

CELEBRATE LIFE IN  
JEFFERSON'S VIRGINIA

# albemarle



## FERNS

ANCIENT AND MAGICAL

April / May 2016 \$4.99



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- PHOTOGRAPHER ROBERT LLEWELLYN FOCUSES ON FERNS
- KESWICK HALL AND GOLF RESORT • HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN VIRGINIA
- DESIGN HOUSE 2016 • TRIVIA: IT'S ALL A BUZZ • LAST LAUGH
- EVENTS IN AND AROUND JEFFERSON'S VIRGINIA

## Embrace Spring In Virginia

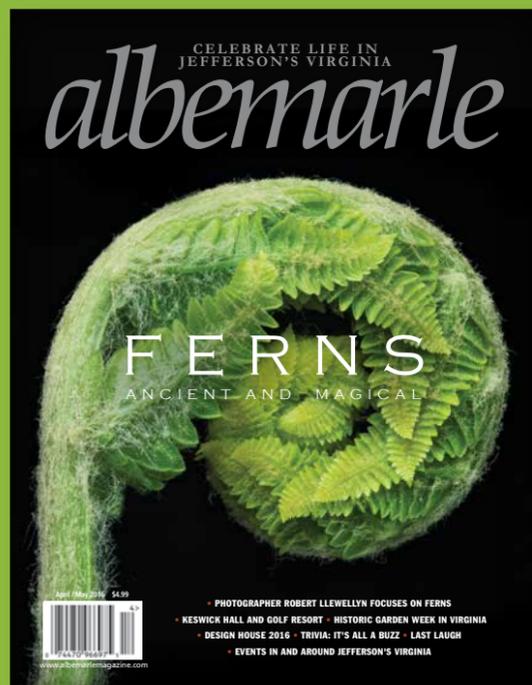
Each issue of *albemarle* Magazine strives to showcase the people, places, and events that make our corner of the world so exceptional.

It is time to embrace Spring in Virginia.

Whether you are looking to get outside and enjoy a hobby or seek a new adventure, we have plenty of fun activities to keep you busy as a bee! Gardening enthusiasts get ready to experience the beauty of Virginia's Historic Garden Week. Virginia craft beer, cider, and wine fans enjoy sipping award-winning beverages and new releases. Music lovers can attend festivals large and small to hear lively tunes from their favorite artists. Take a trip down Skyline Drive for some excellent sightseeing, take a hike in a nearby state park, or head to the coast to view Chesapeake Bay. Our Commonwealth becomes a playground for residents and visitors looking for new and exciting pastimes.

Fill your weekends with these exciting seasonal activities in Virginia to create unforgettable memories this Spring.

Thank you. *a*



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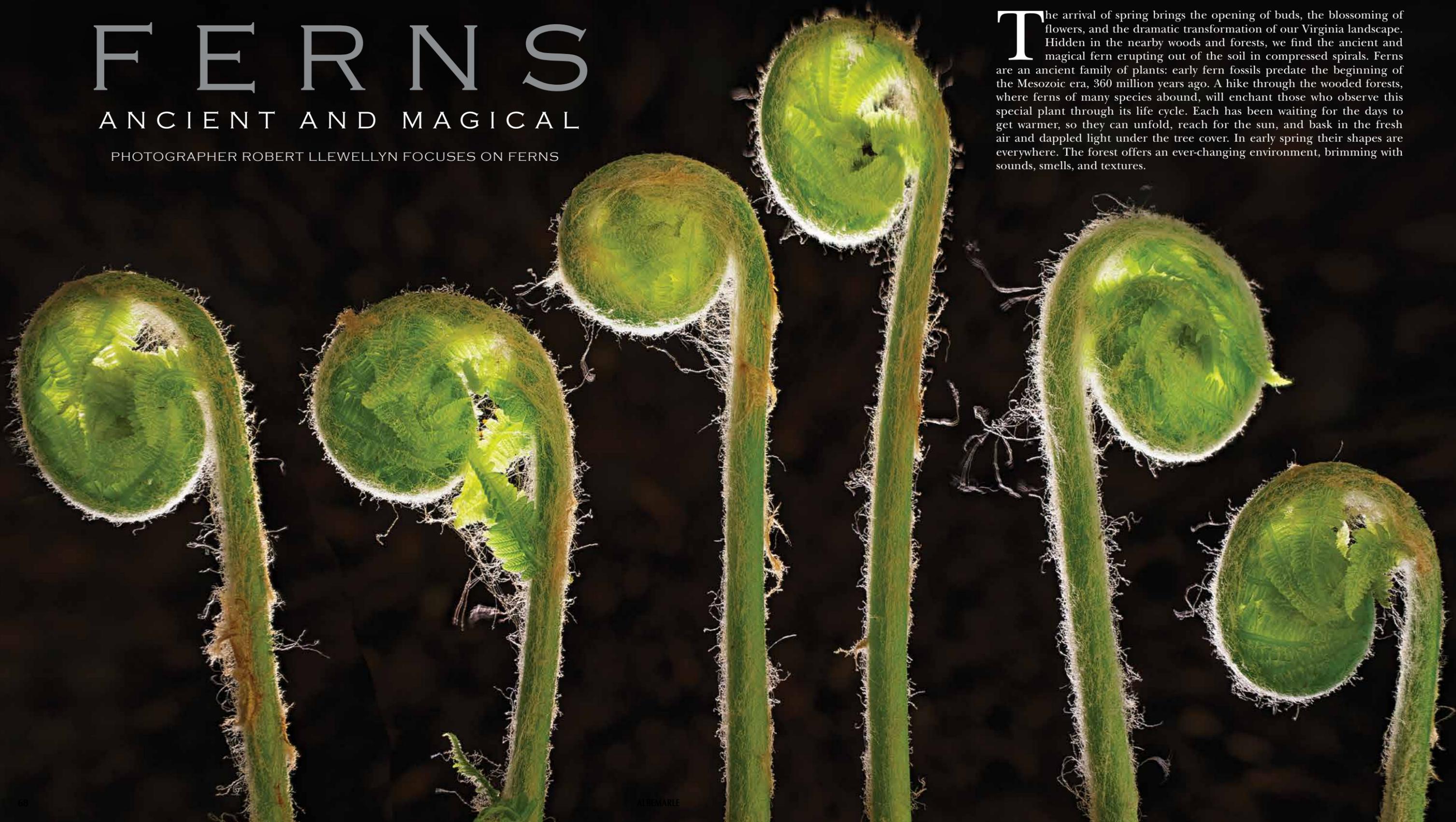
On the Cover: Connect with history and culture, enjoy nature, and make new discoveries. Photo By Robert Llewellyn

