

# Fiddlehead Forum

*Bulletin of The American Fern Society*

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Editors: Joan Nester-Hudson and David Schwartz

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ISSN 0733-8015

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## *Eastern Massachusetts Fern Foray 2010*

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To start off their Botany 2010 experience, three dozen fern enthusiasts ventured to three sites in eastern Massachusetts on Saturday, July 31. We departed from the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island shortly after eight am and arrived at Houghton Pond in Milton, Massachusetts, less than one hour later.

Eager to get into the field, we met with the trip coordinators, Don Lubin and Ray Abair of the New England Wild Flower Society, and reboarded the tour bus for a short trip to the day's first site, Ponka-pog Pond in the 7000-acre Blue Hills Metropolitan District Commission Reservation, just south of Boston. At this site, we encountered 16 taxa, including several notable *Dryopteris*.

The bus stopped on a dead-end road and soon we were on a well-made dirt and gravel path which began immediately down a gentle slope into the woods. Hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) was the first species encountered, and it spread rather extensively near the entrance to the trail. As we ambled along the first few yards of the trail, one particularly keen-sighted observer spotted Flat-branched Tree Clubmoss (*Lycopodium obscurum*) tucked amongst the *Dennstaedtia* and other dense woodland flora. A few New York Fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*) were found shortly after, their tapered fronds drawing notice from several members.

As the trail began to flatten out, we came across a large grouping of Osmundas, with robust specimens of Cinnamon Fern (*O. cinnamomea*), Interrupted Fern (*O. claytoniana*), and Royal Fern, (*O. regalis*) growing together to the right of the trail. While Don Lubin discussed field identification of these species with most of the members of the trip, Ray Abair led small groups down a short path to see a single specimen of *Dryopteris x slossonae* (Fig.1), a hybrid of Mar-



Fig. 1. *Dryopteris X slossonae*.

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The Editors of FIDDLEHEAD FORUM welcome contributions from members and friends, including miscellaneous notes, and reviews of books on ferns. Articles may be submitted electronically on disk (PC compatible) or typed (using a simple font like Helvetica in a minimum of a 12 pt. font.)

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ginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*), and Crested Wood Fern (*Dryopteris cristata*).

As the last few members returned from their short side venture to see the unusual hybrid, the group continued on at an admirable pace into a rather low area, flanked with skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) to the right and Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) to the left. Scattered along the narrowing trail were Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*) and Massachusetts Fern (*Thelypteris simulata*), which was a highlight, considering we were observing the species at its type locality. This find, combined with several members' efforts to locate young fertile fronds of Sensitive Fern, kept us occupied for a short while, but before long, the group left the main trail and forged on up a small hill in search of a mixed bag of *Dryopteris*.

Led by trip leader Don Lubin, we encountered several dozen Spinulose Wood Fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*) and Evergreen Wood Fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*) alongside their hybrid progeny, *Dryopteris x triploidea*, all showcased in the flickering light of the forest floor. Nearby, an unusual find drew the attention of all on the trip. To the right of the trail stood a single dark-green Mountain Wood Fern (*Dryopteris campyloptera*), which our trip coordinators had first observed at the site just a few weeks before our trip.

The final taxon found at the site was Netted Chain Fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), which was growing happily in a small wet area just downhill from the assortment of *Dryopteris*. Pleased with the offerings of Ponkapoag Pond, we climbed aboard the bus a few minutes ahead of schedule (!) and headed for the second stop on our tour.

Many of us were surprised when the tour bus slowed and pulled onto the shoulder of a rather winding section of Unquity Road, just a few miles north of Ponkapoag. We marched along the roadside for one hundred yards or so to the trailhead. Growing in thick patches throughout the woods, Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*, Fig. 2) was the first species encountered at this site,

