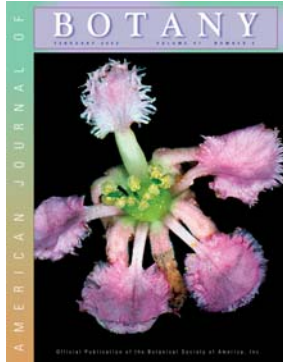


Botanical Society of America

Annual Report 2003 – 2004

Business Manager, Botanical Society of America

**To be presented to the Botanical Society of America Council Meeting
August 1, 2004 – Snowbird Utah**



1. Introduction

The following report provides an overview of the activities of the Botanical Society of America's business office over the past twelve months. Let me begin by thanking and acknowledging the Executive Committee for their support and direction and I need also acknowledge Johanne Stogran and Wanda Lovan. On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Society, I thank them for their effort and dedication to the Botanical Society of America. Well done! We've accomplished a great deal during the past year.

2. Thank You

A special thank you to those members who donated to our endowment and to the BSA sectional/awards funds. Contributions totaled over \$7,000. Over the coming year we will be working the establishment of a series of opportunities for members to provide legacy contributions. It is felt many may wish to provide continued support for what can be viewed as personal contributions for future awards and activities in ones area of expertise.

3. Financial Report

As of 7-16-04 the Botanical Society of America's total cash position in the St. Louis and Columbus accounts was \$522,207.26. This was comprised of \$14,775.56 in St. Louis checking, \$439,316.34 in the Money Market Account, \$250.00 in Petty Cash and \$67,815.36 in the Columbus conference account.

Income from operations for the year to date was \$851,904.89 with expenditure of \$471,770.54. Comparison with the same YTD period for 2003 is provided in the diagram to the right. Based on anticipated expenditure and income projections, we will produce a surplus for the 2003/2004 financial year. We

	2004	2003
Profit & Loss Summary (YTD)		
Operations		
Income	\$851,904.89	\$783,628.47
Expenditure	\$471,770.54	\$460,811.79
Surplus(Loss)	<u>\$380,134.35</u>	<u>\$322,816.68</u>
Botany Conference		
* Income	\$70,325.96	\$130,967.59
Expenditure	\$35,371.50	\$13,956.20
Surplus(Loss)	<u>\$34,954.46</u>	<u>\$117,011.39</u>
Investments		
Net Income	<u>\$230,687.41</u>	<u>\$290,697.55</u>
Current Position	<u>\$645,776.22</u>	<u>\$730,525.62</u>

will also hold enough reserve to make it into the beginning of the November membership and subscription renewal period. For further information please see the Treasures report.

4. Membership & Institutional Subscription Activity

Membership numbers are down based on the same period in 2003. The lower number is largely due to the non-renewal of longer-term members. This may be in part due to the fact that we didn't send out an individualized membership renewal form for 2004. We will be doing so in early September for the 2005-year (including forms to non-renewing members for 2002 & 2003).

Membership Profile by Joining Dates			
	2003	2004	Gain/(Loss)
Pre- 1985	734	583	(151)
1986-89	168	145	(23)
1990-94	332	269	(63)
1995-99	458	365	(93)
2000-	801	828	27

Active support for new member development is an important function for the Society. We will have membership posters available at meeting. Please become involved!

I'm pleased to report that we are currently up on our overall institutional subscription numbers in comparison to the same time in 2003. Although it is early to say we have halted the annual decline in institutional subscriptions, it is nice to see this trend arrested.

We have increased the base institutional subscription prices for the AJB from \$365 to \$415 in the 2005 year.

Membership & Subscriptions

Members	Print Subscriptions			Online Only			Total
	USA	Other	Total	USA	Other	Total	
Jun-02	612	329	941	987	314	1,301	2,242
Jun-03	584	342	926	1,055	329	1,384	2,310
Jun-04	551	324	875	968	347	1,315	2,190

Clients

Jun-02	1,309	380	1,689	9	3	12	1,701
Jun-03	1,217	344	1,561	23	14	37	1,598
Jun-04	1,225	349	1,574	34	19	53	1,627

Total

Jun-02	1,921	709	2,630	996	317	1,313	3,943
Jun-03	1,801	686	2,487	1,078	343	1,421	3,908
Jun-04	1,776	673	2,449	1,002	366	1,368	3,817

RECOMMENDATION:
It is suggested we increase AJB subscription prices form members from \$55 to \$60. This will reflect consistency in our policy for subscriptions to members and institutions alike.

5. BSA Conference Planning

Some of you may have experienced difficulties with the abstract submission process for Botany 2004. Please accept my apology for the inconvenience. We had a bug that didn't create a problem until the system received over ~350 abstracts. It produced the same troubles in 2003 but, due to the overall smaller size of the meeting, it wasn't as noticeable. I can assure you it won't be an issue in 2005. In the end you will be pleased with the results of the modifications to the abstract submission process.

