

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PTERIDOLOGICAL SECTION
Presented at the 2006 Botanical Society of America Council Meeting
Chico, CA

At the Botany 2005 meetings in Austin, TX, the Pteridological Section of the BSA had 15 contributed papers, three contributed posters, and one field trip.

The Edgar T. Wherry Award, for best paper presented as part of the contributed papers sessions, was given to James E. Watkins, Jr. for his presentation entitled, "Stress physiology of fern gametophytes: consequences for distribution and abundance."

A well-attended field trip was sponsored entitled "Ferns of the Central Texas area" led by Jim Blassingame, Jack Stanford, and Laura Sánchez.

The Pteridological section contributed \$400 to the publication of the Annual Review of Pteridological Research, Volume 18 (2004).

Increased funding from BSA allowed the Pteridological section to initiate in 2005 an application process for our new student travel award program, which grants \$400 to qualified students who present and/or attend BSA Pteridological Section contributed paper sessions, symposia, and field trips. The second annual awards were made for the Botany 2006 meetings in Chico, CA, and six awards were given:

- 1) Michael S. Barker, Indiana University (Advisor: Dr. Loren Rieseberg): Botany 2006 presentation entitled "Inferring paleopolyploidy in homosporous ferns using duplicate gene age distributions"
- 2) Joshua Der, Utah State University (Advisor: Dr. Paul Wolf): Botany 2006 presentation entitled "A global phylogeographic study of the chloroplast genome in bracken (*Pteridium*: Dennstaedtiaceae)"
- 3) Amanda Grusz, University of North Carolina – Wilmington (Advisor: Dr. Kathleen M. Pryer): Botany 2006 presentation entitled "Polyploids and reticulate voids: the *Cheilanthes fenderli* complex revisited"
- 4) Chad E. Husby, Florida International University (Advisor: Dr. Steven Oberbauer): Botany 2006 presentation entitled "Salinity tolerance ecophysiology of the giant horsetail, *Equisetum giganteum*, in the Atacama Desert, Chile"
- 5) Annabelle Kleist, Carroll College (Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Geiger): Botany 2006 presentation entitled "Alternate pathways of fern dispersal to the Hawaiian Islands, Part 3: *Cibotium*"
- 6) Eric Shuettpelz, Duke University (Advisor: Dr. Kathleen M. Pryer): Botany 2006 presentation entitled; "Toward a comprehensive phylogeny of extant ferns"

We continue to seek ways to effectively publicize the travel awards.

Submitted by President: Warren D. Hauk
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