American Fern Society

NEWS AND VIEWS

No. 2

April, 1971

Report of the President for 1970

This year has been a stimulating one for the students of ferns and other pteridophytes. There have been many developments, indicating a stronger and stronger interest in these plants, both as objects for hobbyists and for scientific researchers. I have been especially impressed by the increasing demand by universities for professors whose specialities include the study of pteridology. It is interesting to wonder what the cause of this increasing interest has been. Part of it, I believe, is due to the fact that a large amount of successful research has been carried out on these plants over the past couple of decades; work that has permeated the textbooks and the scientific journals and which has attracted interest of other biologists. But there is more to it than that, as I, partly hobbyist and naturalist myself, can appreciate. It is simply that the public at large is becoming increasingly interested in natural history and ecology, and this interest is spinning off into the halls of academia to such an extent that students who in the past would never consider taking a course in field biology or environmental science are now clamouring for such subjects. I would argue (with strong prejudice, admittedly) that there is no group of native plants that has more intrigue and excitement than do the ferns and their so-called "allies," the clubmosses, scouring rushes, quillworts, and so on. When we are talking about saving rare plants and conservation of the natural environments, the ferns play an important role. Many of them are rare, many occupy unique or unusual habitats, and, above all, many of the pteridophytes are beautiful plants which characterize native habitats of primeval grandeur, natural areas of the first order -- the kinds of sites which conservationists have in mind in their local and national campaigns.

The American Fern Society is the organization which more than any other in the United States sponsors activities in the study of ferns. For years it has played a role in bringing together professionals and non-professionals in the study of ferns. A number of our members this year attended important conferences. One of these was held at Harvard Forest in March, another at Highlands, N. C. in June. Both were characterized by the diversity of interests of the individuals participating. There were field biologists, taxonomists, physiologists, geneticists, and general biologists. The Highlands conference emphasized field biology of pteridophytes, and there were over 20 persons who participated. A number of interesting new locality records were discovered during the conference, and before and after the latter by Dr. Dan Pittillo of Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N. C. Our annual meeting with the American Institute of Biological Sciences at Bloomington, Indiana, was again a success, thanks largely to our Vice-President, John T. Mickel. One of the exciting finds of the foray led by Rolla Tryon was a fine plant of the hybrid Asplenium pinnatifidum x trichomanes. In addition to the session of contributed papers, there was a symposium on the contribution of ferns to the solution of biological problems.

A very important new development was the formation of a new Section of Pteridology of the Botanical Society of America. It should go on record that this new section was proposed by and put into effect by the American Fern Society and
in particular the Vice-President and President. It is our hope that through the years there will be a healthy inter-action between the Pteridology Section and the American Fern Society, and that having two organizations with somewhat different approaches will have a mutually stimulating effect.

One final comment should be made, and this deals with the Flora North America project. The activities of this project, which was originally founded by the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, are now gaining momentum, and many botanists throughout the United States and Canada are involved on its Editorial Committee, Steering Committee, or Advisory Committee. I would like to call attention to this important project because it makes it more important than ever that field explorations be carried for new fern records. I believe that our knowledge of geographical ranges of pteridophyte species leave very much to be desired. For example, in some genera, like *Bolaxichum* and *Dryopteris*, herbarium collections that exist today are most unrepresentative. Furthermore, certain areas; for example, the southern Appalachians, greatly need critical exploration for pteridophyte records.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren H. Wagner, Jr., President

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

**Report of the Treasurer for 1970**

The receipts from all sources for the year 1970 were $7,694.86, which is over $400 higher than last year. We ended the year with $4,371.81 in the checking account. Our four Savings Accounts earned $516.09 in 1970.

Our royalties from sale of Dr. Wherry's books decreased this year by $120.90; and sale of back issues increased by $418.34.
Advance payment for dues and subscriptions increased by $2,168.11.
We obtained 28 new subscribers and lost 7, through cancellation or resignation, making a gain of 21. We took in 94 new members and lost 76, making a gain of 18.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned facts, I believe the American Fern Society is in good financial condition.

Respectfully submitted,
LeRoy K. Henry, Treasurer

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
Treasurer's Report

1970

Receipts

Cash on hand, January 1, 1970........................................... $ 2,617.68

Membership Dues

Renewals.................................................. 1,963.60
Sustaining.................................................. 178.00
New........................................................ 338.50
Advance................................................... 220.00
Arrears................................................... 60.00

Total....................................................... 2,760.10

Subscriptions

Current.................................................... 576.00
Advance 1971............................................. 1,080.00
Advance beyond 1971................................. 65.00
Arrears................................................... 20.00

Total....................................................... 1,741.00

Sale of back issues of Journal................................. 2,027.06
Sale of reprints......................................... 245.95
Royalties (Wherry's Books)............................... 458.35
Gifts...................................................... 10.56
Advertising in Journal.................................. 33.90
Spore exchange for 1969.................................. 115.14
Contribution toward cost of reprints................... 100.00
Two Life Memberships.................................. 200.00
Miscellaneous.......................................... 2.80

