

2007 BSA Council Meeting

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President's Report, July 2007

In my address to the Society at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Chico, CA, I proposed a theme for the Botanical Society of America (BSA) of “**Growing Together.**” I proposed that we provide options for members to engage our fellow scientists, reaching across disciplinary boundaries and establishing opportunities for integration and innovation. I also proposed that the BSA should expand its contributions to the general public. Finally, I thought we should promote a “greener” future, promoting research and education involving plants, and reaching out to our neighboring scientific societies.

Through the year, this theme guided my activities and agendas. In December, I met in Washington, DC with Past President Ed Schneider, President Elect Pam Soltis, and Executive Director Bill Dahl, in conjunction with a meeting of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. We all attended this meeting, and we used the opportunity to share ideas about the upcoming activities of the BSA. The action items that emerged from those discussions included:

- We should promote opportunities at our annual meeting for the governance of BSA to meet with their counterparts in our fellow societies
- An International Committee should be established (as proposed and chaired by Anitra Thorhaug) to foster outreach to botanists around the world
- A committee to promote BSA activities for Underrepresented Groups should be formed

As a result, we are meeting after this year's Council Meeting with available individuals representing the American Fern Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists, and American Society of Plant Biologists. We will discuss how our societies can “grow together” to promote plant research and education, and how the BSA can foster the continuation of this agenda.

In March, 2007, I chaired the Executive Committee meeting in St. Louis, MO.

Recommendations from that meeting included:

- Accepting (unanimously) the report from the American Journal of Botany Printer Selection Committee to switch from Allen Press to Sheridan Press. The transition began in May, and a systematic plan for making the changeover seamless has been instituted.
- Continuing to enhance involvement of students in the future of the BSA. Several workshops are scheduled for the Chicago Annual Meeting on topics suggested by students as well as a continuation of the mentorship workshop/lunch sponsored by Sherwin Carlquist. For the future, a two year term, with staggered term limits, was recommended for each of two student representatives on the Executive Committee.
- Given the huge increase in symposia proposed for our Annual Meeting, and the scheduling problems for organizers and attendees that this increase causes (many members were frustrated by the large number of concurrent sessions that were

necessary), opportunities for selecting from among those symposia submitted were proposed, including the development of a Symposium Screening Committee to review and recommend a fixed number of symposia.

- Coordinating the 2009 annual meeting (to be held at Snowbird, Utah) with the Year of Science commemoration of Darwin's and Lincoln's (he founded the National Academy of Sciences) birthdays, to celebrate science and raise public interest in and understanding of science.
- *Going Green*: the BSA is reaching out to other societies to provide services and coordinate activities. BSA staff are now providing help to the Society for Economic Botany, and the North American Phytochemical Association may be interested in a similar association. An association with the Center for Plant Conservation that will have offices adjacent to the BSA may be developed as well.
- Strategies are being entertained for enhancing the BSA development activities. Toward this end, a Legacy Society has been created and members have been contacted and encouraged to become part of this development program.
- *Planting Science* has successfully launched its next set of programs for high school and undergraduate students and has involved many BSA members. In May, Monsanto agreed to fund a grant proposal for *Planting Science* activities.
- The need for developing better and more prescriptive guidelines for BSA Merit Awards was discussed. A committee will be assigned the task of making recommendations for the future of these important awards.
- The need to update and streamline our Bylaws was discussed. A Bylaws revision committee will need to be formed, and discussions at the Council Meeting will finalize the process by which this will occur. Changing the Bylaws to reflect current practice is a minimum, and developing roles for officers should be considered
- The need for a strategic plan was discussed, and the value of meeting the needs of members should be part of that plan. Now that we have the benefit of professional management, interested members can make recommendations for how the BSA can serve its members as well as the national and international community in both research and education. To make this process representative, a representative and thoughtful group should be charged with making recommendations that can be shared with members for further refinement.

Thus, the results of this spring meeting have energized the activities for our Annual Meeting.

I look forward to the progress that will be possible at our Council Meeting and throughout the discussions at our Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Christopher Haufler President

Past President's Report 2007

During 2006-07 I had three main responsibilities: chairing the Elections Committee, planning the Plenary Symposium for Botany 2007 in Chicago, and chairing the Corresponding Members Committee. In addition, I served as a member Executive Committee as well as a member of the team that annually reviews the BSA Executive Director's performance. I also participated as a member of the newly formed Development Committee and now acting as the Chair of that committee

The Elections Committee identified excellent two candidates for President and two for

Secretary, as charged. **Karl Niklas**, Cornell University will be the new President-elect, and **Laura Galloway**, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, will be the incoming Treasurer.

For the Plenary Symposium, I chose the topic "Saving the Biodiversity of Plants". Speakers were chosen from nominations that I solicited from sister societies and conservation organizations and represent global leaders in the plant conservation arena. The final slate includes five prominent researchers who will describe how their field has evolved and where it is headed.

The Corresponding Members Committee was directed by a vote of the members in 2006, to increase the number of corresponding members above the historic cap of fifty (50), recommending as many as five new individuals had up to five be added.

We were saddened to learn that **Joji Ashida** (Japan) and **Roberst Hegnauer** (Netherlands) both passed, thus as many as seven positions could be considered in 2007. Although the electronic call for nominations for BSA Corresponding Membership (January 1 - April 1, 2007), unfortunately did not result in any nominations, the committee unanimously recommends four new nominees. They are:

Dr. Stephen Hopper, the new Director of KEW from Perth Australia.

Dr. Brian Huntley, past Director of Kirstenbosch Garden, Cape Town, South Africa, and who now is senior conservation advisor to the government;

Dr. Paula Rudall, of the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanical Gardens KEW, and

Dr. Bao-rong Lu, Professor in botany and genetic resources, Chairman of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology of Fudan University, Deputy Director of the Institute of Biodiversity Science, Fudan University, and Chairman of Academic Committee of the Ministry of Education Key Laboratory for Biodiversity Science and Ecological Engineering.

Each of these four individuals are senior and distinguished botanists and the committee believes will represent excellent additions to our Corresponding Members group.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Schneider, Past-President and Chair of the Corresponding Members Committee

President-Elect, Annual Report, Pamela S. Soltis

1. Along with President Chris Haufler, Past President Ed Schneider, and Executive Director Bill Dahl, I attended the Council of Scientific Society Presidents in December, 2006, in Washington, DC. One of the main themes of the meeting was science literacy, and this fits in well with ongoing activities of the BSA.
2. The Committee on Committees presents the following slate of nominees for approval:
Committee on Committees – Jeff Osborn, Joe Colosi, Mackenzie Taylor
Conservation Committee – Matt Gitzendanner, Carl Weekley
Education Committee – Robynn Shannon, Joe Armstrong
Election Committee – Jeff Doyle
Committee on Membership and Appraisal – Allison Snow
Publications Committee – Pat Herendeen, Susan Kalisz
Webpage Committee – Ashley Morris, Claire Hemingway

Merit Awards Committee – Ed Schneider
 Graduate Student Research Awards Committee – Chris Caruso, Veronica Di Stilio
 Cheadle Awards Committee – Shelley McMahon
 Darbaker Prize Award Committee – Chuck Delwiche
 Esau Award Committee – Joe Williams
 Moseley Award Committee – Roger Meicenheimer
 Pelton Award Committee – Elizabeth Lord
Ad hoc Committee on Participation of Underrepresented Groups – Muriel Poston

Secretary’s Report 2007

- 1) During 2006-2007 I attended the Council Meeting at the Botany2006 meeting in Chico, and the Executive committee meeting in St. Louis in March.
- 2) As a member of the Elections Committee, I participated in selection of candidates presented to the membership.
- 3) As a member of the Committee on Committees, I helped in selection of committee members.

Treasurer, Kent Holsinger

The Botanical Society is in very healthy financial condition. Although institutional print subscriptions to the *American Journal of Botany* continue to decline slowly, income associated with the journal remains sufficient not only to continue its operations but also to expand and improve them and to allow the Society to expand and improve its operations. The Society also has substantial financial assets, the income from which could also be used to support new or expanded program initiatives for the Society.

Assets

As of 1 June 2007, assets in the Society’s investment accounts totaled nearly \$3.7M (Table 1), an increase of nearly \$600K from 30 June 2006. All of that increase was the result of investment returns (approximate annual rate of return 19.4%). The Society’s investments are distributed among domestic equities (62%), international equities (15%), and fixed income securities (11%). The cash balance (12%) reflects funds in equity accounts from dividends or sales that has not yet been re-invested. Figure 1 provides a history of endowment growth since 1998. Total investment growth over that period is \$2.3M, of which \$1.3M represents returns on investment and \$1.0M represents additions from BSA operating surpluses.

Table 1: Investment fund balances for the Botanical Society of America

Investment funds balance 30 June 2005	\$3,103,576
Dividends, interest, and appreciation	562,746
Additions	0
Investment funds balance 30 June 2006	\$3,666,322

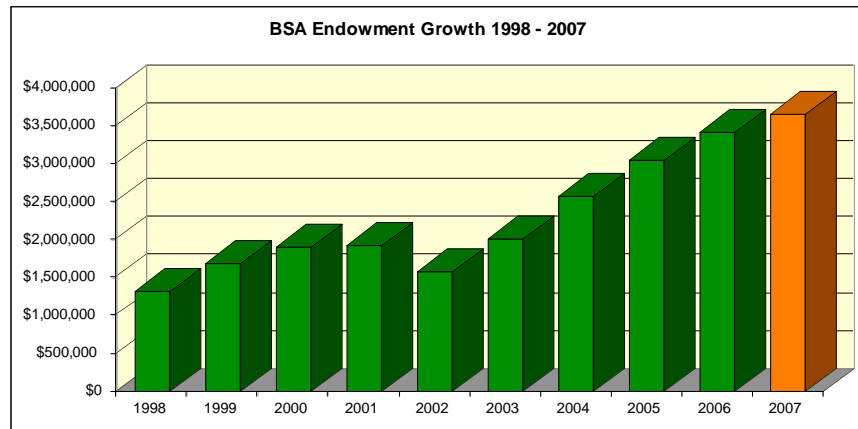
Figure 1: BSA Endowment growth 1998 - 2007

Income and expenses

The budget approved for 2006/2007 included budgeted income of \$1.22M and budgeted expenses of \$1.31M *versus* year-to-date totals of \$1.30M and \$0.56M, respectively (Table 3). The Society budgeted investment income (dividends plus capital gains) *very* conservatively at \$66K. The actual investment income of \$383K is primarily responsible for the difference between budgeted and actual income. Expenses are on track to be slightly lower than the \$1.20M budgeted for the Society’s fiscal year, which ends on 30 September 2007.

