

BSA Historical Section Report 2007-2008

Lee Kass continues as Chair of the section with Marissa Jernegan, graduate student of Eastern Illinois University as Vice-Chair. Carol Kelloff, Secretary Treasurer of the section and Marissa Jernegan presided at the Historical Section Annual meeting on 29 July 2008, at Botany 2008, Vancouver, Canada.

At Botany 2008, the section sponsored three posters. One abstract for a paper was put into another session.

The Emanuel Rudolph Award was established in 2006 for the best student paper or poster on a historical subject in botany. This year the Award was given to Sarah Kelsey, of Rutgers University for her poster on "The Establishment and Persistence of Plants Introduced to New Jersey by Solid Ballast on Ships."

Carol Kelloff spoke about increasing member awareness of the Historical Section and to try to increase membership for future meetings. She sent out a letter through the BSA website in hopes of encouraging more people to take an interest in the Historical Section and to attend the meetings and to generate more talks and posters on the history of Botany.

The participants discussed contacting Brigham Young University to identify people willing to give talks on/about the history of botany in Utah. It was also suggested that people that knew individuals conducting research on historical or famous botanist might contact them directly and encourage these researchers to submit abstracts for a contributed paper session at Botany 2009.

The section decided not to do a Discussion Session for Botany 2009. We will try again at a future time. The BSA website [as of April 2009!] lists 92 members of the Historical Section.

In March 2009, the section chair is organizing a committee to review eligible submission for the Botany 2009 Emanuel Rudolph Award. The committee members are Edward Cobb (Cornell University), Dennis Stevenson (New York Botanical Garden), Karen Redden (Post-Doc, Smithsonian Institution), Janelle Burke (Ph.D. candidate, Cornell University) and Carol Kelloff (Smithsonian Institution, alternate). At present two papers are eligible for the award.

The Section Secretary Treasurer thanks Bill Dahl, Marshall Sundberg, Lee Kass, and Marissa Jernegan for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Carol Kelloff, Secretary Treasurer, Historical Section, BSA
Department of Botany MRC166
Smithsonian Institution, NMNH
P.O. Box 37012
10th & Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20013-7012 U.S.A.

tel: 202-633-0953; fax: 202-786-2563
email: kelloffc@si.edu