

ANNUAL REPORT – 2003-2004
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Presented at the Botanical Society of America Council Meeting
August 1, 2004 • Snowbird, Utah

GENERAL PLANNING FOR BOTANY 2004

I worked closely with the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran, and BSA Executive Director, Bill Dahl, on an array of planning issues.

PLANNING VISIT FOR BOTANY 2004

In early Fall 2003, I attended a planning visit at the site of the Botany 2004 conference in Snowbird, Utah. The meeting was very useful for planning Society functions, viewing potential meeting sites, and for meeting with the BSA Local Representative, John Sperry, as well as with the program chairs and local representatives from other participating societies. We visited the Snowbird Conference Center and a variety of local sites. The site visit was coordinated by the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran.

COORDINATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FOR BOTANY 2004

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 2004 was distributed in the BSA-wide Spring 2003 mailing and posted on the Botany 2004 web site. The deadlines for submissions were early-July and mid-September, 2003. Proposals were submitted on-line using the electronic submission form. Symposium proposals were forwarded to sectional officials for approval of sponsorship.

CALLS FOR PRESENTATIONS . The ‘Calls’ for various presentations for Botany 2004 were distributed in the BSA-wide Fall 2003 mailing and posted on the Botany 2004 web site. The ‘Calls’ were also sent to the Program Chairs of participating societies for their use. The deadline for submissions of abstracts was April 1, 2004, and this was extended until mid-April.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS. The electronic submission process worked very well again in 2004. In part because of the Society’s transition to a new Business Office and a new Executive Director, the new abstract site that was developed in 2003 was further enhanced. I worked closely with the BSA Executive Director, and a web programmer to develop the site. The site includes all of the functionality that we have previously had, as well as some new features (e.g., all relevant program information is now included with each abstract, program details are available to browsed by relevant categories). In particular, the sectional Program Chairs were able to create their programs completely on the web site. Additional enhancements are planned for the future.

ABSTRACT VOLUME. The abstracts for Botany 2004 will be printed in a separate volume and included with the registration materials along with the final Program, which will be distributed on-site at the conference. This will be the fourth 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 worked closely with BSA Meetings Manager, Johanne Stogran, on the design and layout work for the volume, as well as the proofing. There will be 681 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 2003 (extended to mid-May). 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 worked with Johanne on the design, layout, and proofing for the final Program.

THE PROGRAM FOR BOTANY 2004

All BSA disciplinary Sections have some function(s) scheduled at Botany 2004 except for the Mycological and Phycological Section. However, the Phycological Section did receive a limited number of abstracts and it was decided that these be transferred to other Sections. 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.....	730
Forum.....	13
Scientific Meeting.....	717
Talks.....	540
Contributed papers.....	404
Symposium presentations.....	131
Special lectures and addresses.....	5
Posters.....	170
Regular submissions.....	140
Recent Topics.....	30
Discussion Sessions.....	7

THE FORUM PROGRAM FOR BOTANY 2004

This year's FORUM begins on Friday evening, July 30, with early registration and an informal welcoming reception. The main FORUM program occurs on Saturday, July 31, with a Keynote Address by Dr. Eugenie Scott, Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education, titled "Just when you thought it was safe to teach evolution..," and 12 one-hour sessions, including one on funding opportunities available at the National Science Foundation (NSF). The individual sessions are grouped within six 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 1, the FORUM is formally linked to the annual scientific meeting via workshops and field trips, for which attendees register separately. Seven hands-on workshops are available as two-hour, half-day, and full-day events. One workshop is sponsored by the Deep Gene Research Coordination Network and Green Tree of Life NSF-funded grants and is free to registrants.

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

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

2005 – AUSTIN, TEXAS. Botany 2005 will be held in Austin, TX from August 12 to 17, 2005. The Hilton Austin Hotel will be primary conference site. 2005 is also the year of the next International Botanical Congress (IBC), which will be held July 17-23 in Vienna, Austria, and this may affect our annual meeting registration nos. In addition to the BSA, other societies participating in the conference will include: the American Mycological and Lichenological Society (ABLS), the

American Fern Society (AFS), and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT). The theme for the conference is “Learning from Plants” and a logo has already been designed.

Calls. The “Call for Symposia,” “Call for Workshops,” and “Call for Field Trips” for the 2005 Annual Meeting were distributed in the BSA-wide Spring 2004 mailing and posted on the Botany 2004 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, 2004 for the Paleobotanical and Systematics Sections, and September 15, 2004 for all other Sections); Workshops and Field Trips: (October 15, 2004). The “Calls” for various presentations will be distributed in the BSA-wide Fall 2004 mailing, as well as posted on the web site.

2006 – CHICO, CALIFORNIA. Botany 2006 will be held in Chico, CA from July 28 to August 3, 2006 at Chico State University. This is the BSA’s Centennial year, and there will likely be special programming included in the conference to celebrate the Society’s 100 years, and the BSA has invited a number of other affiliated and ‘offspring’ societies to meet with us. Besides the regular Program Committee, the BSA has established an ad hoc Centennial Planning Committee, chaired by Jack Horner.

2007 – Site not yet determined, but we may have a parallel or joint meeting with the American Society of Plant Biologists. We will be meeting with ASPB representatives in the early fall.

LONG-TERM CONFERENCE PLANNING

I continue to help the BSA Meeting Manager and BSA Executive Director on long-term planning for future conferences. Among the society’s goals are to deeply involve our partner societies in planning, to provide expanded programmatic opportunities for members, to be responsive to members and attendees in site selection, and to keep conference costs as economical as possible, especially for students. Many new and exciting initiatives are planned for the future, and more information will be forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey M. Osborn