Budget for 2007/2008

Budgeted income is projected at \$1.32M in 2007/2008 *versus* \$1.22M in 2006/2007. The increase reflects primarily special contributions associated with providing business services to the Society for Economic Botany and anticipated income associated with an increase in institutional subscription rates for the *American Journal of Botany*.



Budgeted expenses are projected at \$1.31M in 2007/2008 *versus* \$1.20M in 2006/2007. The increase reflects primarily expenses associated with providing business services to the Society for Economic Botany and transitional expenses associated with moving the *American Journal of Botany* and *Plant Science Bulletin* from Allen Press to Sheridan Press.

Table 2: Summary of income and expenses for the Botanical Society of America

	Budgeted 2006/2007	Actual YTD 2006/2007	Budgeted 2007/2008
Income	\$1,221,502	\$1,298,923	\$1,325,075
Operational income	1,042,052	915,679	1,141,075
Investment income	61,000	383,243	66,000
Meetings income	118,000	0*	118,000
Expenses	1,196,342	\$ 562,693	\$1,308,013
Operational expenses	1,118,822	527,787	1,230,493
Investment expenses	36,000	32,145	36,000
Meetings expenses	41,520	2,761*	41,520
Balance	10,178	\$ 736,230	11,471

*Figures for 2007 are not included because of timing



BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

<i>2007-2008 Budgets</i>	Budget	Budget	Actual
<i>Budget Comparison Sheet</i>	2007-2008	2006-2007	2006/7 YTD
Income			
4000 BSA OPERATIONAL INCOME			
4100 BSA Membership Income	117,100	134,900	115,839
4200 Section Dues	3,500	3,500	
4300 Special Funds Contributions	51,700	16,700	3,928
4400 AJB Income	858,195	776,822	787,713
4500 Meeting Income	10,580	10,580	
4600 Other/Grant Income	100,000	100,000	8,199
7000 INVESTMENT INCOME	41,000	41,000	49,942
7200 GAIN / (LOSS) SSB FUNDS	25,000	20,000	333,302
8000 BOTANY CONFERENCE INCOME	118,000	118,000	
TOTAL INCOME	1,325,075	1,221,502	1,298,923
Total Income	1,325,075	1,221,502	1,298,923
Operational Income	1,141,075	1,042,502	915,679
Investment Income	66,000	61,000	383,243
Meetings Income	118,000	118,000	-
Expenses			
5000 EMPLOYMENT EXPENSES	631,853	552,142	281,823
5100 TRAVEL & MEETINGS	43,580	43,580	22,919
5200 FACILITY EXPENSES	23,360	22,400	15,203
5300 INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENSES	7,500	7,500	4,330
5400 OFFICE EXPENSES	21,500	21,500	5,326
5500 OTHER EXPENSES	23,200	23,200	12,565
5600 PUBLICATIONS	369,400	353,400	169,768
5700 DEVELOPMENT	110,100	95,100	15,853
7500 INVESTMENT EXPENSES	36,000	36,000	32,145
8000 Conference Expenses	41,520	41,520	2,761
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,308,013	1,196,342	562,693
Total Expense	1,308,013	1,196,342	

Operational Expense	1,230,493	1,118,822	527,787
Investment Expense	36,000	36,000	32,145
Meetings Expense	41,520	41,520	2,761
Consolidated BSA Operations			
Income	1,141,075	1,042,502	915,679
Expense	1,129,605	1,032,324	527,787
Balance	11,471	10,178	387,892
Botany Conference Series			
Income	118,000	118,000	-
Expense	112,408	103,018	2,761
Balance	5,592	14,983	(2,761)
BSA Investment			
Income	66,000	61,000	383,243
Expense	66,000	61,000	32,145
Balance	-	-	351,098
TOTAL			
Income	1,325,075	1,221,502	1,298,923
Expense	1,308,013	1,196,342	562,693
Balance	17,063	25,160	736,230

Editor - *American Journal of Botany* Council Report - 2007

- The current editorial staff includes Ms. Amy McPherson (Managing Editor), Dr. Beth Hazen (Production Editor and lead copy editor), Dr. Sophia Balcomb, and several freelance copy editors. Sincere thanks are extended to reviewers, Associate Editors, and the Editorial Staff for their diligent work on behalf of the *AJB* over the past year.
- As of January, 2008 (Volume 95, Number 1), Sheridan Press will be the printer of *AJB*. A new online manuscript submission and tracking system will be adopted (EditorialManager is the top contender), with the training and trial period to begin later this month.
- All communications (electronic, mail, and telephone) should be directed to the Editorial Office, which is located in St. Louis, at the BSA headquarters at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The address is American Journal of Botany, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; tel. 314-577-5112; fax 314-577-9515; email to: ajb@botany.org; www.amjbot.org). If you return paper copies of reviews or marked manuscripts, please send them to St. Louis, not to Davis.
- Associate Editors (AEs) are very involved in the publication process. Their responsibilities include suggesting reviewers, reading and evaluating reviews, and making recommendations for the EiC's final decision. There are now 52 Associate Editors, with two more to join the Editorial Board in January 2008.
- Suggestions for special paper topics and books reviews are encouraged. Please contact Darleen DeMason (demason@ucr.edu) for special papers and Michael Christianson (mxianson@pacbell.net) for book reviews.
- The impact factor for the *American Journal of Botany* rose from 2.572 in 2005 to 2.969 in 2006, and the Journal's impact factor ranking rose from 22 to 16. This probably reflects the popular and widely cited "Green Tree of Life" special issue in Oct. 2004. The challenge will be to sustain and build on this increase.
- A major problem with papers continues to be authors' failure to explicitly state in the abstract and elsewhere why they did the research they did, what major question in biology in general or botany in particular their research addressed; why anyone outside the specific discipline of the paper should care about the results; and how knowledge of general principles and mechanisms of

biology is expanded by publication of this paper. The answers to these questions should appear explicitly in the abstract, or the manuscript may be returned for revision without review.

- Authors have two opportunities to submit an acceptable manuscript to *AJB*: the original submission and one revision. If the revised manuscript is deficient in any way other than typos and very minor details, it is declined for publication.
- There is a moving one-year wall for open access to all *AJB* content. BSA members and subscribing institutions have immediate access to all current and past *AJB* content.
- Comments and suggestions are always welcome from readers, authors, reviewers, staff, and Associate Editors. E-mail to ajb@botany.org.

***AJB* Statistics**

Manuscript Types and Processing Time

ABOT Journal

Summary

Report

For Period:

1/1/2006 -

12/31/2006

Manuscript Types	Total # of Submitted Mss.	Accept Rate (%)	Total # of Accepted Mss.	Total # of Rejected Mss.	Total # of Pending Mss.	Days from Receipt to 1st Decision	Days from Receipt to Final Decision
Research Article	396	42	148	202	46	73.31	147.09
Special Paper	21	100	21	0	0	38.14	119.05
Brief							
Communications	12	36	4	7	1	45.67	113
Book Review	1	100	1	0	0	3	3
Total	430	45	174	209	47	70.66	144.34

For Period: 1/1/2005 –

12/31/2005

Manuscript Types	Total # of Submitted Mss.	Accept Rate (%)	Total # of Accepted Mss.	Total # of Rejected Mss.	Total # of Pending Mss.	Days from Receipt to 1st Decision	Days from Receipt to Final Decision
Research Article	397	42	157	217	23	70.89	122
Special Paper	3	0	0	1	2	19.67	59
Brief							
Communications	18	11	2	16	0	54.17	76.67
Book Review	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	418	40	159	234	25	69.8	119.77

Manuscript Categories Submitted to Journal

Manuscript Category	Total 06	Total 05
Ecology	107	112
Systematics and Phytogeography	96	96
Reproductive Biology	94	87
Anatomy and Morphology	64	47
Population Biology	51	48
Physiology and Biochemistry	28	13
Genetics	20	13

Paleobotany	19	23
Developmental Biology and Developmental Genetics	10	21
Cell Biology	8	4
Mycology and Plant Pathology	7	4
Phycology	4	4
Pteridology	3	3
Bryology and Lichenology	2	2
Structure and Development	*	10
Tropical Biology	*	7
Physiology and Development	*	4

*Not a separate category in 2006

Decisions on Manuscripts

	Total 2006	Total 2005
Original Manuscripts Submitted	479	482
Revised Manuscripts Resubmitted	487	438
Manuscripts Accepted Without Revisions	1	3
Return with Revisions	254	216
Manuscripts Rejected	198	196
Rejected With Review	101	97
Returned Without Review	97	99
Rejected After Revisions	39	24
Requires Another Revision	289	216
Accepted after Revisions	315	231
Manuscripts Withdrawn	10	68
Original Manuscripts Not Withdrawn	469	414
Total Manuscripts Submitted (originals + revisions)	966	920

Respectfully submitted, Judy Jernstedt Editor-in-Chief

Amy McPherson Managing Editor

Editor's Report, *Plant Science Bulletin*

Volume 52

- Four issues, 148 pages, were published on schedule with press runs of 3800 copies.
- Feature articles included:
 - Truman State University's Solar Clock Garden 100th Anniversary Series
 - C.J.A. – The Last Mycologist Who Was BSA President.
 - Adriance Sherwood Foster: An Academic Grandchild Remembers
 - Crime-Solving Plants
 - The Conservatory at MUH and the 4th Grade Project
- Summaries of the Annual Meeting
 - Forum Plenary Address , “Communicating an Awareness of Plants through Science and Art. Roger P. Hangarter, Indiana University

- Presidential Address. A Century of “Botanical Opportunity:” Building on the Past, Providing for the Future. Christopher Haugler
 - Plenary Address. “A Historian Reflects on 100 Years of American Botany. Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis
 - BSA Strategic Planning Discussion. “Building for the Future.” Peter Raven
4. A new regular section was added to News from the Society - BSA Science Education News and Notes.
 5. 79 books were received for review; 37 reviews were published.

