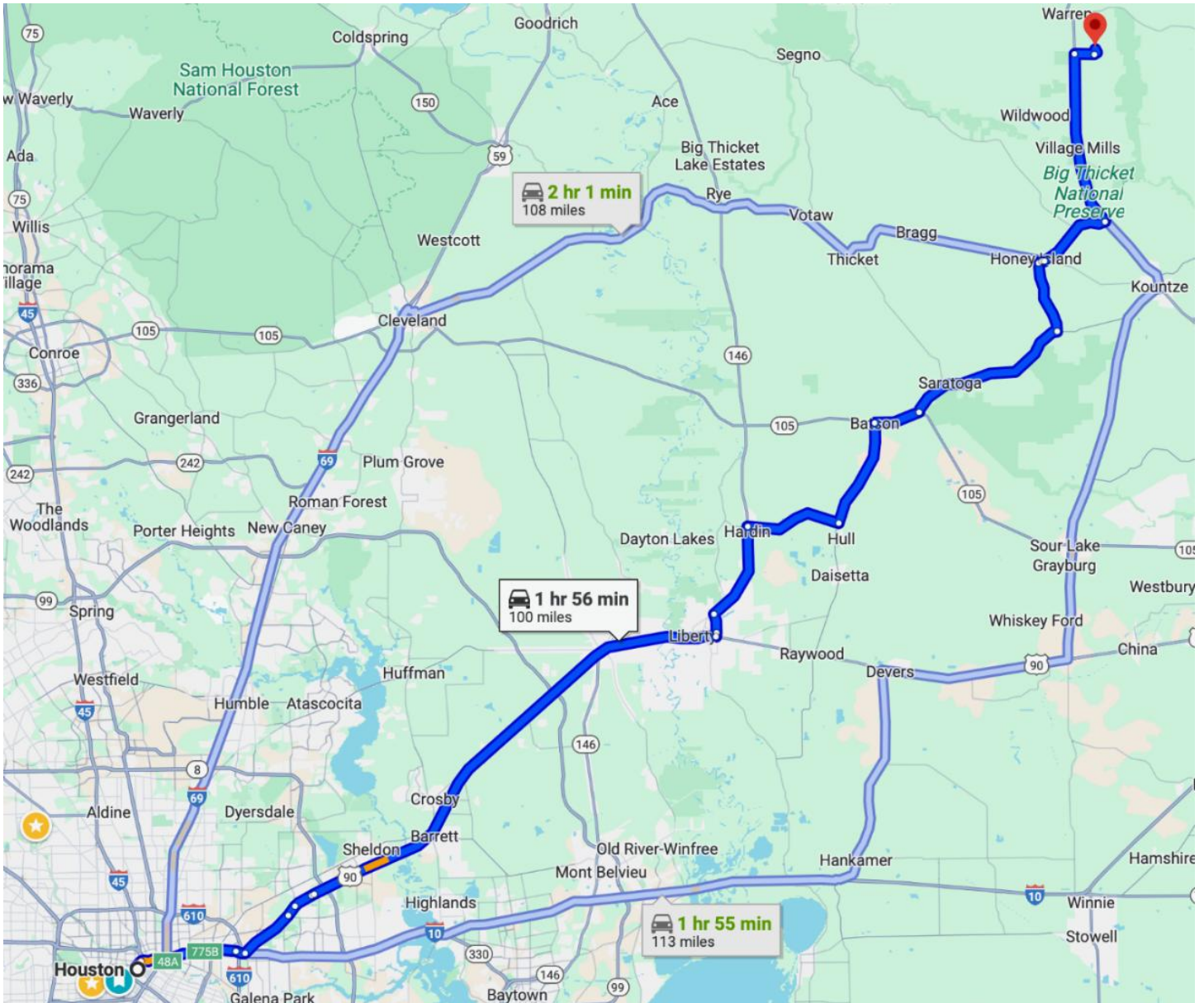
For those going to the Luby's/Texas Road House meetup:

