

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PTERIDOLOGICAL SECTION
Presented at the 2009 Botanical Society of America Council Meeting
Snowbird, UT

At the Botany 2008 meetings in Vancouver, BC, the Pteridological Section of the Botanical Society of America sponsored one field trip, 20 oral presentations, five contributed posters, and a symposium titled "From gels to genomics: The evolving landscape of pteridology. A celebration of Gerald Gastony's contributions to fern evolutionary biology" with six invited speakers.

Approximately 30 people attended the fern foray associated with the 2008 meetings in Vancouver. This all-day field trip, targeting three localities north and west of the city, was ably led by Chris Sears, Mike Barker, and Steve Joya.

The judging committee for the Edgar T. Wherry Award (for best oral presentation in the joint Pteridological Section/American Fern Society contributed papers sessions) was unable to choose between two excellent presentations at the Vancouver meetings and decided to give an unprecedented two awards. One went to Mary Stensvold, of the USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, for her paper entitled "Genetic diversity in the *Botrychium lunaria* (Ophioglossaceae) complex." The other was given to Melanie Link-Perez, a student at Miami University of Ohio, for her paper entitled "Toward a redefinition of *Adiantopsis* Fee (Pteridaceae)."

The Pteridological section contributed \$400 to the publication of the Annual Review of Pteridological Research, Volume 20 (2006).

Funding from BSA also allows the Pteridological Section to provide \$400 travel awards to qualified students giving oral presentations in the joint Pteridological Section/AFS contributed papers sessions. A total of four awards were provided to help students attend the Botany 2009 meetings in Snowbird, UT. These awards were given to the following students:

- 1) Marian M. Chau: University of Hawai'i at Manoa (Advisor: Dr. Thomas Ranker) – presentation entitled "Restoration genetics of the endangered fern *Marsilea villosa*: variation among populations on two Hawaiian islands."
- 2) Jessica Sabo: Colgate University (Advisor: Dr. James E. Watkins Jr.) – presentation entitled "Understanding abiotic stress tolerance in fern gametophytes and sporophytes."
- 3) Erin Sigel: Duke University (Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Pryer) – presentation entitled "To have or have not: using farina to delineate major clades within the false cloak ferns (*Argyrochosma*)."
- 4) Alejandra Vasco: The New York Botanical Garden (Advisor: Dr. Robbin Moran) – presentation entitled "Systematics and phylogeny of *Elaphoglossum* section *Lepidoglossum* H. Christ (Dryopteridaceae): search for natural groups."

Submitted by Section Chair: Michael D. Windham
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