Volume 53

1. Two issues, 88 pages, have been published on schedule. Fall issue is in preparation.
2. Feature articles included:
 - Public Gardens and the New Family Visitor
 - Allelopathy of Pseudo-allelopathy in Classroom Experiments
 - The University of Northern Iowa Botanical Center – 70 Years of Progress
 - The Lloyd Library and Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio
 - Linnaeus
 - CITES
3. A total of 36 books were received for review, 27 reviews were published.
4. Career Opportunities link on web page now identified with Plant Science Bulletin.

Individuals interested in submitting feature articles or in suggesting future article topics should contact the editor.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Marsh Sundberg, Editor,
Plant Science Bulletin

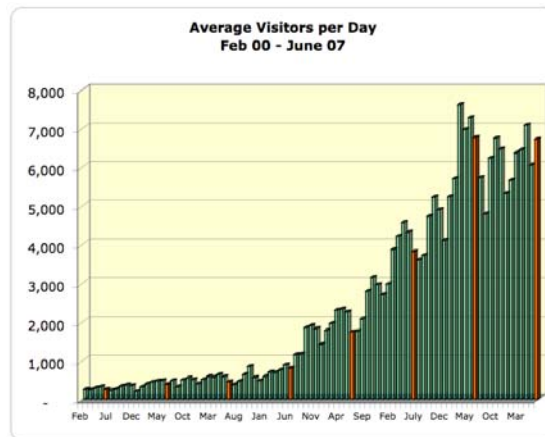
Webmaster

1. Introduction

Two million, two hundred and thirty-seven thousand, four hundred and forty-six (**2,237,446**) visitors came to the Botanical Society of America’s main websites from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007. This is up 7.8% on the previous year, and reflects website statistics across the board.

The BSA website is continuing to develop as a major support tool for the Society in impacting its mission. We performed a major site upgrade over the past year to improve access and visibility to all online offering. It is important to note that number of people accessing the main site is leveling off. We need more and better resources to keep growth going.

Again this year I ask for your assistance in adding web content. The Education Committee and Teaching Section are setting up structures for the review of images and educational resources. If you have some spare time, they could use your help. And what of those old educational resources and images you developed that are just sitting on a hard drive somewhere - we can help people find, and use, these items.

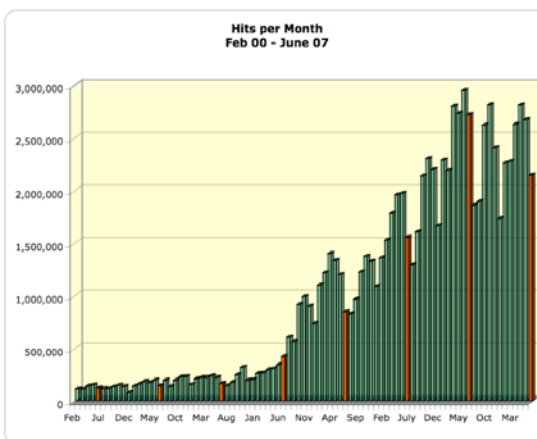


We have completed or made substantial progress on all of the projects listed in last year's report. Our accounting systems are now all online. As those attending the Botany 2006 conference can attest, we have made major changes to the conference support systems on the web, and this component will continue to evolve. Our educational outreach is gathering momentum and will be a big part of what we accomplish over the coming year. The Scientific Inquiry through Plants project remains our single largest effort.

2. Statistics – BSA site

As the “Average Visitor Session per Day” diagram indicates, the trend for people accessing the BSA website has leveled off. Over the past few months we have had roughly 6,662 people per day visiting the site. For the same period last year the number was about 7,000 and 4,000 people per day in 2005. Our highest rate of visitors per day was achieved in March 2006 with an average of 7,945 (7,092 in 2007). March 2006 was also our busiest month to date with over 235,991 visitors (199,892 in 2007).

Over the past year our main web sites experienced over 28,151,775 hits. For the month of June 2007 the Botanical Society of America's main websites experienced 2,149,304 successful hits (2,872,508 in 2006). The “successful hits per month” trend for the period February 2000 through June 2007 is highlighted in the diagram to the right. Our record high was achieved in May of 2006 with 2,952,683 hits.



Over the past year our main web sites transferred over 771 gigabytes of information to visitors' computers. In June of 2007 we transferred 67.78 gigabytes of data to visitors (59.34 in 2006). Our highest month for data transfer was May of 2007 at 84.404 gigabytes. With increased content it is important to note that people are also spending longer at our site.

In each of my previous webmaster reports I point out that the website is a tool with two main purposes. It acts as: 1.) a means of storing and communicating information to the BSA membership; and 2.) a medium for the dissemination of information that supports our wider mission. I also asked that you consider the fact that the vast majority of people visiting our website are not botanists. They are coming to research, explore, or find out something about botany. The website's job, if it is aimed at our mission, is to promote botany by getting people to the website and having them stay and explore what we/it has to offer. Over time our goal is to ensure: more people are coming to the site; people who visit are exploring more pages; and they are staying longer.

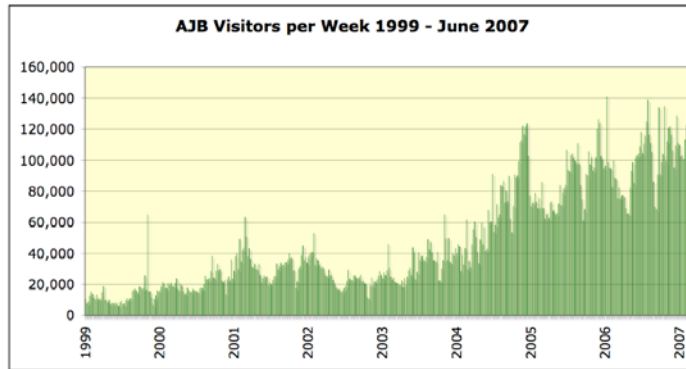
Developments over the past year have focused on the mission and appear to be producing the desired outcomes. Trends indicate more people are coming, they are visiting more pages, and they are staying longer. To continue this we must develop meaningful, challenging, and changing content. Again I'd like to stress the fact that our potential to reach people, including potential future botanists, is nearly unlimited but very much related to the effort we put into the content we place for use on the site. We could reach thousands more teachers and young people by simply dropping an advertisement in the NABT or NSTA monthly magazines, but we need the content to engage them and bring them back.

Over the past year we have added significantly to the foundations of the BSA website. We have continued the task of creating a tool that provides impact on our mission (and the promotion of the science of botany). We look forward to continued developments in the year ahead.

Website statistics can be viewed online in the reports section of the website at: <http://www.botany.org/newsite/reporting/webstats.php>

3. Statistics - American Journal of Botany

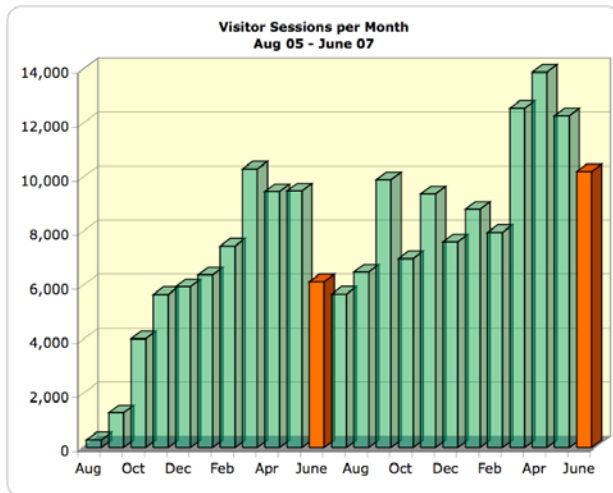
The overall trend for use of the American Journal of Botany online remains positive. Access the introduction of paid online subscriptions continues to grow. will monitor this closely over the coming months as we continue to links from the main site directly AJB articles. We hope to dramatically increase traffic over next twelve months.



after
We
add
to
the

We currently have 1,616 members (1,634 in 2006, 1,404 in 2005, 1,476 in 2004 and 1,505 in 2003) and 1,259 institutions (1,366 in 2006, 1,038 in 2005, 764 in 2004 and 182 in 2003) activated for online access to the *American Journal of Botany*. We are working with subscription agents to ensure as many institutions as possible activate and use the online component of their subscriptions.

4. PlantingScience



In 2006 the PlantingScience web statistics were included in the main BSA web stats. In 2007 we moved to tracking this site as a separate entity. Stats will be reported alongside the main site at <http://www.botany.org/newsite/reporting/webstats.php>. As you can see, we are growing! One hundred eleven thousand, eight hundred and twenty seven people visited the site from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

5. BSA Educational Outreach

In early 2006 the BSA's main website began to support a range of educational activities. Stop for a moment and consider the potential. For

example, a topic in the "Scientific Inquiry through Plants" project may include in its resource list images for the main site, links to articles in the AJB, links to articles in the PSB, links to specific members works or links to the new "Classroom PLANT talking points". Our goal is to link our resources together wherever and whenever appropriate. Member contributions and support have, and will continue to play a critical part of site development.

