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Dear Members:

I am pleased to report that there will be much activity and many changes occurring in the Botanical Society of America during this next year.

As you may be aware, the new, temporary office of the BSA is scheduled to open very soon in St. Louis, Missouri, associated with the campus of the Missouri Botanical Garden, which will provide the Society with generous logistical support. Our first Executive Director, Bill Dahl, will begin October 9<sup>th</sup> and will soon be directly overseeing much of the day-to-day operation of the Society. Don't update your address books yet, though. The fall membership renewals, and AJB business will continue to be handled through the Columbus office in the capable hands of Johanne Stogran, who has served as both Meetings Manager and *de facto* Business Manager since the end of November last year. Once the initial membership renewals are substantially completed, I am sure that she and her family (who have shared in her efforts more than we could ever know, recognize or expect!) will be looking forward to when she has only one full time job. She will continue to oversee our meetings operations, the Botany 200X series, from our traditional office at Ohio State.

As you may have noticed, I have been trying to keep in contact with the membership by sending e-mail updates every two weeks or so. These e-mailings have included Society news and initiatives. We have also included excerpts from weekly reports of the AIBS Public Policy Office regarding policy changes and congressional initiatives that affect biologists. Electronic communications have become increasingly more critical to the Society. Updates to the *American Journal of Botany Online*, management of your online subscription, and these other announcements are a means of communicating with you that is entirely paperless. If you have not been receiving these and would like to, please contact me at [srussell@ou.edu](mailto:srussell@ou.edu) or the Business Office at [bsa-manager@botany.org](mailto:bsa-manager@botany.org).

This summer we had a very successful Botany 2002 meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, where we had our first ever forum on botanical education and research. Around 300 people attended workshops, discussions, and talks emphasizing undergraduate education. We owe this success to the hard work of Jeff Osborn, his organizing committee and NSF for partial sponsorship. The scientific meeting featured joint sessions with the American Fern Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists, Canadian Botanical Association, and the Phycological Society of America. Over 740 abstracts were submitted, and there were three major plenary and society-sponsored special talks. It was a great success on all levels. Those who arrived early were treated to the blooming of the Titan Arum at the UW Botany Greenhouses and could enjoy the local interest in plants, a botanical art exhibit, and all in addition to the usual attractions. Although certainly a subjective measure, it seems that all who attended reveled in these days of integrative plant biology; at the close of the meeting everyone seemed to be smiling. Nowhere was the family spirit of the meeting better exemplified than by the Stogran family, who took turns working at the BSA exhibit and in the Botany 2002 office!

The Society passes through annual seasons each year. Enclosed in this mailing you will find: (1) calls for Botany 2003 abstracts, forum and discussion topics, (2) officer nominations forms, (3) applications for Karling graduate student research funds, and (4) a flyer for Young Botanists Awards, given to developing botanists at the collegiate/university level. This year we will be accepting nominations for President-Elect and Secretary. For these positions, we are looking for people with exceptional leadership qualities, sufficient prior involvement in the BSA to meet the challenges of the next several years and a flexible enough schedule to meet the time requirements of the position (nominations are due 1/31/03). Want to get involved in some other aspect of the operations of the BSA? Volunteers are always welcome; e-mail me or the BSA office! Encourage graduate students to submit an application for a Karling Award. Also, everyone should consider nominating a deserving undergraduate for a Young Botanist Award! Please be sure to mind our deadlines, so you are not disappointed. 2002 Annual Business Meeting minutes are available through the BSA home page at <http://www.botany.org/>. You will receive a separate individualized mailing for membership renewals for 2003.

We hope that you will plan to attend the Botany 2003 meeting, July 27-31, in Mobile, AL, where the shrimp are excellent. The Plenary speaker will be E. O. Wilson, and many sessions are still being planned (see enclosed). Abstracts will be accepted beginning in late January or early February. Please remember to look through the next *Plant Science Bulletin* as there will be much more information about the meeting, various Society awards, and other initiatives that have arisen since this mailing.

In parting, I would like to thank all of those who have donated time and money to the Botanical Society of America during this last year. The governance of our Society is largely by volunteers, and I would like to recognize all of those who have or are participating in Society committees, on the Council and as officers. In particular, I would like to thank the hard working members of the Executive Committee, Pat Gensel, Judy Jernstedt, Jeff Osborn, Jenny Richards, Joe Armstrong, Jim Mickle, and Linda Graham, who is joining us as President-Elect. I would also like to thank Ed Schneider for his efforts in chairing the Search Committee for the Executive Director, Jack Horner and Russell Chapman for their dedication and decisions on the Financial Advisory Committee.

Best regards and best wishes,



Scott D. Russell, President

#### Some special items of interest:

**Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting**, August 6, 2002, are on the BSA web site (<http://www.botany.org/>)

**Nominations for Officers:** use the enclosed form or e-mail Judy Jernstedt at [jjernstedt@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jjernstedt@ucdavis.edu)

**Calls for Forum and Discussion Topics:** enclosed and on the web at <http://www.botany2003.org/>

**Botany 2003**, Mobile Convention Center, July 27-31, 2003. The website is: <http://www.botany2003.org/>

**Botany 2004** will be held at Snowbird Conference Center, Snowbird, Utah, August 1-5, 2004

**Abstracts from Botany 2002:** still available, archived and searchable at: <http://www.botany2002.org/>

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