Botany 2005 (Austin) is beginning to take shape and the Centennial Planning Committee for 2006 (Chico State) is meeting here at Snowbird. Planning for the next few years is progressing well. We are in discussions with ASPB in regards the possibility of some type of joint meeting in 2007 and ESA for 2009 or 2010. We are tentatively scheduled to meet with the Canadians in Halifax in 2008.

6. American Journal of Botany – New Editor in Chief & operations moving to St. Louis

The BSA business office offers a special note of thanks to Dr. Karl Niklas and the editorial staff, Elizabeth Lawson, Caroline Spellman, Beth Hazen, Ellen Cotter, Karen Anderson, for their many years of service and dedication to the publishing of *American Journal of Botany*. We have enjoyed working with you all over the past few years.

Dr. Judy Jenstedt was nominated and approved as the next Editor in Chief of the *American Journal of Botany*. As part of the transition from Karl and the editorial office based at Cornell University, Judy is establishing her operational base in the BSA business office in St. Louis.

7. BSA Office Developments & Functions

We have had changes in the locations of both the BSA office in St. Louis and the Conference office in Columbus. Here in St. Louis we've moved across the street, from 4474 Castleman Avenue to 4475 Castleman Avenue. Johanne moved out of Hall at Ohio State University and now runs the conference operations from her home.

Over the past year in a project led by Wanda, we have worked to streamline many of the BSA office functions with the main changes being in our database, financial systems and the integration of the two. The goals for the project were to:

- move the role of the BSA accountant to one of oversight only;
- reduce the requirement for duplicate reporting due to outdated membership systems and;
- provide up-to-date information for reporting purposes.

In May we completed the second-to-last step in the project with Mary Dawson, our accountant visiting St. Louis to perform a systems audit and to work with Wanda on finalizing the move of the BSA QuickBooks based financial system online. Together, and with the help of Johanne, the systems are now totally online. The final step will come with some minor updates to the BSA database that eliminate the need for a number of Excel reports monitoring various membership, sales and contribution activities. This is a major accomplishment and provides the Society with up-to-date and easily accessible financial information at all times.

8. Web Developments

Please see the Webmasters report. There have been many web-based developments for the BSA over the past year. They include:

- a. BSA Financial systems – online
- b. Botany Conference website development – Johanne Stogran
- c. Botany Conference Abstract submission development
- d. The Conservation Committee's Ecology & Conservation pages
- e. AJB – Abstracts online
- f. PSB – Past issues online
- g. BSA Online Image Collection development & links from the AAAS Biological Education Network (BEN)

Over the coming year membership involvement in building web-based content for the site will be important if we are to consolidate our position as a place to find meaningful botanical and plant science related information and projects. The BSA website is developing as a major component in the Society's effort at moving forward on its mission. Membership involvement is critical.

9. Relationships & Collaboration

Over the past year the BSA has continued to develop its role in the wider community. As such we have moved on several projects that fit well with our mission and take serious botany to the wider world. Several of the efforts are listed below.

a. **Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP)**

Linda Graham and I attended the CSSP meeting in Washington DC in the November of 2003. This group is becoming a good source of information in relation to the political happenings in the capital.

b. **Scholarly Journal Archives (JSTOR)**

In April I presented at the JSTOR publishers meeting in New York. We have been working with JSTOR to establish the entire run of *American Journal of Botany* abstracts online on the BSA website. This project should be completed by late August 2004. I presented this as one of the speaking components at the meeting. Other organizations were very interested in this approach. It ensures all information is searchable, providing a benefit for members who publish in the society journals.

c. **Ecological Society of America**

In conjunction with the CSSP meeting I spent time meeting with ESA Executive Director, Katherine S. McCarter. We discussed the possibility of holding a joint meeting in 2009 or 2010. We will resume discussions later in the year including Program Directors and Meeting Managers.

d. **Acme Animation**

Picking up on the challenge lodged by Dr. Bruce Alberts to the BSA, we have continued to develop a relationship with Dave Master and the Acme Animation group. We will be providing a joint presentation at Botany 2004 Educational Forum on possible BSA involvement in Sci- π . Sci- π is the scientific version of the successful Acme Animation online mechanism for effectively working with thousands of potential young animators using very limited professional animator time.

e. **CoFarm, USGA, NAST, NBTA and others**

We are also involved or becoming involved with a number of other organizations. The relationships range support information gathering, specific initiatives and future avenues for mission development.

On behalf of the BSA staff we wish you a great Botany 2004 and a rewarding 2005

Sincerely

Bill Dahl
Executive Director