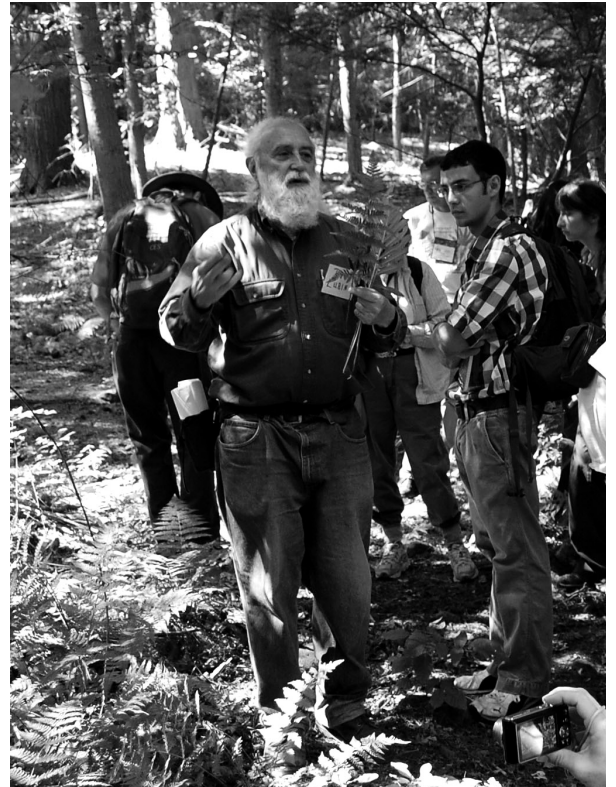


Fig. 2. Trip leader Don Lubin discussing identification of Lady Fern, *Athyrium filix-femina* and Hay-scented Fern, *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*.

the plants' vibrant, yellow-green fronds often overflowing into the path. In the wet woods below the trail, down yet another flagged path, small groups were able to study *Dryopteris cristata* and its hybrid with *D. intermedia*, *D. X boottii*. A short time later we came across Narrow Beech Fern, (*Phegopteris connectilis*). Continuing further into the forest, the terrain began to slope upwards, and the trail soon faded amongst boulders and thick leaf litter. Scattered throughout the area were several new species of club-moss, including Southern Ground Cedar (*Diphasiastrum digitatum*), Shining Clubmoss (*Huperzia lucidula*), and Hickey's Tree Clubmoss, (*Lycopodium hickeyi*, Fig. 3). Finding the last species in the presence of James Hickey did not go without notice, and more than one joke was made at the expense of both man and plant.



Fig. 3. Hickey's Tree Clubmoss, *Lycopodium hickeyi*.

Moving on with a quickening pace, we soon came upon the other local Beech Fern, Broad Beech Fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, Fig. 4), its winged rachis distinguishing it from its previously-encountered rela-

tive. Nearby we found a single Cut-Leaf Grape Fern (*Botrychium dissectum*) growing next to a fallen tree trunk. The unusually hot and dry summer had left it rather wilted, but it was still a treat to find. A few yards to the right were a few Silvery Glade Fern (*Deparia acrostichoides*), faring a bit better than their grape fern neighbor. We trudged further up the wooded hillside upon hearing news that some Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*) lay ahead.

As we walked alongside an old stone wall, abundant Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*), not ferns, caught our attention. Being careful to not trample any of the plants, we admired their rich, variegated foliage and subtly attractive flowers for a few minutes before turning our attention back to the ferns. Waiting for us at the top of the slope was a single Ebony Spleenwort peeking out from the leaf litter. While neither large nor showy, it was a hardy specimen, and each of our trip leaders recalled encountering the same plant, in much the same condition, for at least the past twenty years. Having seen much that the area had to offer in terms of ferns, we headed back down a wide trail towards the bus and our awaiting lunches.

We ate our meals as the bus traveled through Boston, our progress slowed as the city prepared for a mid-afternoon Boston Red Sox game. Despite this delay, we arrived at Horn Pond Mountain in Woburn, Massachusetts, fifteen minutes ahead of schedule. Eager to continue botanizing, we milled about the parking area until it was time to venture up the mountain a few minutes later. Walking past the calm, greenish-blue waters of Horn Pond, we continued on a small paved road and began our ascent up the 237-foot-high "mountain." The steepness of the trek slowed our pace only slightly, and before long, ferns began to appear along the sides of the trail. The first species encountered was Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), with several large specimens growing to the right of the trail just a few hundred feet



Fig. 4. Broad Beech Fern, *Phegopteris hexagonoptera*

from the trailhead. After admiring the dark, leathery foliage of this cosmopolitan species for a few moments, we continued along, scanning the under-

growth for any ferns that might be hidden from plain sight. Around the next bend of the trail we spotted a fine specimen of Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) growing on a steep, shady bank. This sighting brought our list of wood ferns to an impressive seven taxa.