Total Receipts.............................................. 7,694.86

TOTAL...................................................... $10,312.50
Statement, December 31, 1970

Assets

Cash in Union National Bank (checking)............................... $4,371.81
Cash in Edith Scamman Fund.............................................. 3,219.48
Cash in Green Point Savings Bank
   Bissell Herbarium Fund.................................................. 1,134.69
   Life Membership Fund................................................. 1,863.35
   Una Weatherby Fund..................................................... 4,796.10
Accounts Receivable (reprints and back issues)....................... 71.83
Inventory, Journal (24,087 at .50)................................... 12,043.50
Library............................................................................. 396.00
   TOTAL........................................................................... 27,896.76

Liabilities

Advance dues......................................................................... 220.00
Advance subscriptions....................................................... 1,145.00

Fund Balances
   Bissell Herbarium Fund..................................................... 1,134.69
   Life Membership Fund...................................................... 1,863.35
   Una Weatherby Fund....................................................... 4,796.10
   Edith Scamman Fund...................................................... 3,219.48
   General Fund.................................................................... 15,518.14
   TOTAL............................................................................... $27,896.76
Disbursements

American Fern Journal

| Vol. 59, #4 | $1,209.83 |
| Vol. 60, #1 | 1,200.20 |
| Vol. 60, #2 | 1,026.99 |
| Vol. 60, #3 | 1,058.97 |

Total ........................................... $4,495.99

Reprints and postage ................................ 360.70

Printing stationery, envelopes, billheads,
application blanks, and dues forms ............... 194.45

Treasurer's expenses (stamps and supplies) ..... 97.60

Secretary's expenses ............................. 179.61

Editor's expenses ................................ 42.13

Foray .............................................. 45.13

Ad of Society in Los Angeles Fern Society Publ... 10.00

Refunded to Agencies ............................. 20.00

AIBS Dues ......................................... 400.00

Shipping and handling back issues for 1969, 1970.. 95.12

Total ............................................... $5,940.73

Cash on hand for January 1, 1971 ....................... $4,371.81
Report of the Auditing Committee

We hereby certify that we have seen the books and accounts of Dr. LeRoy K. Henry, Treasurer of the American Fern Society, Inc., and have obtained confirmation of the correctness of the Society's balance on hand as set forth in detail in the accompanying report of the treasurer.

Dorothy L. Pearth
Auditor

January 13, 1971

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Report of the Secretary for 1970

Individual membership in the Society at the end of 1970 stands at 604 individual members and 367 institutional members. Individual members held about even with the previous year, but institutional subscriptions are up 40, which is an indication of the importance which the American Fern Journal holds with libraries around the world. Many of the new subscriptions reflect additions of the Journal to the libraries of new colleges and universities in the United States, but also include a number of new ones throughout the world. It is important to reflect on the quality of our Journal in the light of relatively high academic interest in this publication.

I report with regret the death of two members of the Society: Mr. Richard B. Chillas of Philadelphia, who has been a member since 1935, and Mrs. Elsie G. Whitney of Delmar, New York. Mrs. Whitney has been a member of the Society since 1930, was a Life Member, and served as Secretary of the Society from 1934 to 1949.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held on August 24 and 25 in conjunction with the American Institute of Biological Sciences meetings at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. The luncheon was held on August 24 and was followed by the annual meeting in the afternoon, presided over by Dr. John T. Mickel of the New York Botanical Garden. The titles of the papers presented were: "Some aspects of fern spores as seen with the scanning electron microscope," by Irving W. Knobloch; "Spores of the heterophyllous Selaginellas of Mexico and Central America," by Robert L. Hellwig; "Spore germination in the Pteridophyta: green vs. non-green spores," by Robert M. Lloyd; "Some effects of light on sexual development of Equisetum gametophytes," by Richard L. Hauke; "The gametophyte of Dryopteris marattioides Alston," by Lenette R. Atkinson; "Comparative anatomy of the tree ferns: Stelar patterns in Cyathea," by Terry W. Lucansky; "A statistical analysis of tracheids in six northeastern species of Lycopodium," by Frances M. Cardillo; "An evaluation of some early records of Keweenaw County, Michigan," by Dale J. Hagenah; "Ferns of the Llano Verde, Oaxaca, Mexico," by John T. Mickel; "Hybridization and speciation in Florida species of Thelypteris," by Alan R. Smith; "The many species of Polypodium crassifolium," by David L. Lellinger; and "Some Cretaceous Salviniales," by John W. Hall.

On August 25 The American Fern Society and the General and Developmental Sections of the Botanical Society of America co-sponsored a symposium - "Ferns as Tools in Solving Biological Problems." Titles of papers read were:

At the Council meeting it was decided that the Society would publish a quarterly newsletter in addition to the Journal. This should provide more of a medium of exchange between members and also be a place for membership lists, office reports, and other news of general interest.

Also, through the efforts of Council members of the Society and other interested pteridologists, a Pteridology Section of the Botanical Society of America was formed. Hopefully this will encourage a wider fraternity of researchers in pteridophytes and the American Fern Society, and may broaden the Society's base among the experimentalists, some of whom think of themselves as pteridologists only secondarily.

