

## 2008 Genetics Section Report to BSA Council

Activities of the BSA Genetics section during the 2008-2009 year include:

1. Business meeting conducted in Vancouver, BC (July 28, 2008) at Botany 2008.
2. Genetics section co-sponsored one (1) symposia at Botany 2008.
  - a. Polyploidy: Genetics, Evolution, and Ecology (organized by Keith Adams, UBC; 7 presentations); funds committed - \$500
3. Genetics Section participated in five (5) presented paper sessions at the Botany 2008 meeting in Vancouver, BC (including both Genetics Section session and four related thematic sections that fall under the general heading of Genetics -- organized by Sec./Treas.).
  - Genetics: 15 papers
  - Genomics/Proteomics: 4 papers
  - Molecular Biology: 2 papers
  - Molecular Ecology & Evolution: 6 papers
  - Population Genetics: 11 papers
4. The Genetics Section had ten (10) posters presented at Botany 2008 (and an additional 23 posters in related thematic sections).
  - Genomics/Proteomics: 2 posters
  - Molecular Biology: 3 posters
  - Molecular Ecology and Evolution: 10 posters
  - Population Genetics: 8 posters
5. The 2008 Margaret Menzel Award (\$200) for the best contributed paper was given to **Michael Barker**, University of British Columbia; "[Evolutionary genomics of hybridization: Detecting ancient hybridization and introgression by the inference of intrologs in plant genomes.](#)" Co-author was Loren H. Rieseberg.
6. The 2008 Genetics section Poster Award (\$100) was not given this year.
7. The 2009 Graduate Student Research Award(s), based on our evaluation of the seven (7) proposals submitted, was awarded to **Mr. Stein V. Servick** [Genetic consequences of autopolyploidy in \*Galax urceolata\* \(Diapensiaceae\)](#) (Dept. of Botany, University of Florida), in the PhD category; and **Ms. Ashley Kuenzi** [Hybridization and gene flow among established populations of \*Schiedia salicaria\* and \*S. menziesii\*](#) (Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati) in the MS category. Each award includes \$500 for research and an additional \$500 to cover travel costs to attend a subsequent BSA meeting. Dr. Richard Whitkus contacted the winners, and will arrange for an announcement to be made at the '09 banquet.
8. The Genetics Section gave a Student Travel Award (\$200) to **Ms. Susann Wicke** (University of Vienna) to present the papers titled: "[Plastid genome evolution in a group of non-photosynthetic angiosperms \(Orobanchaceae\)](http://2009.botanyconference.org/engine/search/55.html)" [<http://2009.botanyconference.org/engine/search/55.html>]; "[From the exception to the rule: the re-arrangement\(s\) of the nuclear ribosomal DNA in land plants](http://2009.botanyconference.org/engine/search/278.html)" [<http://2009.botanyconference.org/engine/search/278.html>]; "[Very large, poorly understood but well supported - The Phylogeny of Rosids based on fast evolving and non-coding chloroplast markers](http://2009.botanyconference.org/engine/search/752.html)". [<http://2009.botanyconference.org/engine/search/752.html>] (with co-authors Drs. D. Quandt and G. Schneeweiss).
9. The Genetics section will have seven paper sessions at the Botany 2009 meeting in Snowbird, UT (including both Genetics section and related thematic sections that fall under the general heading of Genetics).
  - Genetics: 9 papers, 5 posters
  - Population Genetics: 8 papers, 7 posters
  - Molecular Biology: 0 papers, 1 poster
  - Molecular Ecology and Evolution: 6 papers, 5 posters
  - Gene Structure and Function: 3 papers, 1 poster
  - Genomics/Proteomics: 3 papers, 1 poster

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10. The Genetics section will co-sponsor the following symposia at the Botany 2009 meeting for the amount of \$600:  
Biology of Parasitic Plants. The Greatest Opportunists of all: Celebrating 40 years of Job Kuijt.

Genetics Section Officers:

Chair: Vance Baird (Michigan State University), will step down at end of Botany 2010  
Vice-Chair: Theresa Culley (Univ. of Cincinnati), will become Chair at end of Botany 2010  
Sec./Treasurer: Kristina Schierenbeck (Calif. State Univ., Chico) will become Vice-Chair at end of Botany 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Vance Baird, Chair