We were hiking up a particularly steep part of the mountain when trip leader Don Lubin suddenly turned off into the undergrowth and began trudging towards an overgrown rock wall. He informed us that there was Blunt-lobed Woodsia (*Woodsia obtusa*)

found there, and small groups of four and five of us followed two small trails leading to the plant, which was growing from within the dilapidated wall. Like



Fig. 5. Group members taking a break at a large fallen tree at the Unquity Rd. site.

the *Botrychium* and *Deparia* at the previous site, the *Woodsia* was in poor condition given the lack of rainfall the area had seen that summer.

As the last members ventured off to see the *Woodsia*, the rest of us rested for a few minutes at a large clearing near the top of the hill and enjoyed a beautiful view of downtown Boston, just twelve miles to the southeast. On the rocks here we added Rock Spike-moss (*Selaginella rupestris*) to our species list. We retraced our steps to the clearing where we had paused after our *Woodsia* sighting, and the group's more adventurous members started down a steep narrow path that headed off to the right. Those who managed to maneuver down the slope successfully enjoyed a fine collection of Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), which grew in several small colonies amongst the talus and sheer rock. Soon, the slope flattened out, and those who had clambered down it turned towards the left to meet up with those who had opted to take a gentler route. Along the way, many members of this rock-climbing bunch took another short detour back up another part of the slope in search of Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes* ssp. *quadriva-*

*lens*). A small number of diminutive ferns were found tucked amongst a large rock outcropping, their dainty, light green foliage standing out against the dark grey boulder that anchored them. Our adventurous impulses satisfied, those of us who had ventured down the slope met up with the rest of the group, and we all made our way back to the bus. We bid farewell to our trip leaders, and headed back for Rhode Island.

Within one hour, we were again in Providence, with a little time to reflect on our trip before dinner. The group thoroughly enjoyed the foray, and was particularly thankful for our trip leaders' patience with us throughout the day. They had planned enough time at each of the stops for a large group to see and study the ferns. There was nice opportunity to see pairs of species together with the leaders explaining the differences. In total, we encountered 37 taxa, with *Dryopteris* being the most widely-represented. It was a memorable excursion, not just because of the places and ferns encountered during the day, but also for the conversation among the participants and leaders in the field and on the bus rides.



Fig. 6. A view of downtown Boston from atop Horn Mountain.

*Please consider making a submission to the Fiddlehead Forum.  
We need you!*

# Ferns on Postage Stamps — an Update

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by James D. Montgomery, *Ecology III, Berwick, PA*

In 2004 I listed ferns and lycophytes that have appeared on postage stamps from around the world (Montgomery, J. D. 2004. Ferns on Postage Stamps. *Fiddlehead Forum* 31 (1) 1-7). This article presents an update, correcting a few listings and adding the many stamps that have appeared in the last few years. The first article listed 69 stamps showing 60 species of ferns and lycophytes and 3 fossils. These stamps were from 28 different countries or stamp-issuing entities (some places, such as Jersey and Guernsey in Great Britain, issue stamps separately from the parent country; these are counted as different listings by most stamp collectors and catalogs).

In the six years since the first list, fern stamps have multiplied rapidly, and with the help of several people who responded to the first article, I have found a few earlier items. Forty-four separate stamps from 16 countries can be added to the list for a total of 113 stamps (Table 1). These come from 40 different “countries” (Table 2). Several countries, especially New Zealand, have issued more than one stamp or set of stamps.

The United States has continued to issue the series of Nature in America sheets. The only one to show ferns are the Pacific Coast Rain Forest (2000) and the Eastern Deciduous Forest (2005). The deciduous forest sheet shows four species. Unfortunately the “Common Polypody” is identified as *Polypodium polypodioides* instead of *P. virginianum*! There will be, according to the Postal Service, a sheet for the Hawaiian Rain Forest in 2010 — stay tuned.