Luby's
24004 US 59 N
Kingwood, Tx 77339



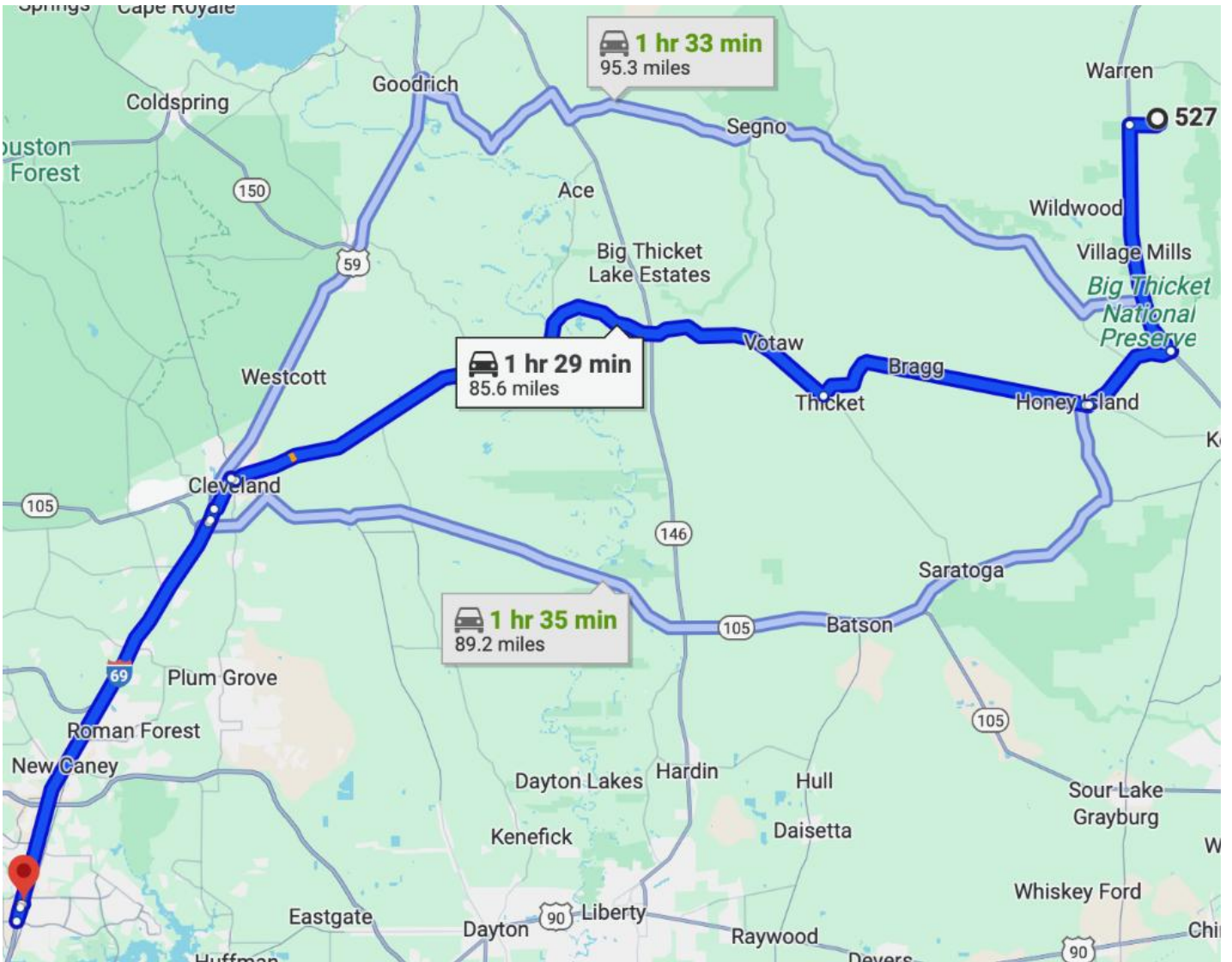
Map showing end route at Luby's. You can also turn into the parking lot before the street directly off US 59/I-69

Watson Rare Nature Plant Reserve
527 County Road 4777
Warren, TX 77664



This map shows a three different routes coming from downtown.

Route options coming from the Luby's in Kingwood at:
24004 US-59 N
Kingwood, TX 77339



This map is coming from the Luby's parking lot

In Cleveland there is a slight road hop to continue on your way.

