

Date: **June 23, 2006**

From: **Centennial Planning Committee**

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To: **Executive Committee and Council of the Botanical Society of America**

Re: **Annual and Final Report of the BSA Centennial Planning Committee (CPC)**

The Centennial Meeting of the Botanical Society of America in 2006 is almost here! The 100 years of American Botany created by many botanical scientists, their students, and others is a colorful history that will be portrayed for posterity through the writing and storytelling of Betty Smocovitis. She, as well as the CPC listed above, the Executive Director (Bill Dahl) and his fine staff, and the Editor-in-Chiefs [Karl Niklas (past) and Judy Jernstedt (present)] and their fine Editorial Office staffs have been the main players in developing the plans for the Centennial Celebration which began in September 2003.

At that time, the CPC solicited the membership for ideas about the celebration and a theme. The ideas were plentiful and from the many suggestions the theme “**Looking to the Future, Conserving the Past**” was appropriately chosen. It is prominently displayed on the bronze Centennial Medallion which each member will receive who attends the Centennial Meeting at Chico State University, Chico, California, during July 29 through August 2.

Plans for the Centennial Meeting and its highlights have been published in several issues of the *Plant Science Bulletin*, and the July 2006 issue of the *American Journal of Botany* will have a special Centennial cover. In addition, the history of the Society will be published at that time.

The specific program for the Centennial Meeting is already set with many symposia, contributed oral and poster sessions, individual presentations, field trips, luncheons and banquets, and a very special awards ceremony honoring 120 senior scientists of the Society. The number of individuals attending is still increasing as of the writing of this report but there were over 850 abstracts submitted for the meeting!

Suffice it to say, this BSA Centennial Meeting will be a gala event marking the success of botanical research, education, and outreach over its 100-year history. Its future is bright and the continued support and involvement of its growing membership in the second 100 years will make it even brighter.

Finally, the membership of the Society needs to be truly proud of what it is accomplishing and what its predecessors have accomplished. Let us together continue to move forward and increase our efforts and impact on a critically important field of science – Botany!

Respectfully submitted,

Harry T. (Jack) Horner
CPC Chair and BSA Member (1961)