New Zealand, which uses a fern as one of their national symbols, has issued several stamps that show ferns. Some are rather stylized and difficult to place as a particular species; one of these is a Christmas stamp of 2006 that shows a diagrammatic fiddlehead (the second known fiddlehead stamp) with an enlarged pinna decorated as a Christmas tree! Another very nice New Zealand stamp from 2006 shows a New Zealand Scaup (a duck) with tree ferns in the background. This stamp is not a true postage stamp but a “Game Bird Habitat” stamp, like the “duck stamps” issued for hunting from the United States. It may be difficult to find, but is worth looking for as a nice addition to one’s collection.

Some other notable items include the set of mineral stamps issued by Mozambique, one of which shows

*Glossopteris*, a fossil seed fern. Although not technically a fern, but a primitive seed plant, I include it in my collection because it is “fern-like.” And I like the stamp — this is a hobby! The nice set of ten ferns from the Faroe Islands (the largest set issued to date showing exclusively ferns) was illustrated and discussed in the latest *Pteridologist* by Graham Ackers (2009. Fern Postage Stamps from the Faroe Islands. *Pteridologist* 5(2): 127-128). Slovenia has issued two nice sets showing ferns. One shows *Azolla* and *Marsilea* as a part of a series on aquatic plants (the *Marsilea* is a sheetlet containing one stamp). A set of wildflower stamps (17 stamps!) includes one of *Asplenium adulterinum*. The set of four stamps from Jamaica, issues for Christmas 2008, shows parts of fronds and a fiddlehead, not all from the same fern, and the species are not identified.

The botanical quality has continued to be variable. Good examples are the set from Botswana (1992 — missed in the earlier article), the pairs of stamps from Norfolk Island and the set of ten from Faroe Islands mentioned above. Poorer images are the barely recognizable *Asplenium australasicum* from the food products series of Niue, and the vacations stamp from France, which is evidently a photograph showing *Phegopteris connectilis*.

There are three new entries for the stamps that show ferns incidentally. Switzerland in 2004 issued a stamp showing a doorbell (surely an unusual subject for a postage stamp!) with a small sprig of *Asplenium ruta-muraria*. The 1986 set of wildflower stamps from Jersey (Great Britain) shows a small snippet of *Asplenium trichomanes* in the corner of one of the stamps. The surprise, however, is that the first day cover for this set shows *Anogramma leptophylla* in very fine detail. First Day Covers are issued in many countries as special envelopes with the stamps affixed and cancelled at the date and location of issue of the stamp(s). The third entry, unidentified tree ferns on a Game Bird Habitat stamp from New Zealand, was mentioned above.

Finally, there is no end in sight. Scott Smith recently sent me a stamp that he had created on zazzle.com showing a nice image of a *Botrychium*. Several countries, including the United States and Canada allow creation of

valid postage stamps using electronic images embedded in a format that includes a premium payment.

As before, stamps can be obtained from several sources. One needs to know the catalog number and country of issue (shown on Table 1). Sources include stamp dealers, either at shops or stamp shows, e-Bay under “stamps,” and other sites on the internet. Some are fairly easy to find and not very expensive. Commonly collected countries like New Zealand and Great Britain

are easier than obscure ones like Niue and Mauritius. I have looked for several years for a 1993 set from Mozambique without success. Finally, as before, I’m sure I have missed a few things. If you know of any please let me know ([jimm37@verizon.net](mailto:jimm37@verizon.net), or the Publications Curator’s address herein). My thanks to the several people who responded to the first article with additions and suggestions.

## *Ferns on Postage Stamps — Revised List*

**Table 1. Species of Ferns on Postage Stamps**

species	country	date	Scott #
<i>Actiniopteris radiata</i>	Botswana	1992	541
<i>Actiniopteris radiata</i>	South Africa: Venda	1985	125
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Singapore	1990	585
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>	South Africa: Venda	1985	126
<i>Adiantum incisum</i>	Botswana	1992	540
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	USSR	1987	5576
<i>Adiantum tetraphyllum</i>	Belize	1978	407
<i>Anogramma ascensionis</i>	Ascension Island	1980	251
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Great Britain: Jersey	1972	61
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505d
<i>Asplenium adulterinum</i>	Slovenia	2007	686
<i>Asplenium alvarezense</i>	Tristan da Cunha	1989	461
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Niue	1976	185
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Norfolk Island	2008	951
<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	China	2009	3896
<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	Christmas Island	1989	241
<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	Singapore	1990	586
<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	Tuvalu	1987	439
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	Christmas Island	1989	239
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Liechtenstein	1992	989
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505j
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Liechtenstein	1992	987
<i>Asplenium X sarniense</i>	Great Britain: Guernsey	1975	119
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505e
<i>Blechnum magellanicum</i>	Falkland Islands	1997	674
<i>Blechnum occidentale</i>	Trinidad & Tobago	1991	531
<i>Blechnum palmiforme</i>	Tristan da Cunha	1972	167
<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i>	Falkland Islands	1997	675
<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i>	French So. & Antarctic Lands	1989	145
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Liechtenstein	1992	986
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Liechtenstein	1971	482
<i>Botryopteris</i> sp. (fossil)	German Dem. Rep. (DDR)	1973	1447
<i>Ceratopteris cornuta</i>	Botswana	1992	542
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Ireland	1986	656
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	USSR	1987	5573
<i>Cibotium taiwanense</i>	China	2009	3899

