

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PTERIDOLOGICAL SECTION
Presented at the Botanical Society of America Council Meeting

At the Botany 2004 meetings in Snowbird, UT, the Pteridological Section of the BSA had 14 contributed papers, four contributed posters, and a symposium entitled “The power of two: Marrying phylogeny and biogeography to reconstruct the evolutionary history of pteridophytes” in which six presentations were made.

The Edgar T. Wherry Award, for best paper presented as part of the contributed papers sessions, was given to Harald Schneider, Tom Ranker, Russell Stephen, Ray Cranfill, Jennifer Geiger, Ruth Agurajuja, Ken Wood, Michael Grundman, and Johannes Vogel for their presentation entitled, “Origin of the endemic fern genus *Diellia* (Aspleniaceae) coincides with the renewal of Hawaiian terrestrial life in the early Miocene.”

Two well-attended field trips were sponsored: one entitled “Pteridophytes of the central Wasatch Mountains, Utah” led by Michael D. Windham, and a second entitled “An afternoon among the ferns of Albion Basin, Utah” also led by Michael D. Windham.

The Pteridological section contributed \$400 to the publication of the Annual Review of Pteridological Research, Volume 17 (2003).

Increased funding from BSA has allowed the Pteridological section to initiate an application process for our new student travel award program, which grants \$250 to qualified students who present and/or attend Pteridological section contributed paper sessions, symposia, and field trips. The first awards were made for the Botany 2005 meetings in Austin, TX, and three awards were given:

- 1) Mr. Chad Husby, Florida International University, Miami, FL. “Biomechanics of *Equisetum giganteum* L. in the Atacama Desert and northwestern Argentina” and “Ecophysiology of *Equisetum giganteum* L. in the Atacama Desert, northern Chile”
- 2) Mr. James E. Watkins, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. “The stress physiology of tropical fern gametophytes”
- 3) Mr. Shane Shaw, Miami University, Oxford, OH. “Natural history of the Puerto Rican soral cryptic Lepidopteran”

We continue to seek ways of effectively publicizing the travel awards.

Submitted by President: Warren D. Hauk
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Pteridological Section, Botanical Society of America

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Note to Bill: Susan Klimas, the fourth travel award recipient, later declined the award because of an unexpected opportunity to do field work in SE Asia.