

Membership and Appraisal Committee Annual Report
Botanical Society of America
July 2002
Kathleen L. Shea, Chair

Membership in the Botanical Society has been fairly constant over the last ten years, with total membership fluctuating from a high of 2902 in 1997 to the current membership of 2282. There were 2363 members in 2001. The year 2002 was the first year with the printed journal was separate from membership and 959 members received the printed journal.

Because of changes in the membership fee structure, the resignation of BSA staff member Kim Hiser and the impending move of the BSA headquarters to the Missouri Botanical Garden, posters and brochures were not revised this past year. As soon as the Executive Director is hired and the office is moved, we recommend sending our revised posters and brochures. This committee has compiled a list of 240 BSA representatives throughout the United States and in 11 foreign countries. These representatives are asked to display posters and encourage membership in BSA on their campuses. Additional representatives are needed from Idaho, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah and West Virginia.

Suggestions for revising the poster and brochure primarily include adding changes in fee structure, now that the hard copy of the journal is separate from membership, and making the poster more colorful with less text. Past photos from AJB covers could be added to the poster. The membership web site (<http://www.botany.org/#membership>) should be highlighted as providing more information and downloadable membership forms. Another suggestion is to have the brochures available in an attached envelope on the poster, instead of the tablet of tear-off application forms.

The largest sections are Systematics, Ecological, Teaching, Developmental/Structural and Tropical. There was some decrease in membership in each of the sections over the past year. Bryology and Lichenology, Paleobotanical and Phytochemical Section membership has stayed the same or increased over the past year.

The highest priority for the coming year is to send out revised posters and brochures to representatives. Each section is encouraged to consider membership trends and how to make the section more useful to members.