**Table 1. Species of Ferns on Postage Stamps (cont'd.) rev. 7/10**

species	country	date	Scott #
<i>Crypsinus hastatus</i>	Korea	1979	1156
<i>Cyathea lepifera</i>	China	2009	3898
<i>Cyathea spinulosa</i>	China	2009	3897
<i>Cyathea</i> sp.	Mauritius	1989	693
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505g
<i>Davallia denticulata</i>	Christmas Island	1989	240
<i>Davallia denticulata</i>	Singapore	1990	587
<i>Davallia solida</i>	French Polynesia	1987	495
<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Australia	1996	1534
<i>Dryopteris ascensionis</i>	Ascension Island	1980	255
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	United States	2005	3899
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505c
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505f
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Switzerland	1993	B592
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Yugoslavia	1957	475
<i>Elaphoglossum hybridum</i>	Tristan da Cunha	1989	462
<i>Elaphoglossum randii</i>	French So. & Antarctic Lands	1988	133
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Finland: Åland Islands	2000	177
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Mozambique	1993	1208
<i>Eriosorum cheilanthoides</i>	Tristan da Cunha	1989	460
<i>Gleichenia bifida</i>	Trinidad & Tobago	1991	533
<i>Gleichenia cryptocarpa</i>	Falkland Islands	1997	672
<i>Glossopteris brancai</i> (fossil)	Mozambique	1971	494
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505a
<i>Huperzia phlegmaria</i>	Christmas Island	1989	238
<i>Isoetes hystrix</i>	Great Britain: Guernsey	1975	120
<i>Lycopodium annotinum</i>	Finland: Åland Islands	2000	180
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Poland	1967	1514
<i>Lycopodium magallanicum</i>	Falkland Isl. Dependencies	1981	IL53
<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i>	United States	2005	3899
<i>Lycopodium saururus</i>	French So. & Antarctic Lands	1988	122
<i>Lygodium polymorphum</i>	Belize	1978	405
<i>Lygodium volubile</i>	Trinidad & Tobago	1991	530
<i>Marattia purpurascens</i>	Ascension Island	1980	256
<i>Marattia salicina</i>	Norfolk Island	2008	953
<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	Slovenia	2006	675
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> (fiddlehd.)	Canada	1998	1741
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	USSR	1987	5575
<i>Nephrolepis saligna</i>	Tuvalu	1987	438
<i>Ophioglossum crotalophoroides</i>	Falkland Islands	1997	673
<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	Great Britain: Guernsey	1975	122
<i>Ophioglossum opacum</i>	Tristan da Cunha	1989	463
<i>Pellaea calomelanos</i>	Botswana	1992	543
<i>Pellaea dura</i>	South Africa: Venda	1986	655
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505h
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	France	2008	3441
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Ireland	1986	655
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Liechtenstein	1992	988
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	USSR	1987	5572
<i>Phymatosorus scolopendria</i>	French Polynesia	1986	449
<i>Phymatosorus scolopendria</i> **	Tuvalu	1987	440



