Fern Society of the Philippines

A little over a year ago, a group of fern collectors, horticulturists, botanists, and students of pteridology founded the Fern Society of the Philippines. The Society has its headquarters at the Botany Department, National Museum, Executive House, P. Burgos Street, in Manila.

Meetings are held the third Sunday of the month at 3 PM, with programs of botanical and horticultural interest, including slide shows of ferns to promote an understanding of their identification. Members of the Society have participated in three plant shows, held a joint fern hunt with members of the Philippine Horticultural Society in Lucban, Quezon, and recently organized the first Annual Fern Show at the National Museum.

American Fern Society members who plan to visit Manila are welcome to contact the Fern Society of the Philippines.

Ecuadorian Ferns

On the back page of this issue you will find an itinerary of a planned foray into Ecuadorian habitats that should prove of interest to members of the American Fern Society. Betsy Feuerstein of Memphis, Tenn., has been a member of the American Fern Society since 1974 and is instrumental in organizing this trip. While it may sound somewhat rugged with transportation in dug-out canoes, she writes:

"I have been very lucky to find a group from Ecuador who are willing and in the tourist industry, but preservation oriented, to help with the logistics and local details...I have no desire to take a group into an area where there could be problems...Having traveled with this group many times, I have great confidence in them." JWS.

Looks at Books

A new book of interest to collectors in Mexico has recently been published. The book is entitled A Preliminary, Verified List of Plant Collectors in Mexico. It names 4,200 collectors (many of whom were pteridologists) and verifies these with a bibliography of some 800 titles. The book can be obtained for $16.00 domestic and $17.50 foreign from the compiler, Dr. Irving Knobloch, 438 Tulip Tree, East Lansing, MI 48823.

The Fantasies of Ferns

In the old flower language, the Fern was the symbol of sincerity. In the wood language, the mystic speech of the Magician, the Fern stands for silence. Are not these interpretations the same?

The Fern is a voiceless sentinel of the silent woodlands; it has no flower to draw to it the hum of insects. Around the margin, or following the veins of its fronds, gather the intangible spores scarce deserving the name of seed until, in a further stage of development, they generate the dual forms which mutually perpetuate the race.

The Fern does not appeal directly to insect or man through a specialized color, or perfume. The wind passing through the trees of the forest, or among the reeds of the marshes, moves them to seeming articulate speech, but it tosses the heavily mazed banks of Ferns, and sweeps the brake jungles on the wild commons, swaying them to and fro, while the silence that follows their motion is as deep as when the pad-footed cat hurries over soft turf, springs noiselessly, misses it, quarry, and crouches once more, — to the eye a bewilderment of unheard action.

From the very circumstances of its evolution and growth, the Fern is more aloof than the flowering plants and also lacks the personal attributes which have given familiar names to blossoming things. These varied attributes have led flowers through the gates of poetry into the more serious realms of prose, until they not only have become a part of literature, but have a literature all their own, while their hold on household love increases like their race.

Not so with Ferns. They have scanty literature and few gracious names. Their tribal Golden Age has passed before man came to read their meaning. Back in the time of ancient life they were evolved, and held sway when fishes were the highest type of animals. There gigantic forms of Ferns, Lycopsids and Horsetails, their work of absorbing the carbonic acid gas from the surcharged air, and transforming it into mighty forests, the only terrestrial verdure. This work complete, the atmosphere purified, these forests were in their turn submerged, turned slowly to vast beds of coal, and higher plant forms appeared above them. Though the Fern tribe as a modified type remains, it has dwindled in numbers and stature until the extinct species far exceed the living, so that the tribe that once was all in all, now holds a little fifteenth part of the earth's flora, and is a mere background, as it were, for the varied forms, glowing colors, and soft perfumes which blend to dower the flowering plants with the fascination of personality.