Thank you to members who donated images to the site. Over the past year we were able to add over 200 new images.

6. Functional Developments

Over the past year we have continued to develop the BSA websites as centers for our educational outreach, business, and conference operations. We have streamlined our processes in an effort to improve accuracy, reduce manual input, and improve timeliness of and accessibility to information.

7. Summary

In 2007 the BSA staff continued to develop the BSA's **3M concept**, with the three Ms being: Mission, Member Services & Support, and Member Recognition. We trust you'll find the concepts carrying forward to the BSA websites in that we are: #1 moving forward and delivering on the BSA's mission; #2 making things easier for you in all aspects of member support and services; and #3 if you are producing work for the Society, be it in the AJB, PSB, images, educational resources... we'll make sure people find your work if they are looking.

I look forward to your contributions and, wherever possible, your involvement over the coming year. Your feedback is most appreciated.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Bill Dahl

Business Report

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. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Society, and myself, I also thank and acknowledge the Society's staff, Rob Brandt, Beth Hazen, Claire Hemingway, Wanda Lovan, Amy McPherson and Johanne Stogran, for their efforts and dedication to the Botanical Society of America. What an exciting year! Once again, as a team, we were able to improve our ability to support BSA members, meetings and our mission.

Thank you!

I extend a special thank you to those members who donated to our endowment and to the BSA sectional/awards funds. Contributions totaled over \$15,600. At the meeting you will hear about our efforts to support future generations of botanists through the establishment of the BSA Legacy Society. It is exciting to see this aspect of the Society maturing and planning so positively for our future.

BSA Financial Summary - June 21, 2007			
Operations	2007 YTD	2007 Total Budget	2006 YTD
Income	\$ 979,611.45	\$ 1,022,302.00	\$ 884,541.07
Expenditure	\$ 630,626.86	\$ 1,006,724.00	\$ 621,755.00
Balance	\$ 348,984.59	\$ 15,578.00	\$ 262,786.07
Meeting			
Income	\$ -	\$ 118,000.00	\$ 11,692.07
Expenditure	\$ 2,761.22	\$ 103,018.00	\$ 18,225.20
Balance	\$ (2,761.22)	\$ 14,982.00	\$ (6,533.13)
Investments			
Income	\$ 458,040.33	\$ 56,200.00	\$ 178,547.61
Expenditure	\$ 34,860.93	\$ 61,600.00	\$ 34,933.07
Balance	\$ 423,179.40	\$ (5,400.00)	\$ 143,614.54
Overall Position			
Income	\$ 1,437,651.78	\$ 1,196,502.00	\$ 1,074,780.75
Expenditure	\$ 668,249.01	\$ 1,171,342.00	\$ 674,913.27
Balance	\$ 769,402.77	\$ 25,160.00	\$ 399,867.48
Current Account Balances - June 21, 2007			
St. Louis Cash	\$ 74,357.98		
St. Louis MM	\$ 498,053.30		
Meeting	\$ 49,096.15		
Smith Barney	\$ 3,638,944.83		
Balance	\$ 4,260,452.26		

Financial Update

BSA account balances are provided in the table to the left. Operational income and expenditure are up over the same period last year. Both fall within a reasonable range when compared to the 2007 budget for the first eight months of the financial year. I anticipate we will finish the year close to the budgeted income and slightly below anticipated expenditure.

Please note: The meeting finances are being managed by the American Society of Plant Biologists, thus explaining the lack of income/expenditure in this area. We are expecting to meet budget.

The BSA Smith Barney investment account stands at \$3,638,944.83. We have had a good year in terms of investment growth.

BSA Treasurer Kent Holsinger will provide further financial details in his report, including the 2008 BSA Budget.

American Journal of Botany

The 2008 American Journal of Botany institutional rates have been set at \$565.00. This is an increase of 9.7% (\$50.00) over the 2007 rate.

Membership & Institutional Subscription Activity

	Print Subscriptions			Online Only			Total	Total Overall Relationship			We have registered 1,473 Print, plus Print & Online institutional subscriptions
	USA	Other	Total	USA	Other	Total		US	Other	Total	
Member Subscriptions											
Jun-02	612	329	941	987	314	1,301	2,242	1,599	643	2,242	
Jun-03	584	342	926	1,055	329	1,384	2,310	1,639	671	2,310	
Jun-04	537	320	857	940	327	1,267	2,124	1,477	647	2,124	
Jun-05	532	260	792	1,037	294	1,331	2,123	1,569	554	2,123	
Jun-06	462	291	753	934	330	1,264	2,017	1,396	621	2,017	
Jun-07	471	272	743	1,516	558	2,074	2,817	1,987	830	2,817	
Institutional Subscriptions											
Jun-02	1,309	380	1,689	9	3	12	1,701	1,318	383	1,701	
Jun-03	1,217	344	1,561	23	14	37	1,598	1,240	358	1,598	
Jun-04	1,212	342	1,554	34	17	51	1,605	1,246	359	1,605	
Jun-05	1,177	297	1,474	44	44	88	1,562	1,221	341	1,562	
Jun-06	1,106	274	1,380	61	61	122	1,502	1,167	335	1,502	
Jun-07	1,033	264	1,297	102	74	176	1,473	1,135	338	1,473	

subscriptions for the year to date. By year's end we should exceed the budgeted sales volume of 1,492 subscriptions. Sales revenue is \$736,892 as compared to a budget of \$710,000.

Member subscriptions, at 732 print copies, have exceeded the budget of 700.

In March 2007, the Executive Council voted to move our printing operations to Sheridan Press. All items are on track for the move to Sheridan Press. We have also gained back the lost time in regards to Journal production and you will receive the July issue during the first week of July!

Recommendation 1: It is recommended member rates for the AJB increase by \$5 for professional (\$85) and emeritus/retired members (\$55) for the 2008 year, a 6.25% increase.

Botany Conferences

Upcoming Botany Conferences:

- 2008 – Joint meeting with the Canadian Botanical Association-L'Association Botanique du Canada, ABLs, AFS, and ASPT in Vancouver
- 2009 – Joint meeting with the Mycological Association of America, ABLs, AFS, and ASPT in Snowbird
- 2010 – to be discussed by the committee in Chicago (East Coast, Caribbean)
- 2011 – Alaska?

BSA Membership & Subscriptions

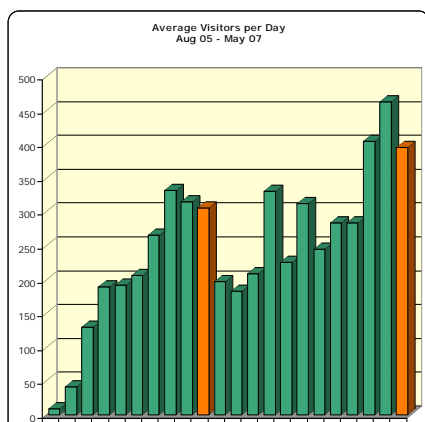
Membership levels continue to be a bright spot for the BSA. Membership in the Society stands at 2,817. This is led by a significant increase in student numbers, but is evident across all membership categories.

The membership committee will meet on Sunday, 8 July, in Chicago, to discuss a fall student membership drive. We will also come up with a plan to ensure that all members renew early for the 2008 year.

A few years ago, we moved away from early-registration discounts. We may, however, look at a special rate for returning students in 2008. Our goal is to maintain growth within this group.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended membership rates for 2008 remain the same.

Recommendation 3: It is recommended we provide students an incentive to renew, with an “early renewal” rate for of \$15.



be shifting the Advisory Board meeting to the fall of this year in order to have all three units available for testing in the spring of 2008.

Please take the time to look at the program. We are in the process of exploring ways you can use PlantingScience in meeting your broader impact commitments in NSF grants and we'd appreciate your ideas in this area.

Website

The growth trend on the BSA website continues to flatten. We will need to add resources and find new areas of interest to keep growth heading upward. We ask all sections to consider how they might contribute to the BSA website.

Thinking Green

BSA is developing a relationship with several plant-related organizations in an effort to provide access to our expanding infrastructure, including our membership-subscription and our conference-abstract software. We are in discussions with the Society for Economic Botany Council, Center for Plant

Membership Types

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Corresponding	49 2%	49 2%	51 2%	50 2%	49 2%
Life	54 2%	51 2%	48 2%	46 2%	46 2%
Emeritus	194 7%	114 5%	132 6%	92 4%	149 6%
E Family	24 1%	14 1%	16 1%	5 0%	7 0%
Retired	9 0%				
R Family	2 0%				
Professional	1515 54%	1393 62%	1511 65%	1521 68%	1667 68%
P Family	227 8%	187 8%	181 8%	145 7%	161 7%
Student	635 23%	371 17%	377 16%	354 16%	347 14%
S Family	13 0%	11 0%	7 0%	5 0%	4 0%
K-12 Teachers	28 1%	19 1%	5 0%	4 0%	8 0%
Affiliate	21 1%	7 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Associate	9 0%	13 1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Amateur	37 1%	16 1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
2007	2817	2245	2328	2222	2438
Professional	2074 74%	1808 81%	1939 83%	1859 84%	2079 86%
Student	648 23%	382 17%	384 16%	359 16%	351 14%
Other	95 3%	55 2%	5 0%	4 0%	8 0%
	2817	2245	2328	2222	2438

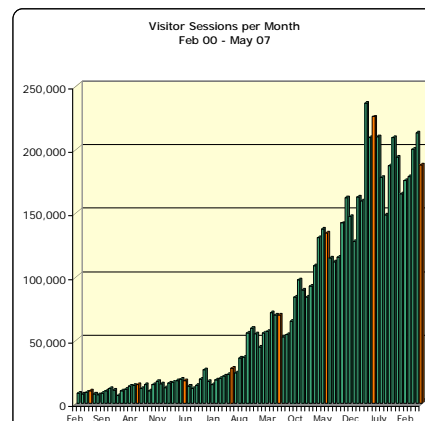
US and Non-US Memberships

	USA	Other Nations	Total Members
Sep-02	1,667	693	2,360
Sep-03	1,709	691	2,400
Sep-04	1,541	684	2,225
Sep-05	1,676	613	2,289
Sep-06	1,563	682	2,245
Jun-07	1,987	830	2,817

Recommendation 4: It is recommended we hold a new student membership drive beginning at the opening of classes in the fall of 2007 at a gift-rate of \$10 per student. In conjunction with this drive it is requested the sections waive fees to allow gift memberships to include sectional memberships.