**Table 1. Species of Ferns on Postage Stamps (cont'd.) rev. 7/10**

species	country	date	Scott #
<i>Platyserium coronarium</i>	Singapore	1990	584
<i>Polypodium lycopodioides</i>	Trinidad & Tobago	1991	532
<i>Polypodium polypodioides</i>	South Africa: Venda	1985	127
<i>Polypodium virginianum*</i>	United States	2005	3899
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505b
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Finland: Åland Islands	2000	182
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	United States	2005	3899
<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>	Faroe Islands	2008	505i
<i>Psilotum nudum</i>	Tuvalu	1987	442
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Cameroon	1979	666
<i>Pteris ascensionis</i>	Ascension Island	2004	848ss
<i>Pteris tripartita</i>	Tuvalu	1987	441
<i>Pteris zahlbruckneriana</i>	Norfolk Island	2008	950
<i>Salvinia natans</i>	Slovenia	2006	674
<i>Salvinia natans</i>	USSR	1987	5574
<i>Sphenopteris hollandica</i> (fossil)	German Dem. Rep. (DDR)	1973	1445
<i>Thelypteris oblitterata</i>	Belize	1978	409
<i>Tmisipteris norfolkensis</i>	Norfolk Island	2008	952
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>	Ireland	1986	657
<i>Xiphopteris ascensioniense</i>	Ascension Island	1980	252
<i>X Asplenophyllitis microdon</i>	Great Britain: Guernsey	1975	121
unidentified fern fiddlehead	New Zealand	2006	2088
unidentified fern	New Zealand	2006	2069c
unidentified fern	New Zealand	2006	2070a
unidentified fossil fern	Switzerland	1961	B307
unidentified tree fern	Australia	2007	2726

\* identified on sheet as *P. polypodioides*

\*\* as *Microsorium scolopendrium*

**Table 2. Countries Issuing Postage Stamps with Ferns**

country	date	Scott #	topic	set
Ascension Island	1980	251-56	flora	4/6
Ascension Island	2004	843-48	flora	1/5
Australia	1996	1524,34	flora and fauna	1/10 (i)
Australia	2007	2726	botanical gardens	1/5
Belize	1978	405,07,09	flowers and ferns	3/6
Botswana	1992	540-43	ferns	4/4
Cameroon	1979	666	medicinal plants	1/2
Canada	1998	1741	scenic highways	1/4
China	2009	3896-99	ferns	4/4
Christmas Island	1989	238-41	ferns	4/4
Falkland Islands	1997	672-75	ferns	4/4
Falkland Islands Dependencies	1981	IL53	flora	1/6
Faroe Islands	2008	505a-j	ferns	1/1
Finland: Åland Islands	2000	177,80,82	swamp plants	3/6
France	2008	3441	vacations	1/10
French Polynesia	1986	449	medicinal plants	1/3
French Polynesia	1987	495	medicinal plants	1/3
French Southern & Antarctic Lands	1986	122	plants	1/2

**Table 2. Countries Issuing Postage Stamps with Ferns (cont'd.)**

country	date	Scott #	topic	set
French Southern & Antarctic Lands	1988	133	fern	1/1
French Southern & Antarctic Lands	1989	145	fern	1/1
German Democratic Republic (DDR)	1973	1445,47	fossils	2/6
Great Britain	1955	309-12	castles & Queen Elizabeth	4/4 (i)
Great Britain	1959	371-74	castles & Queen Elizabeth	4/4 (i)
Great Britain: Guernsey	1975	119-22	ferns	4/4
Great Britain: Jersey	1972	61	flora	1/4
Great Britain: Jersey	1986	398		1/3 (i)
Ireland	1986	655-57	ferns	3/3
Jamaica	2008	1084-87	ferns (Christmas)	4/4
Korea	1979	1156	nature conservation	1/10
Liechtenstein	1971	482	flowers	1/4
Liechtenstein	1992	986-89	ferns	4/4
Mauritius	1989	693	plants	1/17
Mozambique	1991	494	minerals	1/9
Mozambique	1993	1205-08	medicinal plant	1/4
New Zealand	1982	766	birds	1/6 (i)
New Zealand	1996	1357	scenic views	1/6 (i)
New Zealand	2006	2069c	greetings	1/10
New Zealand	2006	2070	philatelic exhib.	1/2
New Zealand	2006	2088	Christmas	1/6
New Zealand	2006	n/a	game birds (0)	1 (i)
Niue	1976	179-88	food products	1/10
Norfolk Island	2008	950-53	ferns	4/4
Poland	1967	1514	medicinal plants	1/6
Singapore	1990	584-87	ferns	4/4
Slovenia	2006	674-75	aquatic plants	2/2
Slovenia	2007	686	flora	1/17
South Africa	1982	609	prehistoric animals	1/4 (i)
South Africa: Venda	1985	124-27	ferns	4/4
Switzerland	1961	B307	rocks and fossils	1/5
Switzerland	1993	B592	woodland plants	1/4
Switzerland	2004	1180	doorbell	1 (i)
Trinidad & Tobago	1991	530-34	ferns	4/4
Tristan da Cunha	1972	167	native flora	1/12
Tristan da Cunha	1989	460-63	ferns	4/4
Tuvalu	1987	438-42	ferns	5/5
United States	2000	3378	Pacific Coast rain forest	0/10 (i)
United States	2005	3899	eastern forest	4/10
USSR	1987	5572-76	ferns	5/5
Yugoslavia	1957	475	medicinal plants	1/9