Reprinted from Flowers and Ferns in Their Haunts (The Macmillan Company, 1901) by Mabel Osgood Wright.
Treasurer’s Report for 1983

Total receipts amounted to $10,596.53, with $1552.27 in the checking account and $8,100.27 in the Records Treasurer’s savings account at the beginning of the year. The total of receipts was $10,616.37. The Records Treasurer’s savings account earned 13.13% interest. The balance of this savings account was $3,427.64 on December 31, 1983. This year, it was not necessary to transfer funds from this account to the Executive Clerk’s checking account for disbursements. There were two life memberships this year. Total receipts from memberships and subscriptions were $7,451.40. The net amount from the sport exchange was $248.52. This figure does not appear in the report because the check was received after the books for 1983 were closed. The amount will appear in the 1984 report.

Total disbursements amounted to $8,625.87. With $10.50 in the checking account and $7,352.40 in the Records Treasurer’s savings account at the end of the year, the gross total of $25,020.57 balances with the grand total of receipts. The Society continues to be in a very good financial condition.

As you may know by now, we have a new Records Treasurer, Dr. Leslie G. Rich, as of July 1, 1983. Thus, I wish to thank both Dr. Hickok and Dr. Judith Skog, and the Journal Editor, Dr. David Littler, for their excellent cooperation in maintaining the Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaco D. Caponetti, Treasurer

Receipts

Cash on Hand, January 1, 1983

$ 55.27

Records Treasurer

$ 9,616.27

Total

$10,171.54

Regular Memberships

Renewal

$ 350.00

New

450.50

Affiliation

17.50

Total

$ 815.00

Journal Memberships

Renewal

$2,125.40

New

1,100.00

Advances

960.40

Total

$4,285.80

Subscriptions

Renewal

$3,067.00

New

95.00

Total

$3,162.00

Sale of Fertilisogloia

$ 9.00

Sale of Back Issues of Journal

$ 1,750.00

Records Trust

33.50

Total

$ 1,783.50

Sale of Author’s Reprints

$ 721.00

Page and Plate Charges

$ 60.00

Gifts

$ 1,259.80

Records Trust

$ 1,259.80

Total

$ 2,519.60

A.I.R.S. Insurance Dividend

$ 13.00

Advancing in Journal

$ 199.00

Spare Exchange, Net

$ 0.00

Records Trust

$ 0.00

Life Memberships

$ 220.00

Interest from Banks

$ 379.73

Transfer from Treasurer’s Savings...to Checking

$ 0.00

British Fertilisogloia

47.60

Society Dues

Air Mail Costs

$ 111.00

Exchange Costs

5.75

Check Outstanding

9.00

Total Receipts

$5,105.03

$21,001.57

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR

I hereby certify that I have seen the books and accounts of James E. Caponetti, Treasurer of the American Fertilisogloia Society, Inc., and have obtained confirmation of the correctness of the Society’s balance on hand as at the end of the year, in the accompanying report of the Treasurer.

April 27, 1984

Irene Hart

Affiliated Broker

Disbursements

American Fertilisogloia Journal

Vol. 72, No. 4

$2,499.60

Vol. 73, No. 1

$2,095.33

Vol. 73, No. 2

$2,903.50

Vol. 73, No. 3

$2,529.00

Total

$10,955.03

Brown Envelope and mailing...

$ 191.71

Printing (stationery, etc.)

591.77

Prints and Postage...

297.82

Treasurer’s Expenses...

504.63

Treasurer’s Fidelity Bond...

11.00

Records Treasurer’s Expenses...

130.95

Records Treasurer’s Fidelity Bond...

50.00

Secretary’s Expenses...

391.30

Collection Services...

228.93

Journal Editor’s Expenses...

124.63

Advertisements...

51.80

Farm Payroll Expenses...

108.90

A.I.R.S. Dues...

13.00

Advance to Fertilisogloia Society...

1,000.00

Advance to Fertilisogloia Society...

1,648.00

Advance to Agencies...

8.50

Bank Charges...

3.90

Records Treasurer...

6.00

British Fertilisogloia Society...

1.32

Exchange Charges...

0.00

Total

$18,625.87

Cash on Hand, January 1, 1984

$10,596.53

Records Treasurer...

$3,953.11

GRAND TOTAL...

$33,000.37

STATEMENT, DECEMBER 31, 1983

Assets

Cash in Treasurer’s Checking Account...

$10,596.53

Cash in Records Treasurer’s Savings Account...