PlantingScience

PlantingScience continues to grow at a manageable rate. We were awarded a Monsanto Fund grant of \$81,173 over a two-year period for materials development. We are moving forward with plans and Claire has arranged for a topic development group to get together in St. Louis in August to prepare three draft units. We will also



Conservation and the Society of Mathematical Botany. We currently provide limited membership support to the American Fern Society.

Thanks, Bill

Archive and History Committee - Report to Botany 2007

Shirley Graham, Chair, Kent Holsinger and David Spooner

The Archive and History Committee has been inactive during 2006-2007. The Archives continue to be safely maintained at the Business Office of the Botanical Society in St. Louis, Missouri.

Various items within the archives were accessed by Marsh Sundberg, BSA staff, members of the Executive Committee and members of the PlantingScience Development committee over the past year. This follows extensive use of the files by Betty Smocovitis during the previous year in preparation for her paper in the July AJB and Plenary Address at the Botany 2006 Centennial Celebration.

Education Committee Report

Submitted by Gordon Uno

Major advances took place in two BSA Education projects this year, mostly due to the efforts of Claire Hemingway and Bill Dahl. The two most important activities were the ongoing Planting Science project and the potential future collaborative educational efforts between BSA and the ASPB.

Claire Hemingway and her collaborators have submitted a number of proposals to funding agencies to support the Planting Science project. One of those proposals, to the Monsanto Foundation, was successful, which indicates the current strengths of and bright promise for the project. Several Education Committee members serve on the steering committee to Planting Science, and this advisory committee met in April to address some of the issues that have arisen based on the interactions between students, teachers, scientists and the Planting Science website. Education Committee members will also be involved in the recently funded project to develop new inquiries for Planting Science.

The upcoming BSA/ASPB joint annual meeting is an opportunity to continue to cultivate interactions between members from both societies who are interested and engaged in educational activities. Two ASPB members have met with the steering committee of Planting Science, including the former chair of the ASPB Education Committee, Larry Griffing, and Paul Williams. In addition to the Joint Education Forum at this year's Chicago meeting, the current ASPB Education Committee chair, Mary Williams, will attend the BSA Education Committee meeting, which will be an excellent opportunity to strengthen collaborations and plan for future interactions. High on the list of topics will be those activities that help to increase plant projects used at the pre-college level and to increase awareness of Botany and Plant Science majors in college.

Two nominees were selected for the Bessey Award this year: Dr. Tom Rost, from the University of California, Davis, and Dr. Jim Wandersee from Louisiana State University.

Financial Advisory Committee (FAC)

Joe Armstrong jearmstr@ilstu.edu (Member)
Russell Chapman <rchapman@ucsd.edu> (Member)
Jack Horner hth@iastate.edu (Member and Chair)
Bill Dahl <wdahl@botany.org> (ex officio, Executive Director)
Kent Holsinger kent@darwin.eeb.uconn.edu (ex officio, Treasurer)
Christopher Haufler <vulgare@ku.edu> (ex officio, President)

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

Re: Annual Report of the FAC for 2006-2007

Since the previous 2006-2007 Annual Report, the FAC has:

- monthly monitored the BSA Endowment Fund (EF) invested with Smith Barney (SB);
- had two conference calls, one in the fall and one in the spring, with the SB staff in Des Moines, IA;
- made decisions on how the portfolio was to be configured to meet the changing global markets
- not recommended an amount of the EF for 2007-2008 to the EC/Council for initiatives, pending further discussion in Chicago prior to Council meeting
-

As of June 6, 2007 the EF value was \$3,633,455. As of June 30, 2006 (about one year ago) the EF value was \$3,097,239, an *increase of \$536,216* for the present fiscal year. This represents a *gross 17.3 percent annual increase* in the value of the EF. The Endowment Fund total management fee for last fiscal year was \$38,000 (1.1%) which means for 2006-2007, the net gain is 16.2%.

Presently, the EF is divided into three categories:

- Stocks + Money Funds = \$2,613,166
- Stocks + Money Funds = \$ 610,960
- Fixed Income + Money Funds = \$ 409,329
- **Total = \$3,633,455** (as of end of June 6, 2007)

During the spring conference call, rebalancing of the EF to come closer to its expected 9.44% net return goal was discussed and approved. There were four areas within the entire portfolio that were changed to accomplish the rebalance: decrease Legg Mason custom MDA portfolio; decrease Delaware-International; Increase Madison-Intermediate Fixed Income; and acquire iShares Emerging Market Index Fund. These changes are reflected in the numbers above. Even though the increase this past year is above the FAC/SB goal of 9.44% for this year, the latter number is based on an average goal to be maintained over a much longer period of time.

The FAC believes the EF is growing at a reasonably steady rate but needs infusion by the membership to reach the 5 million mark it established two years ago.

There is *no recommendation at this time* to provide the EC/Council with an amount of money from the Endowment Fund for BSA initiatives for fiscal 2007-2008. A recommendation may be forthcoming at the FAC's meeting in July, in Chicago, and before the Council meeting. The

reason for this is that Bill Dahl and Kent Hollinger requested a delay in any recommendation until they were able to pursue one or more initiatives before the July meeting.

The FAC has scheduled a committee meeting at the Chicago Meeting, at 8:30 am, Sunday morning, July 8, in the Chicago Hilton (location to be determined).

The chair or any member of the FAC will be willing to answer questions about the EF.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry T. (Jack) Horner, FAC Chair

Membership

Despite the initiative to increase the number of members (up to 2,817 from 2,017 the previous year) by offering inexpensive gift memberships for international colleagues and students, the society faces challenges to keeping membership up in this electronic age. With many libraries providing electronic access for their clientele to journals, and many modern scientists eschewing print versions of scientific publications, some of the benefits of society membership are no longer as attractive as they once were. 2,074 members are 'on-line only', with 725 print subscriptions, an indication of this change. Though the society had budgeted for 700 print subscriptions, no increase in dues is recommended at this time.

We see the need to make the membership aware of, and more involved in, the many potentially beneficial aspects of belonging to the Botanical Society of America: networking with colleagues about research interests, opportunities, and funding; sharing resources and materials for teaching and public education; getting together to share research findings, explore new places, and discuss botanical challenges of the new millenium. We have some suggestions for extending our reach and influence, and hopefully, our membership.

1) Increase our international outreach, considering that 'America' means more than the U.S.A. Canada, Central, and South America are all on the American continent, yet we have fewer publications from Latin America than Asian countries. We need to actively solicit colleagues in other American countries to join us, and nominate accomplished Americans for Corresponding Memberships. This will inspire their students and colleagues to get more involved with the society, for the benefit of all.

2) Increase student membership, fostering an alliance that continues with professional memberships after the terminal degree. To this end, our Executive Director suggests a discount for early renewal for students (\$15), to encourage renewals as well as first-time memberships.

Our recommendations are:

Recommendation : It is recommended membership rates for 2008 remain the same.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended we provide students an incentive to renew, with an "early renewal" rate for of \$15.

Recommendation 3: It is recommended we hold a new student/ foreign colleague membership drive beginning at the opening of classes in the fall of 2007 at a gift-rate of \$10 per student. In conjunction with this drive it is requested the sections waive fees to allow gift memberships to include sectional memberships.

Publication Committee

Patrick S. Herendeen, Chair 8 June 2007

The only significant activity of the Publications Committee this year was to evaluate the printing contract proposals for AJB. The journal's printing contract will end this year and therefore the Publications Committee was asked to help in evaluating materials submitted by two printers, Allen Press and Sheridan Press. The committee was in agreement that the materials submitted by Sheridan Press provided evidence that this company is at the forefront of publishing technology and is working hard to maintain this reputation. The company was very responsive to BSA in answering questions and providing requested details so that we could make an informed comparison of services. Allen Press was not as responsive and in some respects does not seem to be as current in technological advances in the trade. The committee was favorably impressed with the Sheridan proposal. We were not asked to consider cost differences so this did not enter into our deliberations.

Respectfully submitted, Patrick S. Herendeen

Bessey Award Committee – [See Education Committee Report](#)

Cheadle Award Committee

The Cheadle Award Committee (Frank Ewers, Bruce Kirchoff, and Larry Hufford [chair]) evaluated proposals from seven applicants. We selected four students to each receive \$500 awards based on each student's plans to attend Botany 2007, the relevance of the talk/poster to structural botany, and the intellectual quality of the talk/poster.

The following students were selected to receive awards:

Madelaine Bartlett, University of California, Berkeley; Patricia Ryberg, University of Kansas; Julia Nowak, University of Guelph; and John Mossberg, University of Central Arkansas

Prepared by Larry Hufford

Darbaker Prize Committee Report 2007

The committee was composed of Wayne Fagerberg, Linda Graham and Martha Cook (chair).