# FERNS

## ANCIENT AND MAGICAL

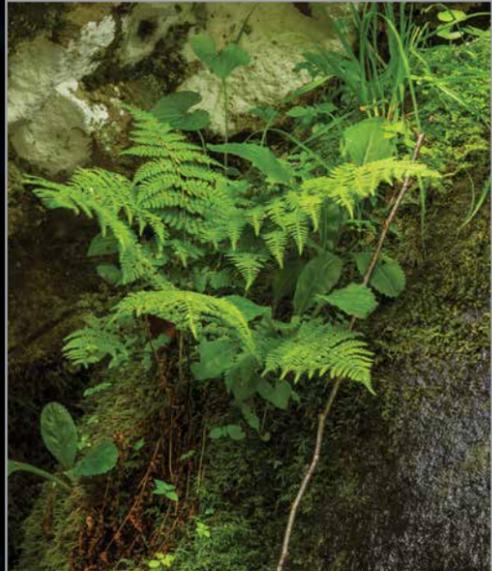
PHOTOGRAPHER ROBERT LLEWELLYN FOCUSES ON FERNS

The arrival of spring brings the opening of buds, the blossoming of flowers, and the dramatic transformation of our Virginia landscape. Hidden in the nearby woods and forests, we find the ancient and magical fern erupting out of the soil in compressed spirals. Ferns are an ancient family of plants: early fern fossils predate the beginning of the Mesozoic era, 360 million years ago. A hike through the wooded forests, where ferns of many species abound, will enchant those who observe this special plant through its life cycle. Each has been waiting for the days to get warmer, so they can unfold, reach for the sun, and bask in the fresh air and dappled light under the tree cover. In early spring their shapes are everywhere. The forest offers an ever-changing environment, brimming with sounds, smells, and textures.





Ferns in a myriad of shapes and sizes can be found in almost any habitat within Shenandoah National Park.



**F**erns can be discovered in almost any habitat within Shenandoah National Park. These primitive vascular plants reproduce through spores instead of seeds, and can live anywhere from the rich moist soil around a spring to the dry crevice in a cliff face. The Park supports approximately 60 species of fern and an additional 20 species of related spore producing plants (fern allies) such as club mosses and horsetails.

Shenandoah's mid-Atlantic location straddles the ranges of both northern and southern adapted species creating

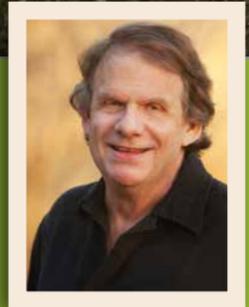
relatively high fern diversity. Some species in the park such as the Goldie's wood fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*), and the rusty cliff fern (*Woodsia ilvensis*) are adapted to high elevation habitats characteristic of more northern forests. Other species such as the Netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), and the hairy lip fern (*Cheilanthes lanosa*) are more characteristic of the southern states.

Ferns can grow in a myriad of shapes and sizes. Shenandoah supports not only the southern adder's tongue fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) with its simple

un-divided leaf measuring only six centimeters (about three-inches) tall when full-grown, all the way up to species like the royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) with its large divided leaves that can grow up to 180 centimeters (over six feet) tall.

Shenandoah National Park offers cascading waterfalls, spectacular vistas, quiet wooded hollows—take a hike, meander along Skyline Drive, or picnic with the family. Connect with history and culture, enjoy nature, and make new discoveries. Visit [www.nps.gov/shen](http://www.nps.gov/shen) or [www.FindYourPark.com](http://www.FindYourPark.com).

These ancient vascular plants reproduce through spores instead of seeds, and can live anywhere from the rich moist soil around a spring, to the dry crevice in a cliff face.



**ROBERT LLEWELLYN** has been photographing the Virginia countryside, its trees, people, and historic places for almost four decades. His photographs have been featured in *albemarle* Magazine and art galleries across the state. More than thirty books featuring his photography are in print. Some of his books include *Seeing Seeds*; *Seeing Flowers*; *Seeing Trees*; *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*; *Albemarle: A Story of Landscape and American Identity*; and *Mr. Jefferson's Upland Virginia*. Bob and his wife, Bobbi, live in Albemarle County.

Robert Llewellyn is currently working on a new book project to be released early Fall 2017.

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