0 game bird habitat = "duck stamp"

i = incidental in stamp design.

*Thank you to all of the 2010 contributors!*

# Somewhere, near the North Star Trail

by Richard Staniforth, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Standing up from a prolonged crouch position when one is middle-aged does not always come easily! This time was no easier. My body had to push skywards through thick alder shrubbery and low spiky spruce branches, but I had just found a small patch of Robert's ferns so it was worthwhile. My empty plastic bread bags had specimens; lady's fern, wood fern, a crested fern, several horsetails and three clubmosses. I was happy! More data points for my fern distribution retirement project. Now to head back to the mini-van less than 50m through the dense tamarack-cedar-spruce forest parked on the gravel forestry road. Let's see — it was in that direction wasn't it? Or did I turn around to get a better photographic angle on my newly discovered ferns?



The dog ran with determination in yet another direction. Aha! I followed, only to eventually discover that the thirsty animal had scented out a pool of smelly, microbiologically diverse, but apparently refreshing bog water, and not a short cut to man's best friend — a misplaced vehicle.

Don't panic! Look around! Okay, in that direction there were trees, coincidentally there were similar

trees in the other directions, too. The sun, where was the sun? There was no sun. Can I climb a tall tree and spy out for a local landmark? There were no tall trees.

There were no landmarks.

I shouted until I was hoarse — shouting didn't work!

A single hoot from a car horn gave me the direction that my dear wife was waiting patiently in the car with her book! Salvation!

"Hello dear, was I longer than I should have been?" "I am glad that you had a good book to read." "Probably didn't notice that I had been half an hour, eh?" I started to notice that there were faint but unusually deep lines of anxiety around the eyes.

"Not knowing what to do, I phoned our neighbor (100km away) for advice." "He said that he would be willing to phone the Royal Canadian

Mounted Police unless I phone back in ten minutes with good news."

"Oh!"

The dog, patiently seated on the roadside, wistfully turned his head to look back at the forest, straightened up and gave an exaggerated yawn.



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## *Memberships*

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**2011 Membership renewals and new memberships** can be made online at [www.amerfernsoc.org/member](http://www.amerfernsoc.org/member).

A printable membership application is also available at this website.

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## *The Spore Exchange*

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*The Spore Exchange* was not printed this past year in the Fiddlehead Forum. The available fern spores are listed on the AFS website. Information concerning how to collect fern spores is also available. From the website: We are in need of fresh spores. If you are interested in donating spores please visit our spore collecting page at the AFS website, [www.amerfernsoc.org](http://www.amerfernsoc.org). The American Fern Society Spore Exchange is an important part of the American Fern Society. One of the goals of the AFS is to cultivate ferns. The Exchange makes hundreds of ferns available that would otherwise be unobtainable for most members. Our collections can be easily expanded and diversified. Often times members can share spores from rare or endangered ferns thereby

safeguarding the species so that our grandchildren may also enjoy these beautiful plants. The Exchange was begun in the early '60s and has been successfully swapping ferns ever since.

The spores from the ferns listed in the exchange have been donated by the members of the AFS. Members of the AFS may order the ferns listed by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope, plus 50 cents for each fern ordered to:

Denia Mandt  
AFS Spore Exchange  
12616 Ibbetson Ave.  
Downey CA, 90242  
[deniamandt@verizon.net](mailto:deniamandt@verizon.net)