2,499.60

Cash in Treasurer’s Savings Account...

$2,903.50

Savings Certificate in First TN Bank...

$2,493.14

Accounts Receivable...

$1,100.00

Total...

$18,625.87

Liabilities

Advance Memberships...

$ 25.50

Advance Subscriptions...

$ 169.00

Savings Certificate...

$2,903.50

Account Payable...

$3,953.11

Total...

$33,000.37

Pensions

Opening balance January 1, 1983...

$18,625.87

Receipts from sale of Fertilisogloia...

206.00

Total...

$19,431.87

Disbursements...

0.00

Closing balance December 31, 1983...

$18,625.87

Note: including $75 in accounts receivable, which is owed from foreign sources and is not likely to be collected.

NEW YORK OFFICE — 1983

Balance on hand January 1, 1983...

$18,625.87

Income (split check)...

1,002.00

Total assets for the year...

$1,625.00

Disbursements:

Supplies...

$ 58.25

Display...

34.00

Bulk mail permits...

$ 25.00

Foreign mail...

$ 15.40

Sale of subscriptions...

$ 154.50

Total postages...

$ 1,010.94

Telephone...

$ 68.55

Employment services...

37.99

Subscriptions...

$ 438.00

Average 112 issues...

$ 438.00

Travel expenses of art director...

$ 34.50

Local expenses...

$ 6,728.70

Closing balance December 31, 1983...

$18,625.87
Rare, Endangered, Threatened and Protected
Native Ferns and Fern Allies of New York State
by Edward Frankel

In 1973, the United States Congress passed the Endangered Species Act to prevent the extinction of imperiled plants and animals. The Act defines an endangered species as "any species likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future." A rare species is "one that has a small population in its range." Recently extinct or possibly extinct species are "those plant species no longer known to exist after repeated searches of the type localities or other known or likely places." Protected plant species, as defined by New York State law enacted in 1974, are those "frequently gathered indiscriminately for flower arrangement, cultivation, or for ornamental pleasure and are then discarded." The law is intended to discourage the gathering of plants on State and private land without permission; further, it "underlines the fact that plant life on a piece of land is the property and responsibility of the landowner unlike wildlife which is managed by government agencies."

A. Federal Register

Under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has broad powers to protect and conserve all imperiled plants and animals and to periodically publish notices on species under review for federal listing. There are two fern species that are being considered for listing in the Federal Register of "Endangered and Threatened Plant Species of the United States." They are:


B. Rare Ferns in New York State

As a group, the Pteridophytes (ferns and fern allies) have the largest number of rare species in New York State. Fifteen are listed in "Rare Plants of New York State." They are known to occur nine times or fewer in the State and represent some of the most endangered of the State’s flora. They are:

1. Asplenium montanum Wild. (Mountain Spleenwort) - Threatened.
2. Asplenium viride Huds. (Green Spleenwort) - Threatened.
3. Botrychium lunaria (L.) Sw. (Moonwort) - Endangered.
5. Botrychium ternatum (Thunb.) Sw. (Ternate Grape Fern) - Threatened.
6. Cheilanthes lamano (Michx.) D.C. Rat. (Woolly Lip-fern) - Possibly Extinct.
7. Cystopteris protrusa (Lehm.) Bl. (Lowland Fragile Fern) - Threatened.
8. Lygodium palmatum (Bernh.) Sw. (Climbing Fern) - Threatened.
11. Polystichum lonchitis (L.) Roth (Northern Nolly Fern) - Endangered.
12. Schizaea pusilla Pursh (Curlygrass) - Endangered.
13. Woodia alpina (Bolt.) S.F.Gray (Alpine Woodia) - Threatened.
15. Woodia oregena B.C. Nut. var. cathcartiana (Rob.) Nut. (Cathcart's Woodia) - Endangered.

C. The New York State Protected Native Plant List

The New York State Environmental Conservation Law, effective as of Sept. 1, 1974 states that "no one may knowingly pick, pluck, sever, remove or carry away without the consent of the owner thereof any protected plant (9-1003)." Violations of the law are punishable by fines of up to $25 each. The native plants listed shall "be protected pursuant to the above law and state regulation." NYCR 1933.