The solicitation for nominations was sent out electronically to members of the BSA and to the Phycological Society of America. It was also posted on the BSA and PSA websites and put in the Plant Science Bulletin and the PSA Newsletter. Three nominations were received. The committee unanimously agreed that JoAnn Burkholder was the most outstanding nominee based on the criterion of meritorious work in the study of microalage during the last 2 calendar years (2005-2006), published in English. Burkholder is at the Center for Applied Aquatic Phycology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh North Carolina.

(<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantbiology/Faculty/jburkholder/jburkholder.html>)

Dr. Burkholder is recognized for the breadth of her many important contributions toward understanding harmful dinoflagellates, including the environmental factors affecting these algae, their effects on other organisms, and interspecific differences among the algae. The nominated papers from the previous two years are cited in the main report.

Esau Award Committee

Karling Awards Committee

Merit Awards Committee

6/19/07

Richard Olmstead, Chair (Dennis Stevenson, Dan Crawford, members)

Five nominations were received for the BSA Merit Award this year. Three nominations were accompanied by letters of support advocating for the nominee, whereas the other two were received in the form of a letter of nomination, accompanied by a CV for the nominee and names of individuals to contact for letters of evaluation (as per the call for nominations).

The Committee met electronically several times during May to discuss the nominations and issues pertaining to the Merit Award and its role in BSA. While accepting that committees in other years may have held different interpretations, this committee agreed that “outstanding contributions to botanical science” should be interpreted to mean scientific contributions. Hence, award decisions were made on the basis of the impact of the research contributions made by nominees. We recognize that BSA members make many contributions that enhance the field of Botany through teaching, service to the scientific community, and to the Society and that such contributions all are worthy of recognition by the Society and should, perhaps, be identified with specific awards (e.g., the Bessey Award for excellence in teaching).

As a small committee, we agreed that we would resolve any conflict over approval of award nominations by consensus. Thus, only nominees about whom we all agreed were meritorious were approved. After reading the files and sharing our views on the nominees, three were approved for Merit Awards. While recognizing that each of the other two nominees had made valuable contributions to botanical science and to the field of botany in many ways, we decided that their contributions did not merit the highest award that the Society bestows at this time. The BSA President, Executive Director, and all nominators were notified of decisions on June 1.

Comments and recommendations. There are a few concerns that arose in discussions this year and which have been raised in recent past years.

Award Criteria. The simple statement of the criteria for the award is appealing for its simplicity, but leaves open to interpretation what is meant by “outstanding contributions to botanical science” and “truly exceptional scientists in plant biology.” Perhaps giving the Awards Committee leeway to interpret the criteria as they see fit is desirable, but committees in the past few years have grappled with issues pertaining to criteria, concluding that research should be emphasized, despite the fact that different criteria have, apparently, been applied in the past. A more explicit statement of criteria would be valuable.

Establishment of a BSA Service Award. Many societies have awards for service to the Society, either as regular awards or as special awards. Given that the BSA has a teaching award, establishment of a service award may be one means of clarifying the criteria for the Merit Award as an award based on scientific research contributions.

Form of the nomination. Letters of support accompanying nominations tend to be strictly advocational, whereas letters requested for evaluation purposes have a very different purpose. The latter conforms to the strict interpretation of the call for nominations. However, the former tends to be the way most nominations are received in the past few years. "Complete package" nominations, including letters, are far easier administratively, but do not necessarily provide a critical evaluation of the nominations. The present system does not assure that the most meritorious members are being recognized each year. Whereas it will be easier to continue receiving nominations in the fashion we have in the past, perhaps the Society should consider generating the nominations and soliciting evaluations. This certainly would require more work and a larger committee and may not be feasible. A middle ground may be to have Society members generate the nominations and submit a letter and CV, while leaving it up to the committee to solicit the letters of evaluation. This would be more work for the committee, but would lead to a more objective evaluation process.

Submitted by,
Richard Olmstead

Moseley Award Committee

Pelton Award Committee

BSA Sectional Reports

Bryological and Lichenological

Developmental and Structural

Prepared by Larry Hufford 29 June 2007

At the sectional business meeting held in Chico, California, at Botany 2006 we conducted the following business:

- 1) Students who received Cheadle and Developmental and Structural Section travel awards were introduced.
- 2) Frank Ewers (California State University, Pomona) was elected as the new program director for the section.
- 3) Symposium proposals for Botany 2006 were discussed.

At Botany 2006, 44 papers and 12 posters were presented to the Development and Structure Section. Seventeen of the papers and three of the posters were presented by students.

Symposia sponsored at least in part by the section at the 2006 meeting included the following:

- (1) The Evolution of Ericales: Recent Insights using both Morphology and Molecules.
- (2) A Century Of Wood Anatomy and 75 Years Of IAWA.
- (3) Bringing Together the Living and Dead: Integrating Extant and Fossil Biodiversity in Evolutionary Studies.

(4) The Comparative - Phylogenetic Method of Reconstructing Evolutionary History

The Katherine Esau Award for the most outstanding student presentation on plant development or structure was given to Brigitte Marazzi, University of Zurich, for her paper “Evolution of floral diversity in the buzz-pollinated genus *Senna* (Leguminosae, Cassiinae).”

The executive committee evaluated applications from students for travel awards to Botany 2007. Five students were given travel awards, including Tatiana Arias, University of Tennessee; Natalia Pabon Mora, CUNY/New York Botanical Garden; Maria Aurineide Rodrigues, Universidade de Sao Paulo; Yannick Staedler, University of Zurich; and Renate Wuersig, Purdue University.

Executive committee members also participated in the selection of the BSA’s Cheadle Awards. The following students were selected to receive Cheadle Awards to facilitate travel to Botany 2007: Madelaine Bartlett, University of California, Berkeley; Patricia Ryberg, University of Kansas; Julia Nowak, University of Guelph; and John Mossberg, University of Central Arkansas

The section will have its next business meeting in Chicago, Illinois, at Botany 2007.

Ecology

Highlights from Botany 2006 (Chico, CA)

Botany 2006 in Chico, CA was an exciting centennial celebration for the Botanical Society of America as well as the 30 year anniversary for the Ecological Section. Our section contributed greatly with 33 talks and 27 posters, a symposium (co-sponsored with \$1,000 support) entitled “Human Transformation of California: Botany, History, and Sociology”, and a special presentation on “History of the Ecological Section for the Past 30 Years”. Our business meeting on August 1 was attended by 44 people who shared their enthusiastic ideas while also sharing food and drink. Following are highlights from our section’s business meeting and student awards in Chico.

Ecological Section Meeting

- We welcomed **Jeffrey Walck**, our new section vice-chair. His term began after the meetings in Chico, and continues until 2009.
- Members present at the meeting unanimously supported to **change our bylaws** by deleting “serve as fiscal officer” from the responsibilities of our secretary and program director.
- The Ecological Section offered **Student Travel Awards** for the first time in 2006. **Thanks to Timothy Bell and Carl Weekley** for developing materials for these awards during the past year. We had a lively discussion relative to guidelines for those awards in the future. Consensus was to implement the following **guidelines for 2007**:
 - 1) Students do not need to be a member of BSA, but they must have a sponsor (i.e. advisor or coauthor) who is a member,
 - 2) Students must be the lead author, and be the person presenting a talk or poster at the meeting,
 - 3) No reference letters will be required,
 - 4) No question will be asked relative to why they want to be an ecologist,
 - 5) A set number of dollars (\$1000) will be available for awards with those dollars being divided between top candidates (hence the amount per student may vary from

year to year and the amount may be on a sliding scale based on estimated costs for student), and

6) Students who receive an award must wait a year to reapply rather than apply every year.

A suggestion was made to increase section dues to help support these awards. No decision was made regarding this increase.

- **Carl Weekley** (outgoing vice-chair) was thanked for his service to the Ecological Section by a gift of a cutting board with snacks and a BSA hat.
- **Carol Baskin** shared insight, memories and various documents related to the **history of the Ecological Section**, which was formed on May 30, 1976 in New Orleans with 70 charter members. The section had 335 members in 1977, just one year after it formed. A photo taken at Botany 2006 in Chico, CA including three of its charter members (Carol Baskin, Jerry Baskin, James Quinn) was attached to our section's fall newsletter.

Student Awards from Ecological Section (presented at society banquet in Chico)

- **Best Oral Presentation to Cristina Aragon** (co-authors Adrian Escudero and Fernando Valladares from the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos) for "Relationship between physiological status and fitness-related traits in a semi-arid specialist, *Helianthemum squamatum*, in two contrasting scenarios". \$150.
- **Best Poster to Jessica Rabenold** (co-author Candace Galen from the University of Missouri-Columbia) for "Friend or foe: effects of ants on fitness of an alpine wildflower, *Polemonium viscosum*". \$150.
- **Student Travel Awards to Rebecca Anderson** of Illinois State University (advisor Diane Byers) who presented a talk on "Selection and adaptation in heterogeneous soil nutrient environments" and to **Marissa Jernegan** of Eastern Illinois University (advisor Janice Coons) who presented a poster on "Seed longevity of *Lesquerella ludoviciana*, an endangered species of Illinois sand prairies". \$500 each.
- **Thanks to our judges** for the oral presentations (**Margaret Devall, David Gorchoy, and Katherine Preston**), for posters (**James Quinn, Jeffrey Walck, and Donald Young**), and for student travel awards (**Timothy Bell and Carl Weekley**).

