

# The American Fern Society

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## Page

## Introduction

The American Fern Society is over 100 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. To this end it encourages correspondence and the exchange of information and specimens between members via its newsletter the Fiddlehead Forum. We have "Fern Forays" into the woods every August. These field trips provide a wonderful way to learn more about wild ferns from experts and also afford an occasion to meet other people with a similar passion for ferns. This web page is designed to expand on this exchange of information with amateurs and professionals around the world. We hope that in this way many more people will be able to explore these interesting plants and their allies.

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(*Microlepia strigosa*)



## **FERN FORUM**

### **AFS Discussion Forum.**

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Ferns are a diverse, highly-evolved group of plants, yet they retain many of the characteristics that were present when plants first ventured out of the sea and onto land over 400 million years ago.

Ferns are also great plants for indoor and outdoor gardening. There are types that are great for shade gardens, sun gardens,

rock gardens, ponds, bog gardens, flower borders, and just about everywhere.

## [Learn more about ferns](#)

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### **Spore Exchange**

The American Fern Society Spore Exchange maintains a collection of fresh spores from over 800 different species of ferns . The spores ("seeds of the ferns") are donated by AFS members. A list of the ferns available each year is published in the **Fiddlehead Forum** and members who wish to grow their ferns from spores may acquire packets of spores at a nominal fee (50 cents each). The current list may be accessed by visiting our [American Fern Society Spore Exchange](#).

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(Cyathea australis)



### **Publications**

The American Fern Society has three publications. The **Fiddlehead Forum** targets the interests of amateurs. It is published bimonthly and contains articles of interest to fern growers, items concerning native ferns and notices of Society business. The society's scientific publication, the **American Fern Journal** , has been published quarterly since 1910. It is of interest principally to professional and advanced amateur botanists and is subscribed to by over 400 libraries. in the USA and around the world. [Pteridologia](#) is an occasional technical monograph series for longer works.

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### **Membership**

Membership in the American Fern Society comes in two different forms. You may become a regular member and receive the **Fiddlehead Forum** for \$8.00 per year or a Journal member and

receive both the **Fiddlehead Forum** and the **American Fern Journal** for \$15.00 US (Outside the US, including Canada and Mexico: \$11.00 for basic membership or \$22.00 for Journal membership).

[PRINT the Membership Form](#)

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**Please; post your questions on our [Fern Forum](#).** Fern Forum is our Discussion Board and is our communication portal for anything related to ferns, for the hobbyist as well as the professional, or anyone with an interest or a question about ferns. It is not possible for me to answer all of the questions that I receive by email. My involvement with ferns is as a hobbyist and as a gardener.

(Adiantum pedatum)



The American Fern Society Home Page is currently maintained by [Stephen McDaniel](#).

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This page was last revised on 011-12-2001.

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