

ANNUAL REPORT – 2001-2002
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Presented at the Botanical Society of America Council Meeting
August 4, 2002 • Madison, Wisconsin

GENERAL PLANNING FOR BOTANY 2002

I worked closely with the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran, on an array of planning issues.

PLANNING VISIT FOR BOTANY 2002

In November 2001, I attended a planning visit at the site of the Botany 2002 conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The meeting was very useful for planning Society functions, viewing potential meeting sites, and for meeting with the BSA Local Representative, Ray Evert, as well as with the program chairs and local representatives from other participating societies. We visited the Pyle and Lowell Conference Centers, other campus buildings, and a variety of local botanical and scientific sites. The site visit was coordinated by the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran.

COORDINATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FOR BOTANY 2002

COMMUNICATION WITH PROGRAM CHAIRS AND SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZERS. The BSA Program Director coordinates the scientific program with the help of the sectional/participating society Program Chairs. The symposium organizers plan the sequence of presentations within their own symposia and then forward the symposia programs to the sponsoring sections for scheduling. To coordinate these activities, the sectional/society Program Chairs and the symposium organizers were sent several mailings that provided detailed instructions and a timeline for preparation and submission of their programs.

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA. The “Call for Symposia” for Botany 2002 was distributed in the BSA-wide Spring 2001 mailing and posted on the Botany 2002 web site. The deadlines for submissions were early-July and mid-September, 2001. Proposals were submitted on-line using the electronic submission form. Symposium proposals were forwarded to sectional officials for approval of sponsorship.

CALL FOR PAPERS. The “Call for Papers” for Botany 2002 was distributed in the BSA-wide Fall 2001 mailing and posted on the Botany 2002 web site. The “Call” was also sent to the Program Chairs of participating societies for their use. The deadline for submissions of abstracts was April 1, 2002, one month later than in previous years.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS. The electronic submission process worked very well again in 2002 (the fourth time it had been used for an annual meeting), and all abstract submissions for Botany 2002 were made on-line. All abstracts and other relevant information (keywords, author names and affiliations, titles, potential conflicts with other presentations, etc.) were archived in separate electronic databases that the Program Chairs could access and download to construct their programs. The BSA Webmaster, Scott Russell, developed and organized the electronic site, and he made several improvements to site for 2002.

ABSTRACT VOLUME. The abstracts for Botany 2002 will be printed in a separate volume and included in the registration binder along with the final Program, which will be distributed on-site at the conference. This will be the second year that the Abstracts have published in this way, and not as a supplement to the *American Journal of Botany*. Moving the abstracts out of the *AJB* is one reason that the deadline was able to be pushed back. I coordinated the design and layout work for the volume, as well as the proofing. There will be 710 abstracts published in the volume; however, these do not represent all conference presentations (see ‘Summary Information’ below).

FINAL PROGRAM. The deadline for submission of sectional/participating society programs was late April 2002. The Program Chairs deserve much credit for organizing and submitting their programs. The sectional/society programs, as well as all BSA-wide and conference-wide functions were organized into a comprehensive, conference-wide format. Session information was then submitted to the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran, for room assignments. I then coordinated the design and layout work for the final Program.

NEWS COVERAGE. The news divisions of four national periodicals, *Science* magazine, *National Geographic*, *TheScientist*, and *Science News* were contacted with information about Botany 2002 and an inquiry about obtaining news coverage. At this date, reporters from *National Geographic* and *TheScientist* will be attending. A press release about Botany 2002 was also prepared for distribution to local and regional news outlets.

THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FOR BOTANY 2002

All BSA disciplinary Sections have some function(s) scheduled at Botany 2002 except for the Bryological and Lichenological Section (ABLS is meeting independently in 2002) and the Mycological Section. However, the Mycological Section is a co-sponsor of one symposium. Detailed schedules for the sectional programs are presented in the final Program, and summary information for the number of presentations and sessions for the entire conference is presented below.

Total number of presentations	748
Talks	570
Contributed papers	443
Symposium presentations	121
Special lectures and addresses	6
Posters	176
Regular submissions	143
Recent Topics	33
Discussion Sessions.....	2
 Total number of sessions	 61
Contributed Papers	43
Symposia / Colloquia	13
Special Lectures	2
Posters	1
Discussion Sessions.....	2

THE FORUM PROGRAM FOR BOTANY 2002

This year's inaugural Forum, focusing on botanical education and outreach, will begin on Friday evening, August 2, with early registration and an welcoming reception. The main FORUM program will occur on Saturday, August 3, with a Keynote Address by textbook author Dr. Neil Campbell titled "Botany Education in our Schools and Colleges: An Optimistic Forecast," and 23 one-hour sessions, including two on funding opportunities available at the National Science Foundation (NSF). The individual sessions are grouped within five topical themes, or 'threads,' that span the Forum program, and these have been scheduled such that those from the same thematic thread don't overlap at the same time slot. A range of topics will be addressed in interactive panel and roundtable discussions, breakout groups, as well as informational sessions.

On Sunday, August 4, the Forum is formally linked to the annual scientific meeting via workshops and field trips, for which attendees register separately. Sixteen hands-on workshops are available as two-

hour, half-day, and full-day events. Two workshops are sponsored by the NSF and the Deep Gene Research Coordination Network, and these are free to registrants.

Although the principal focus of the Forum is undergraduate education and related outreach, K-12 teachers have been encouraged to participate, and several hands-on workshops are targeted for K-12 educators.

The Forum is sponsored in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Project Kaleidoscope (PKAL), the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), the Deep Gene Research Coordination Network, and Prentice Hall publishers.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

2003 – MOBILE, ALABAMA. Botany 2003 will be held from July 26-31, 2003 in Mobile, Alabama. In addition to the BSA, other societies participating in the conference will include: the American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS), the American Fern Society (AFS), and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT). The theme for the conference is “Aquatic and Wetland Plants: Wet & Wild,” and a logo has already been designed. In addition, Harvard biologist E. O. Wilson has accepted an invitation to deliver the Plenary Address.

Calls. The “Call for Symposia,” “Call for Workshops,” and “Call for Field Trips” for the 2003 Annual Meeting were distributed in the BSA-wide Spring 2002 mailing and posted on the Botany 2003 web site. Copies of these “Calls” were also sent to the Program Chairs of participating societies. Deadlines for submissions of on-line proposals are as follows: Symposia (July 15, 2002 for the Paleobotanical and Systematics Sections, and September 15, 2002 for all other Sections); Workshops and Field Trips: (October 15, 2002). The “Call for Papers” will be distributed in the BSA-wide Fall 2002 mailing, as well as posted on the web site.

2004 – SNOWBIRD, UTAH. Botany 2004 will held at the Snowbird Conference Center in Snowbird, Utah from August 1-5, 2004. Programmatic Planning for this meeting has not begun in any significant way, but a Plenary Speaker will soon be invited.

2005 – Location not yet determined. 2005 is also the year of the next International Botanical Congress (IBC), and this may affect our annual meeting registration nos.

2006 – Location not yet finalized. This is the BSA’s Centennial year, and we’re hopeful that the conference will be held at one of the Society’s founding institutions. In addition, special programming will be included in the conference to celebrate the Societies 100 years.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey M. Osborn