Botany & Plant Biology 2007 (Chicago, IL)

Ecological Section Planned Activities

1) Sessions including **34 posters** and **38 papers**

2) **Co-sponsors** for the following **symposia**:

- Conservation Biology of Eastern Tallgrass Prairie: Integrating Issues of Management and Restoration for the 21st Century (\$600 support)
- Evolution in a Glaciated Landscape: Contribution of Endemism to Great Lakes Biodiversity (Name only support)
- Plant-Fungal Interactions (Name only support)
- The Evolution and Maintenance of Mixed Mating Systems (\$600 support)
- The Functional Significance of Leaf Shape Variation—Towards a Consensus from Gene to Community (\$400 support)

3) **Co-sponsor** for the following **workshop**:

- Measuring Eco-physiology of Plants from Cells to Ecosystems with Nondestructive Techniques (\$400 support)

Items of Interest

- We look forward to working with **Colette Amici** who has volunteered to help lead an effort for members of the Ecological Section to develop topics for “**plant talking points**” on the BSA website. These webpages will be simple thinking topics that might highlight important ecological concepts, and will be used for discussions by middle and high school students. We will discuss this activity in Chicago.
- A change is being recommended in the **amount of our section dues to fund our Student Travel Awards** which were initiated for Botany 2006 in Chico, CA. Currently dues are \$2/year, generating \$800-900/year. The recommendation is to increase dues to \$4/year to provide a large portion of the money needed to support our Student Travel Awards which are \$1000/year. Without this increase, the Ecological Section will be faced with either reducing the amount provided for student awards or the amount provided to support symposia/workshops. This recommendation will be discussed in more detail followed by a vote in Chicago.

Student Travel Awards

The Ecological Section had 25 applicants for **Student Travel Awards** for Botany & Plant Biology 2007 making it difficult to choose from the many impressive applications.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to receive these awards:

- **Cassandra Broadway** of Grand Valley State University who will present a poster on “Growth and Nodulation in *Trifolium repens* and *Glycine max* in Response to *Ailanthus altissima* Extracts” (co-authors Jeff Dock and Gary Greer). \$300.
- **John Geiger** of Florida International University who will present a paper on “Experimental Seed and Seedling Performance of the Endangered Vine *Ipomoea microdactyla* Griseb. (Convolvulaceae). \$400.
- **Daniel Hewins** of Rider University who will present a poster on “Jack of All Trades: Biological Invasion Facilitated by Use of Multiple Forms of Nitrogen” (co-authors Danielle Cheong, Sheena Gayomba, and Laura Hyatt). \$300.

Thanks to our **judges** for these student travel awards (**Timothy Bell, Jeffrey Walck, and Carl Weekley**).

Respectfully submitted, Janice Coons Chair, BSA Ecological Section

Economic Botany

2006 Economic Botany Section Meeting, Tuesday August 1, 2006, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Bell Memorial Union, Chico, California

Attendees:

- Recorder: Felix Coe, University of Connecticut, Secretary and Recorder, felix.coe@uconn.edu
- Bill Dahl (BSA Executive Director), wdahl@botany.org
- Norman Ellstrand, University of California Riverside, ellstrand@ucr.edu
- Gera Jochum, National Science Foundation, gjochum@nsf.gov
- Elizabeth Hueta Ortiz, University of California Riverside, ehuerta@ucdavis.edu
- Neil Reese, South Dakota State University, neilreese@sdstate.edu
- Mary Joe Ryan Duncan, maryjoeryan@eircom.net
- David Spooner, USDA, ARS: Univ. Wisconsin-Madison (Recorder; Economic Botany Section), dspooner@wisc.edu

- Anita Thorhaug, Yale Univ. (Physiological Section), athorhaugh@msn.com

AGENDA

Review of the presentations this year. This was the first year that the Botanical Society of America organized its talks and posters around topical themes, as well as around sections. Four topical themes were devoted to the Economic Botany Section: 1) Applied Plant Biology, 2) Ethnobotany, 3) Evolution of Cultivated Plants, 4) History of Plants and People. In total, these topical themes accumulated 15 talks and two posters.

Student Awards. Our section should begin looking for funds to give more student awards, and it is important to begin early on this venture.

Botanical Images. Bill Dahl discussed the push for the Botanical Society of America to get botanical images on the web, with documentation to these images. The Economic Botany Section has such fascinating investigations including field work in remote places that we should be able to contribute many good images.

PlantingScience. We discussed ideas for an Economic Botany Sip3 module, but it will take a lot of coordinated effort to get this off the ground.

Economic Botany Officers. David Spooner was reelected as Section Chair and Felix Coe was elected as Secretary.

Genetics

Activities of the BSA Genetics section during the 2006-2007 year include:

1. Business meeting conducted in Chico CA, 1 August 2006.
2. Genetics section had 5 contributed paper sessions with 44 papers over two days at the Botany 2006 meeting in Chico (these include both Genetics section and related thematic sections that fall under the general heading of Genetics).
3. Genetics section co-sponsored a symposium "Hybridization as a stimulus for the evolution of invasiveness in plants" at Botany 2006.
4. The 2006 Graduate Student Research Award based on evaluation of submitted proposals was awarded to Jill Duarte (Penn State University). This award includes \$500 for research and an additional \$500 to cover travel costs for a subsequent BSA meeting.
5. The 2006 Margaret Menzel Award (\$200) for the best paper was given to Katrina Dlugosch (U. California) for her paper "Inbreeding depression, outbreeding depression, and evolution in founding populations of an invasive plant".
6. The 2006 Genetics section Poster Award (\$100) for the section was given to Nyssa Temmel (U. British Columbia) for her poster "Identifying the genes involved in gender differentiation in *Populus trichocarpa*".
7. Genetics section will have 5 contributed paper sessions at the Botany 2007 meeting in Chicago (including both Genetics section and related thematic sections that fall under the general heading of Genetics).
8. Genetics section will co-sponsor the following symposia/colloquia at the Botany 2007 meeting:
 1. Comparative Genomics, Development, Physiology and Systematics of the Brassicaceae and Cleomaceae; Organizers: Jocelyn Hall and Eric Schranz; Nominal support only
 2. The evolution and maintenance of mixed mating systems; Organizers: Diane Byers and Johanne Brunet; Nominal support only
 3. Evolution of diversity in Sapindales; Organizers: Susan Pell and Allison Miller; Genetics Funds committed: \$250

4. Frontiers in Plant Biology: Emerging Model Species ; Organizers: Pamela Diggle and Elena Kramer; Nominal support only
5. The functional significance of leaf shape variation – towards a consensus from gene to community; Organizer: Adrienne Nicotra; Genetics Funds committed: \$250
6. Phylogenomics; Organizers: Chris Pires and Jim Leebens-Mack; Genetics Funds committed: \$500

Genetics Section Officers:

Chair: Randall Small (U. of Tennessee); will step down at end of Botany 2007
Vice-Chair: Vance Baird (Clemson U.), will become Chair at end of Botany 2007
Sec/Treasurer: Theresa Culley (U. of Cincinnati), will become Vice-Chair at end of Botany 2007

Nominations have been made for new Sec/Treasurer; vote will take place at Genetics Section Business meeting at Botany 2007 meeting in Chicago.

Respectfully submitted, Randall Small, Chair

Historical

Botanical Society of America, Historical Section Report for 2005-2006 [Botany 2007]

Lee Kass, Chair of the Historical Section, was our representative on the Centennial Planning Committee. Kass attended Botany 2006 in Chico, California, and gave a paper on the contributions of Cornell to American Botany (Travel funds for Kass to attend the meeting were provided by the Cornell Department of Plant Biology). Carol Kelloff, Secretary/Treasurer of the Historical Section presented a talk in the Tropical Biology Section. Larry Davenport, our Vice Chair did not attend the Centennial in Chico.

Lee Kass was planning to step down as Chair of the Historical Section this year. Unfortunately, Larry Davenport was not able to succeed her as provided in our by-laws. Had Larry succeeded Lee, a new Vice-Chair should have been elected at our Annual Business Meeting. Lee Kass, therefore, continued to assume responsibility of Chair of the Historical Section. Carol Kelloff offered to continue as Secretary/Treasurer of the Historical Section. At the Annual Business meeting in Chico, she was elected and has accepted a second term as the Secretary/Treasurer.

In the 2004-2005 report, the section suggested using some of the Historical Sections funds to support the archival research of Dr. Betty Smocovitis for her project on writing a history of the Botanical Society of America in honor of its Centennial Year. In 2005-2006, the historical section provided Dr Smocovitis with an honorarium to conduct research for her project. Dr. Smocovitis, a member of the Historical Section, was the Keynote speaker for the Botany 2006 Centennial Meeting.

The section sponsored 2 papers for Botany 2006; one was scheduled for the Historical Section contributed papers and the other was placed in contributed papers for the Economic Botany Section.

Lee Kass presided at the Historical Section annual meeting on 1 August 2006, at the University of California, Chico. It was suggested at the meeting that the Historical section sponsor a symposium and/or invite a prominent scientist from the area, museum or institution to present a paper on a historical topic of choice. Kass followed up on this suggestion and has organized a symposium for Botany 2007, “A historical perspective on Chicago Area Botany.”

Also at the annual meeting in 2006, a new award was established for the best student paper on a historical subject in botany. The section planned that the first award would be given at Botany 2007 in Chicago, Illinois. The award is titled the Emanuel D. Rudolph Award for the History of Botany. The new award was announced in the *Plant Science Bulletin* (October 2006) and colleagues were invited to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to consider presenting a paper on a historical subject in Botany to be eligible for this honor.

Members of the Historical Section also discussed the possibilities for a reliable forum for brief articles on botanical history. Several journals were suggested: *Baileya*, *Endeavor* (British), *Huntea*, and the Tri-Beta Society publication, *BIOS*. Papers presented in the section or symposium can be compiled for a volume of a journal. Initiation for the publication of historical papers could be scheduled for the 2008 botany meetings. Kass pursued the question of such publications in *Baileya*, but the editors did not think it an appropriate venue at this time.