The list of protected native members of the Filicinæ: Ophioglosses and Filicales) reads:


But excluding Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum), Ray-scented Fern (Bennettia punctilobula), Sensitive Fern (Onoclea sensibilis) which are not protected.

The list also states "All Clubmosses." This then would be all Lycomium spp. such as Fir Clubmoss (L. selago L.), Shining Clubmoss (L. lucidulum Michx.), Ground Pine (L. clavatum L.), Stiff Clubmoss (L. annotinum L.), Bog Clubmosses (L. inundatum L.), Fox Tail Clubmosses (L. alopecuroideg L.), Carolina Clubmosses (L. carolinianum L.), Tree Clubmosses (L. obscurum L.), Ground Cedar (L. tristachyum Pursh), Running Pine (L. complanatum L.), Juniper Clubmosses (L. sabini folium L.), Running Cedar (L. digitatum), Ground Fir (L. alpinum L.)

Selected References


Plant Collectors Dream

A trip into the Amazon Paisa of Ecuador, Nov. 23 - Dec. 3, leaving from Miami. Plant collectors who might be interested in going into this region rich in orchids, ferns, gesneriads, bromeliads, etc. call (901) 754-6271 or write Betsey Feuerstein, 2357 Thornwood Lane, Memphis, TN 38119.

Itinerary

Day 1:
Leave Miami International Airport on the early morning flight to arrive Quito, Ecuador approx. 8 AM. Must be at the Miami Airport by midnight the night before.
Arrival at the Quito Airport and transfer to the bus to take us to Coca. We will camp this first night at San Rafael Falls. Fantastic place to start a trip! Good collecting and marvelous scenery. (The trip from Quito to San Rafael Falls takes about five hours.)

Day 2:
San Rafael Falls to Coca by bus. (It takes about 5 1/2 hours to get to Coca.) Overnight at hotel in Coca. We will collect on the way.

Day 3:
Coca to the Napo River where we will board our dugout canoes for our trip upstream. Tonight we will camp along the Napo River, where the Suno River comes into the Napo. We will collect as we travel upstream. The collecting in this area should be great.

Day 4:
Today we will go up the Napo further to the Anaconda Lodge. Collecting along the way. Overnight at the Lodge. Anaconda is a small lodge built in the Indian style of thatched roofed cabins.

Day 5:
Today we'll spend collecting in the area surrounding Anaconda. The dugouts will be available for further adventure along the Napo should some wish to do such. Overnight at Anaconda.

Day 6:
To dugouts we will go up the Napo to the riverport of Misahualli, where we will meet the bus again to take us to Tena. Of course, we will collect all the way. Overnight at the Anaconda Hotel.

Day 7:
Today we will be collecting in the Tena area. We will collect along and at the end of the completed part of the road from Tena to Coca. Eleven kilometers are complete, and there is really fantastic collecting. Should be a great day. Overnight at the Anaconda Hotel.

Day 8:
Tena-Puyo by bus, collecting along the way. Overnight at the Turingia Hotel.

Day 9:
Puyo-Ambato by bus, your last chance to collect and clean your plants and to pack. On the way we will make a short stop at the Salasaca Indian village. These Indians make tapestries that are marvelous wall hangings. Overnight at Lacienea. This hotel is near Quito.

Day 10:
At the convenient time we will take the bus to go to the Quito Airport to take our flight back to Miami. Should the flight turn out to be an afternoon flight, we most likely will do some sight-seeing in Quito and possibly some souvenir hunting.

I will be in Ecuador in September with another group and most likely will make some additions for the better to this itinerary. I am constantly looking for better places to collect and newly opened areas to look into. I have found that newly opened areas are the very best to find new things and more variety.

Date: Leave in the wee hours of the Saturday morning, Nov. 24 (We will have to plan to arrive late in the evening Friday, Nov. 23, into Miami) - arrive back in Miami Monday, December 3.

BARNARD COLLEGE

Dr. Dennis W. Stevenson
Department of Biological Sciences
Barnard College
Columbia University
New York, New York 10027-5798

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