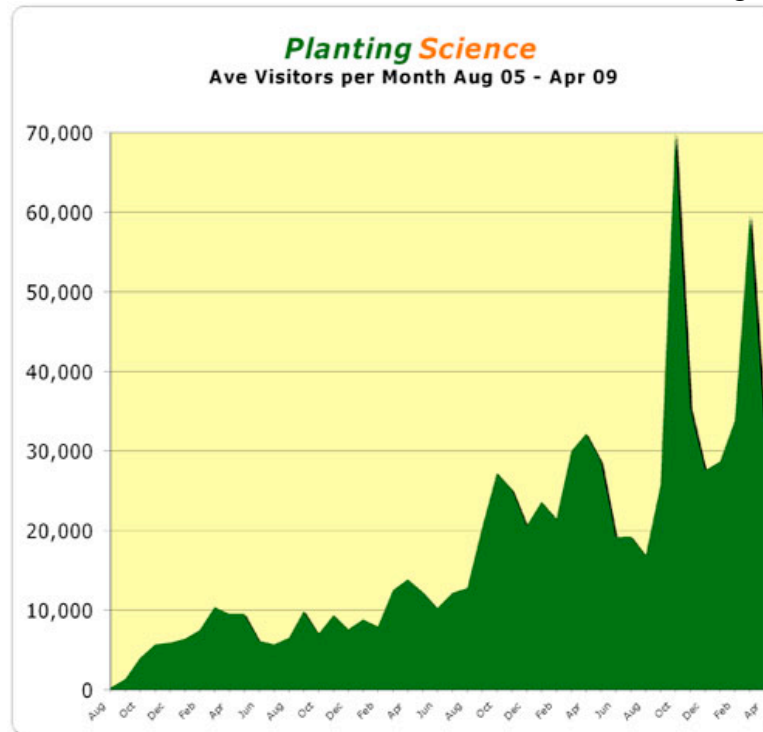


2009 BSA Advisory Council Report: Teaching Section

James Wandersee, Section Chair

- Six teaching research papers were presented at BSA 2008 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. This was an unusually low number for us, even though the Section officers actively solicited papers for this distant international meeting. Eleven is the decadal median.
- A new \$5.00 membership fee for the Teaching Section was adopted, to begin in 2009.
- An election was held for the open three-year position of Secretary-Treasurer. Donna Hazelwood was re-elected by affirmation.
- Our Past-Chair, Beverly J. Brown, has kept the Teaching Section officers abreast of the issues and work of the BSA Education Committee and BSA's Planting Science Project.



- The Teaching Section sponsored a well-attended and well-received symposium at Botany 2008 on “The Future of Botany Teaching,” organized and chaired by Section Chair Wandersee. Speakers included James Wandersee, Marshall Sundberg, Joseph Armstrong, Thomas Rost, Ethel Stanley, Stokes Baker, and U Miami botany doctoral student John Cozza.
- The newly approved mission statement for the Teaching Section reads: “The Teaching Section exists to promote the improvement of the teaching of botany-- *the field of basic science dealing with the study and inquiry into the form, function, development, diversity, reproduction, evolution, and uses of plants and their interactions within the biosphere* -- at both formal and informal institutions. Its intended audience is the public, “from cradle to grave.”
- The Teaching Section is investigating the intent of and qualifications for The Samuel L. Postlethwait Award, which hasn't been given in many years. It hopes to reactivate this award once it receives full clarification of the award's guidelines and restrictions.

- The Teaching Section has heavily promoted the new Chlorofilms Plant Video Contest. Section Chair James Wandersee's Ph.D. student, Kate March, won the 2nd-place prize for her video: *Angiosperms: The Secrets of Flowers*.
- The 2008 Bessey Award winners were Dr. Beverly Brown and Dr. Michael Pollan. Brown is an Associate Professor of Biology at Nazareth College of Rochester, New York. Brown and her botany education leadership were instrumental in the development and success of the BSA's national Planting Science project. Pollan is a Knight Professor at the University of California--Berkeley and Director of the Knight Program for Science and Environmental Journalism. Author of numerous best-selling books about plants, he has awakened the US public's basic interest in plants as food, like no other author in recent times. Innovative, sustained, and national impact factors were key criteria for the selection of both honorees.
- James Wandersee's action goals for the Teaching Section over his 3-year term have been: (a) organize a 4-hour, .5 CEU short course on *Advances in Teaching Botany* for Botany 2007; (b) organize a 2.5-hour symposium on *The Future of Botany Teaching* for Botany 2008; and (c) recruit US community college instructors nationwide who are interested in teaching about plants to BSA membership and plan a special 1.5-hour session for them at BSA 2009. These have all been achieved. The Teaching Section's web page on the BSA website has also been updated.
- Immediately after the Snowbird meeting, Stokes Baker becomes the Teaching Section Chair for 3 years and James Wandersee will serve 3 years as Immediate Past Chair. At that meeting, the Section will also elect a new Vice-Chair.