Another topic for consideration for a volume of papers was the presentations given at the symposium titled "Liberty Hyde Bailey's Legacy of Scientific Outreach," hosted by the Historical Section at the Agricultural History Society Symposium, at Cornell University, September 2004. The problem of the cost of publishing such a volume appears to be prohibitive.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee B. Kass, Chair Historical Section, BSA

Mycological

Paleobotanical

At the 2006 Meetings in Chico, California, paleobotanists receiving the BSA Centennial Award included Dr. Peter Crane, Dr. Charles Daghljan, Dr. Ted Delevoryas, Dr. David Dilcher, Dr. Patricia Gensel, Dr. Jean Lagenheim, Dr. Karl Niklas, Dr. Jeffrey Osborne, Dr. J. William Schopf, and Dr. Thomas N. Taylor.

Dr. Ruth A. Stockey received the BSA Merit Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions in the field of paleobotany.

Congratulations to these members of the section!

The Paleobotany Section is doing well for 2007. At the Chicago meetings we have 48 contributed presentations: 39 oral papers and 9 posters. We are sponsoring or cosponsoring 4 symposia. The section is sponsoring a field trip to the classic Mazon Creek locality in northern Illinois, led by Dr. Ian Glasspool of the Field Museum.

This year the section is honored to sponsor a visit by Prof. Jean Galtier of the University of Montpellier, France, and Corresponding Member of the BSA.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mickle
Secretary/Treasurer

Phycological

Physiological

Physiological Section Report to BSA Board of Directors 2007

The Physiological section, co-sponsored by the Phycological section, created a centennial symposium honoring one of the seminal thinkers and contributors to plant physiology throughout the century from California (born Indiana 1901 and raised in Michigan) Professor Lawrence R. Blinks. Professor emeritus Stanford University, a member of the National Academy of Sciences , editor J. General Physiology, Director Hopkins Marine Station, Professor and Dean University of California at Santa Cruz . Blinks's many contributions to research plant physiology were examined by 8 of Blinks's former students plus Dr. John Blinks, MD, his son, at the symposium " Ions, Light and Algae" .From this two commemorative papers are in draft "Blinks and Photosynthesis" and "The contributions of L.R. Blinks to Plant Physiology". His major contributions were in membrane transport of algae and light responses of algae to blue and red light, as well as teaching algal physiology.

The 2006 Physiological sections' contributed papers were in several sessions as well as a number of posters. There was a joint session with the Ecological Society on Ecophysiology. Student prizes were three, one poster and two oral presentations.

This year 2007 , meeting with the Plant physiologists for the first time in over 20 years, the events will be a symposium by Winslow Briggs and Anitra Thorhaug on blue light receptors and a workshop co-sponsored by the ecological section organized by Anitra Thorhaug on " Non-destructive techniques for ecophysiology" . Three student prizes will once more be given to the best oral presentation and the best poster.

Officers 2007-9 :
Anitra Thorhaug, Chair
Peter STRaub Treasurer
Christi Carter Program

Phytochemical

The Phytochemistry Section of BSA works to establish active dialog between members and to extend the Section. A discussion on future activities of the Section has been advanced.

Three presentations are submitted to the Botany 2007 meeting in Chicago and they cover research area on plant phenolics, pigments and terpenoids.

The student travel award by the Section of Phytochemistry was granted this year to graduate student Cassie Majetic from the University of Pittsburgh.

Prof. Dr. Tadeusz Aniszewski Chair of Phytochemical Section of BSA

Pteridological

Systematics

Kathleen A. Kron, chair; Patrick S. Herendeen, Secretary-Treasurer

At the Botany 2006 meeting in Chico, California, Kathleen A. Kron was elected as chair of the section and Patrick S. Herendeen was elected as secretary-treasurer at the Systematics Section business meeting, which is held jointly with the business meeting for the American Society of Plant Taxonomists.

During fiscal year 2007 the BSA Systematics Section supported three symposia with funds and sponsored eight symposia and colloquia without funds for the Botany 2007 conference.

Financial Support of three symposia. The Systematics section supported three symposia for the Botany 2007 conference:

- 1) \$500 for “Comparative Genomics, Development, Physiology and Systematics of the Brassicaceae and Cleomaceae” Organizers: Jocelyn Hall and M. Eric Schranz
- 2) \$500 for “Ranunculales – a basal eudicot perspective of angiosperm evolution” Organizer: Stefan Gleissberg
- 3) \$500 for “Borrowed Chloroplasts: Secondary Endosymbiosis and the Chromalveolates” Organizers: Naomi Phillips, Debashish Bhattacharya, and Ed Braun

Sponsorship (without financial support) of seven symposia and colloquia. The Systematics section sponsored eight symposia and colloquia for the Botany 2007 conference:

- 1) “Deep Time: integrating paleobotany and phylogenetics” Organizers: Pamela S. Soltis and Douglas E. Soltis
- 2) “Evolution in a Glaciated Landscape: Contribution of Endemism to Great Lakes Biodiversity” Organizers: J. A. Peirson and Anton A. Reznicek
- 3) “A Historical Perspective on Chicago Area Botany” Organizer: Lee B. Kass
- 4) “Colloquium: Integration of Spatial and Ecological Data in Evolutionary Studies” Organizer: Lena Struwe
- 5) “Sherwin Carlquist Symposium” Organizer: S. Y. Smith and Witt Taylor [funding provided by ASPT]
- 6) “Plant phylogenomics: defining synergies between plant systematics and genome biology” Organizers: J. Chris Pires and James H. Leebens-Mack [funding provided by ASPT]
- 7) “Colloquium: Evolution and diversification in the Sapindales” Organizers: Allison Miller and Susan K. Pell

Respectfully submitted, Patrick S. Herendeen

Teaching

Officers

- **Chairperson (2007-2009):**
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- Because the Section's bylaws were revised and the changes were approved at the 2006 BSA meeting in Chico, CA, each elected officer will now serve for three years, with one new officer elected each year. Because the first three-year term was assigned to the chairperson, the new officer to be elected at the 2007 BSA meeting in Chicago will be the vice-chairperson.
- The Teaching Section's New *BSA College Teaching Innovations* short course will be offered from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, July 8, 2007.

Organized by: Jim Wandersee, LSU and Marshall Sundberg, ESU

Abstract:

This 4-hr. short course, co-taught by two experienced full professors with decades of plant biology education experience, is offered especially for graduate students, prospective and new plant sciences faculty, and others interested in innovation. It is designed for those who seek an optimized and prioritized overview of the latest thinking and research on successful, 21st-century, college science teaching. Use of e-Learning, active learning strategies, computer-based concept mapping, findings of misconception studies, and research-supported course organization strategies for teaching large classes will be highlighted. The course is comprised of a carefully structured series of mini-presentations and activities that maximize every minute of the Congress attendees' time. The short-course text book, *Active Learning in Secondary and College Science Classrooms*, will be supplied to each participant for annotation during the course. Each course completer will receive an official *BSA 2007 Professional Update Course Completion Certificate* with a value of .5 CEU (continuing education unit). Attendee Limit: 50.

- The Teaching Section accepted 11 papers for oral presentation at the 2007 BSA scientific meeting. They will be presented on the morning of Monday, July 9th in the *Boulevard A* room of the Chicago Hilton. Immediate Past Chairperson Beverly J. Brown will preside.
- The Business Meeting of the Teaching Section will follow immediately. Chairperson Jim Wandersee will preside.
- At its previous Business Meeting, the Section agreed to consider naming BSA Teaching Section representatives (without financial support) to attend related professional meetings and to promote BSA and the Teaching Section—if they are going anyway and would like to volunteer. Stan Rice represented the Section at the 2006 Project Kaleidoscope meeting in Kansas City, MO and Jim Wandersee, at the 2006 International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens at Oxford University in the UK.
- Members of the Section have been active in 2006-2007 updating BSA's Image Collection and carrying forward its PlantingScience initiative.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Wandersee, Chairperson, BSA Teaching Section

Tropical Biology

Recently Fabián A. Michelangeli and Suzanne Koptur were elected as president and treasurer of the Section of Tropical Biology through an e-mail election.

During the 2006 meeting in Chico CA, the Tropical Biology Section had 6 oral papers presented as well as 1 poster. For the 2007 meeting in Chicago there are 4 oral presentations scheduled as well as 7 posters.

In order to increase the participation of the section at future meetings, we have been discussing the possibility of adding a yearly symposium to the BSA meetings. Both of the officers of the section are already exploring topics and speakers for a symposium during the Vancouver meeting in 2008 and hope that section members will start suggesting topics for future meetings.

Submitted by Fabián A. Michelangeli

AAAS

AIBS

Biological Stain Commission

CSSP

Natural Science Collections Alliance

The annual meeting of the Natural Science Collections Alliance was held in Washington, DC on 14-15 May at the Capitol Hilton Hotel. The meeting was held jointly with the American Institute of Biological Sciences. The theme of the meeting was "Collections for the Future: Forecasting Biological Phenomena." Attendance at the meeting was much lower than the 2006 joint meeting with the Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections in Albuquerque. A number of

speakers provided insightful discussions of forecasting distributional ranges of taxa based on climate change models and data from natural history collections. Two presentations, in particular, highlighted new projects will be of importance to BSA. The first was Jim Edward's presentation on the Encyclopedia of Life. There is considerable financial and institutional support behind this project which suggests that it has a better chance of succeeding than previous attempts of similar projects. This project could have tremendous impact on public education and on science, and BSA is encouraged to follow developments and to encourage its members to participate. The second talk on a project that will be of interest to BSA was presented by Hank Bart (Tulane) and me. We have received funding for a NSF Research Coordination Network Grant titled "Building a Community of Natural History Collections." This project will help foster collaboration and cooperation among Natural History Collections so that they may better serve the scientific community and the public. More details will be released later this summer, and the BSA will be encouraged to appoint a societal representative to the Core Participants of the RCN.

Submitted by:

Alan Prather, Michigan State University

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