

## **The Dutch fern society: De Nederlandse Varenvereniging**

“De Nederlandse Varenvereniging” was founded in 1989. Our membership is around 130 who are mostly Dutch and Belgium fern lovers though we would like to receive members from other countries. We try to extend the connections with other fern lovers in the world and have contacts with German, Swiss, American and English fern lovers.

Most members are interested outsiders, who gain a lot of pleasure in growing beautiful and interesting ferns in their gardens and they like to deal with ferns in a relaxing way. But we try to give those members who have more scientific aspiration also a satisfaction feeling. We think that growing one's own ferns is a stimulating hobby so we like to encourage members to sow spores. Also we think that having knowledge of the facts of determination give a satisfying feeling.

Every year we organise two meetings and two or three trips to places of (fern) interest. These may be a wild fern site, a nursery, or an interesting garden. At least once a year we gather in the little seed house of the Hortus Botanicus at Leiden. This botanical garden exists since at least from 1594 when Carolus Clusius founded here a systematic garden based on the most modern botanical insights of the time. In this garden our present Society Chairman Harry Roskam has worked for 15 years as a volunteer and has created a fern garden of the highest standard. Much has to be done to give all the ferns the right label. Ferns grown from spore from other botanical garden are often misnamed.

The Society tries to publish the journal “Varen-Varia” three times a year with reports of gatherings and excursions, experience of members with their own collections and sometimes more scientific articles. The language of the journal and also of our blog is mainly in Dutch but we plan to also have summaries in English and German.

We are planning a new website but this is not yet online. In the meantime please see our blog at <http://www.nederlandse-varenvereniging.blogspot.com/>.

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