

CALL FOR DISCUSSION SESSIONS

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

BOTANY 2003

JULY 26-31, 2003

MOBILE CONFERENCE CENTER
MOBILE, ALABAMA

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

BOTANY 2003 represents the annual meeting of four professional societies, including the American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS), the American Fern Society (AFS), the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT), and the Botanical Society of America (BSA). The conference will be held in Mobile, Alabama from July 26-31, 2003, and the theme for BOTANY 2003 will be "Aquatic and Wetland Plants: Wet & Wild."

In addition to the regular program, which will run from Sunday through Wednesday (July 27-30), BOTANY 2003 will include an expanded format. The second FORUM focusing on botanical education and outreach will be held on Saturday, July 26, and it will be linked to the annual scientific meeting on Sunday, July 27, via workshops and field trips.

There are separate *Calls* for Abstracts for presentations at the annual scientific meeting and for Sessions at the education and outreach FORUM.

DISCUSSION SESSIONS

Discussion Sessions provide the opportunity for individuals or groups to submit proposals for, and later moderate, sessions at the annual scientific meeting that are focused on timely, controversial, or perennial topics. Session topics might include a wide range of research issues (e.g., new techniques in a particular field; the value of collaborative, interdisciplinary research, etc.), publishing issues (e.g., publishing in an electronic era, etc.), etc.

The number of one-hour sessions that will be able to be accepted will be contingent upon the size of the overall scientific program and the availability of rooms in the Conference Center. Because these sessions run concurrently with scholarly presentations and space may be limited, proposals for Discussion Sessions may need to be evaluated by the BOTANY 2003 Program Committee. Organizers will be notified about the selection decisions by late-May or early-June 2003. For the BOTANY 2001 and 2002 conferences, all submissions were accepted and included in the program.

Although session topics should be reasonably focused, it is hoped that proposals are submitted that have broad appeal to a disciplinary section, an entire society, or the plant biology community at large.

SUBMISSION OF SESSION TOPICS (DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2003)

Proposals should include the following: 1) a title, 2) name(s) and contact information for all organizers, and 3) a brief summary of the Session that includes relevant background and significance of the topic.

Submission of session proposals should be conducted online at the BOTANY 2003 web site: <<http://www.botany2003.org>>. Copies of the proposals will be sent electronically to the sender and the conference Program Committee. The submission site will open in January 2003, and the deadline for receiving session proposals is **April 1, 2003**.

QUESTIONS

Questions about Discussion Sessions should be directed to the BSA Program Director: Jeffrey M. Osborn, Division of Science, Truman State University, 100 E. Normal Street, Kirksville, MO 63501-4221. Tele: (660) 785-4017, Fax: (660) 785-4045, E-mail: <josborn@truman.edu>.

A Registration Brochure for BOTANY 2003 will be mailed to members of participating societies in spring 2003, and it will be available online at the conference web site.