

Botanical Society of America
Past President's Report, 2003

1. Letters and faxes to Ohio State Board of Education, urging adoption of standards specifying science is taught in science classrooms, not religious philosophies or pseudo-science.
2. Launched Past-Presidents' Fund drive, letter co-signed by the late Charlie Heimsch, sent in early December, 2002, to all the other living BSA Past Presidents (28 total at the time, now down to 26). Responses from 14, average donation (or pledge) approximately \$975 (\$1,000 suggested). Follow-up letter formulated with assistance of Exec. Dir. Bill Dahl and consultant David Northington, to go out in July, 2003 to non-responders.
3. Election Committee activated (report follows).
4. Corresponding Members Committee activated (report follows).
5. Young Botanist Awards Committee activated (report follows). 6. Plenary Symposium for BOTANY 2003: With much assistance from and hard work by Joe Armstrong, Jenny Richards and Linda Graham, the plenary symposium was organized around the theme "Recent advances in restoration of aquatic and wetland habitats." The symposium will be held Monday morning, July 28, 2003, from 8:10 to 10:45 am, in room 204A, Mobile Convention Center. The speakers, their affiliations and titles of presentations are:
 - Dr. Robert Twilley, Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA; "Conceptual ecological models for planning and evaluating the Louisiana coastal area ecosystem restoration plan."
 - Dr. Beth A. Middleton, National Wetlands Research Center, U.S.G.S., Lafayette, LA; "Hydologic and disturbance regimes in wetlands: restoring the natural balance."
 - Dr. Ed Proffitt, National Wetlands Research Center, U.S.G.S., Lafayette, LA; "Population and community ecology analyses of restored salt marshes."
 - Dr. Joy Zedler, Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison; "Wetland vegetation degradation and limits to restorability."
7. Invitation sent to and accepted by Dr. Rita Colwell, Director of NSF, to be Plenary Speaker at BOTANY 2004, Snow Bird, Utah.
8. Worked with Joe Armstrong on BSA evolution statement, for inclusion on the National Center for Science Education web-site, along with those of dozens of other national scientific societies and state academies of science.
9. Extended correspondence with BBC in London about their planned "Rough Science" program involving a botanist and other scientists in the desert southwest.

10. Responded to questions, questionnaires, surveys and pleas for help from school children, teachers and parents relating to careers in botany, what botanists do, salaries in botany, science fair projects, where to go to college to study botany, and general plant information.

11. BSA Centennial Planning ad hoc Committee: Committee informally constructed, consisting of Greg Anderson, Carol Baskin, Pat Gensel, Lee Kass, Betty Smocovitis, President (ex officio). Still needs a chair and a decision on the location of BOTANY 2006, so planning can begin in earnest.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Jernstedt
Past President

Young Botanist Award Committee Report, 2003

The call for nominations of graduating seniors for BSA Young Botanist Awards went out in the Fall Mailing. Several e-mail reminders followed. Criteria for selection included outstanding academic performance, involvement in research, leadership, and interest in and potential for a career in plant biology, as evidenced in two letters of recommendation from faculty mentors and in curriculum vitae or resumé. Forty-two students were nominated, from 24 different institutions in the U.S. and Mexico. Dossiers were read and ranked by the three committee members. The top 26 students were awarded the Certificate of Special Achievement, while 16 additional students received Certificates of Recognition. Notification was sent to the nominators electronically on 16 April 2003. Letters and certificates were sent to the students or their primary nominators from the BSA headquarters in St. Louis. When requested, local news services were also notified, for release to local newspapers or inclusion in commencement programs. The *Plant Science Bulletin* printed the names and affiliations of the awardees in the most recent issue.

Following are lists of the awardees and their home academic institutions.

A. Certificate of Special Achievement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Berger, Brent	Oklahoma City University
Bernacki, Steven	James Madison University
Budke, Jessica	Miami University
Cacho, Ivalú	National Autonomous University of Mexico
Carrino, Sarah	Miami University

Chapman, Eric	Miami University
Dozier, Melissa	Carleton College
Estes, L. Dwayne	Middle Tennessee State University
Hoggard, Tim	Rhodes College
Hsu, Eric	Cornell University
Keogh, Matt	Rhodes College
McGinty, Meghan	Univ. of California, Davis
Melillo, Amanda	Virginia Tech
Millar, Katherine	Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Millet, Benjamin P.	Truman State University
Mulac, Kitty	University of Akron
Peters, Melinda	James Madison University
Raines, Steven	Miami University
Ramsey, Amy	University of Oklahoma
Root, Heather	Cornell University
Roth, Kelly	Miami University
Ryerson, Kirsten	University of Colorado, Boulder
Schenk, John	Oregon State University
Smith, Stephen A.	Sarah Lawrence College
Theiss, Katherine	Willamette University
Wacholder, Brent	Eastern Illinois University

B. Certificate of Recognition

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Boutin, Alison	Miami University
Elam, Caitlin	The University of the South
Hatfield, Emerin	Willamette University
Hesselbrock, Sharon	Miami University
Hugie, Josie	Miami University
Kester, Lauren	Chatham College
King, Brian	Miami University
Kominskev, Emily	Truman State University
Lewis, Robin A.	Miami University
Meyers, Stephanie A.	Miami University
Nagy, Eric	Miami University
Neubig, Kurt	Louisiana State University
O'Brien, Sean	Southwestern University (Texas)
Tyson, Jon	Miami University
Weaver, Scott	Ohio University
Wright, Justin	Miami University

The able and efficient participation of Ellen Dean (UC Davis) and Darlene Southworth (Southern Oregon University) in the selection process is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jernstedt, Chair