At the 1970 A.I.B.S. Meetings in Bloomington, Indiana, the Fern Society decided to have an informal newsletter for its members. We have felt for some time that our journal was becoming more technical, and there was insufficient space, with present printing costs, to print much of the sort of news that many of the members wish. So, here goes!

First, we, the editors, should introduce ourselves. Mr. Gordon Foster, of Sparta, New Jersey, is already known to many as author of The Gardner's Fern Book. His interests lie in growing ferns. Dr. James Montgomery, of Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey, is interested in fern identification and taxonomy, particularly of New Jersey ferns. Correspondence (and we hope there will be lots of it!) should be addressed to:

Dr. James D. Montgomery, Biology Department
Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey 07019

We hope to have enough information to issue the newsletter quarterly, but this depends on the member's sending in information.

The newsletter is intended to include information about ferns, particularly information of interest to the amateur. Informal items of interest about ferns, of any nature will be considered. Short items dealing with growing of ferns, fern culture, and the like, from different parts of the country are good. Perhaps places of interest to visit for ferns would also be of interest to other members (see the contribution from Dr. Stalter below). Exchange items are welcome - either fresh plants or herbarium material. Any news items from members on ferns of almost any sort could be included. In short, this is your newsletter, and we will print whatever sort of items the membership wants. The changes of address, and the membership list formerly included in the Fern Journal, will now be included here.

"Dutch" Huttoepton reports that he intends to update his 1962 article "Fern Sources in the United States" (Amer. Fern Journal 52:97-109) and wishes to include as complete a coverage of nurseries dealing in ferns as possible. If any members know of nurseries handling more than two or three kinds of ferns, he would greatly appreciate receiving their addresses or their catalogues. He is particularly desirous of hearing of nurseries which were not covered in the earlier article.

If any members can be of help, please let him know as soon as possible.
Dr. Donald G. Huttoepton, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348.

SPRING CARE OF FERNS

Spring time is cleanup time--not just in the house but in the fern garden as well. All winter long the ferns have been dormant, even the shield ferns and Christmas ferns, green and brilliant as they are, have observed this period of rest.

Start the spring cleanup while the ground is still frozen. This is the tidying phase when old branches broken by ice storms can be removed safely from the fern bed and wind-blown litter can be gathered from the hedgerows. Do not
do any raking. Most garden ferns have their rhizomes close to the surface of the earth; others already have their croziers slightly above the ground. To rake now or any other time of the year can be most damaging to the plant.

Wait until all danger of frost is past and heaving is no longer a possibility. Remove the tree leaves by hand and shred, allowing the flakes to recover the ferns to a depth of about two inches. While this leaf covering will retard the appearance of the ferns for a week or more, the plants will be benefited greatly by the mulch which may be dampened periodically during the dry summer months. Where oak leaves predominate it is better to gather and compost them for a year before returning them to the garden.

Gordon Foster

FERNS IN BROOKGREEN GARDENS, GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Brookgreen Gardens, located in Murrells Inlet South Carolina, Latitude 33° 34', Longitude 79° 3', was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Archer Huntington as a winter home in January 1930. The beauty of the area prompted the Huntington's to develop the area as a sanctuary for the native flora and fauna as well as a setting for Mrs. Huntington's sculpture. To insure the permanency of the gardens, Mr. A.H. Huntington established a society for the Southeastern Flora and Fauna, and a self-perpetuating board of trustees was appointed to manage the corporation for the public and implement the aims of the founders. Although the gardens were primarily intended to contain works of sculpture, a small zoo was established and many native and horticultural varieties of plants were placed in the gardens to complement the beauty of the sculpture. Today over 800 different species and varieties of plants are found in Brookgreen Gardens and Huntington State Park, formerly a part of Brookgreen Gardens.

Frank Tarbox and his successor, Gurdon Tarbox, have collected a large number of native plants and horticultural varieties that beautify the gardens. Among these are 23 species of southern ferns, situated within the confines of the garden walls. These ferns are:

- Osmunda cinnamomea L.
- Osmunda claytoniana L.
- Osmunda regalis var. spectabilis (Willd.) Gray
- Lygodium palmatum (Bernh.) Swartz
- Lygodium japonicum (Thunberg) Swartz
- Adiantum pedatum L.
- Dennstaedtia punctilobula (Michaux) Moore
- Cheilanthes tomentosa Link
- Pteridium aquilinum (L.) Kuhn
- Pteris vittata L.
- Athyrium asplenioideum (Michaux) A.A. Eaton
- Cystopteris bulbifera (L.) Bernh.
- Dryopteris marginalis (L.) Gray
- Dryopteris spinulosa (Mueller) Watt
- Dryopteris cristata (L.) Gray
- Dryopteris ludoviciana (Kunze) Small
- Dryopteris celsa (W. Palmer) Small
- Polystichum acrostichoides (Michaux) Schott
- Thelypteris hexagonoptera (Michaux) Weatherby
- Onoclea sensibilis L.
- Woodwardia areolata (L.) Moore
- Asplenium platyneuron (L.) Oakes
- Polypodium polypodioides (L.) Watt

Dr. Richard Stalter, Brookgreen Gardens, Murrells Inlet, S. C. 29576

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NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Alice D. A. Fey, c/o Physics Div., Univ. of West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, W. I.
Mrs. John F. Ryan.
R. Wedin.

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Mr. Michael I. Cousens
Prof. Jane M. Decker, Botany Dept., Ohio Wesleyan Univ., Delaware, Ohio 43015
Mrs. Kathryn Eastman.
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