Recently the question of a booklet or general information sheet concerning ferns for the general public has been under discussion. This would be a great help for the Secretary who is frequently asked very broad and general questions concerning ferns. Dr. Lellinger, our Journal editor, has recently written a revised statement on Ferns for the Encyclopedia Britannica. They have allowed us to distribute reprints of this article, and the Council of the Society has authorized purchase of 5,000 copies of this reference article; this should be a help to the Society and of interest to new members and inquirers into the activities of the Society.

Finally, in passing on the office of Secretary to Dr. Richard L. Hauke, I wish him well in his return to the Council of the Society.

Respectfully submitted,
A. Murray Evans, Secretary

* * * * * * * * * * *

Report of the Judge of Elections

The results of balloting for officers of the American Fern Society are as follows:

For President:
Warren H. Wagner, Jr. 127
H. E. W. Nicolas Sturm 1

For Vice-President:
John T. Mickel 128
Dale Hagenah 1
Carl F. Chuey 1

For Secretary:
Richard Hauke 130

I therefore declare the following candidates elected to office: Warren H.
Wagner, Jr., President; John T. Mickel, Vice-President; Richard Hauke, Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
C. V. Morton, Judge of Elections

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

New Members

Mr. Albert Angeli
Mr. C. S. Coşentino
Mrs. Charles L. Cox, Jr.
Mrs. H. Cunningham
Mr. S. Daigobo, Bot. Inst., Fac. of Sci., Tokyo Kyoiku Univ.,
Otsuka, Bunkyo-Ku, Tokyo 112, JAPAN
Mr. Thomas Duncan, Dept. of Botany, Univ. of Mich., Ann Arbor,
MICH 48104
Miss Susan E. Eichhorn, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WISC 53706
Miss Yvonne Estes
Mrs. Elizabeth Evans
Miss Hedi Hearon,
Mr. Masami Heki
Mrs. O. A. Keywood
Mrs. Ann M. Hirsch-Kirehanski, Dept. of Botany, Univ. of Calif.,
Berkeley, CAL 94720
Mrs. Leima Kott, Dept. of Botany, Univ. of Guelph, Guelph, Ont.,
CANADA
Miss Charlotte Leide
Mrs. J. Robert Meachem
33406
Mr. Michael R. Mesler, Dept. of Botany, Univ. of Mich, Ann Arbor,
MICH 48104
Mr. K. Mitsui, Biol. Inst., Nippon Dental, Fujimi, Chiyoda-Ku Coll.,
Tokyo 102, JAPAN
Mr. Kenneth A. Moon
Mr. Robert L. Muller
Mr. Joseph A. Myers

Mrs. C. E. Nordlund
Mrs. John W. Norris
Mrs. William C. Ortt
Elizabeth Redden,
Mr. Shunske Serizawa, Bot. Inst., Fac. of Sci., Tokyo Kyoiku
Univ., Otsuka, Bunkyo-Ku, Tokyo 112, JAPAN
Mrs. Larry G. Stevens
Mr. Benton M. Stidd, Dept. of Biology, Western Ill. Univ.,
Macomb, ILL 61455
Mrs. Loring Swain
Mrs. Ruby Triplett
Mr. Harold Walpert
Mr. Larry A. Wier,
Miss R. Yoroi, Bot. Inst., Fac. of Sci., Tokyo Kyoiku Univ.,
Otsuka, Bunkyo-Ku, Tokyo 112, JAPAN

Changes of Address

Mr. Henry W. Bookout, Jr.
Dr. Donovan S. Correll
Prof. Jane M. Decker, Ohio Wesleyan Univ., Delaware, OHIO 43015
Mr. James R. Falender
Dr. Hans P. Fuchs-Eckert

Mrs. John Zell Gaston,
Orve K. Hedden,
Mr. Edwin P. Leysath
Miss Ada E. Monroe
Dr. Chihiro Takahashi, Biol. Lab., Dept. of Gen., Nagoya Univ.,
Nagoya, JAPAN
Dr. John H. Thomas, Dept. of Biol. Sci., Stanford Univ., Stanford,
CAL 94305
Mr. Raymond E. Tully, Box 1989 Harrison Hall, Purdue Univ.,
W. Lafayette, IND 47906
Dr. Pilar Veiles

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Dr. Robert J. Rodin's book on the ferns of Yosemite National Park has been
reprinted and is again available from the Yosemite Natural History Association,
Yosemite National Park, California. ($1.25).

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The International Association for Plant Taxonomy is joining with the
the Society of Systematic Zoology to organize the "First International Congress
of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology." There have been several international
botanical congresses, but this will be the first to bring together botanists
and zoologists to discuss their common interests and problems. The first announce-
ment indicates that the Congress will be August 4 through 11, 1973, The University
of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, being host. The announcement is being made in ad-
vance so that interested persons can plan to attend. Further information can be
obtained from the Secretary, Dr. James Reveal, Department of Botany, University of
Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *