



BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Dr. Scott D. Russell
President, Botanical Society of America
Department of Botany & Microbiology
University of Oklahoma
Norman OK 73019-0245
Phone: 405.325.6234 FAX: 405.325.7619
srussell@ou.edu

May 2003

Dear Members:

Greetings from the Botanical Society of America Executive Committee. This mailing is to alert you to some upcoming events and opportunities occurring in the Botanical Society of America during the upcoming months.

Business Office News. Since my last newsletter, the BSA Office has now officially moved to St. Louis on the campus of the Missouri Botanical Garden and Bill Dahl has joined us as BSA's first Executive Director. He has been joined by Wanda Lovan, who will support the office as Administrative Coordinator. Together they will form a team that performs the role of our prior Business Manager, but with wider responsibilities in helping to fulfill the mission of the Society. As a result, you will see many positive changes as the Society moves into the future. Johanne Stogran continues to serve as our Meetings Manager, and she will continue to help the team from the Meetings Office in Ohio.

Other Membership News. Celebrating our arrival at the Gardens, Bill Dahl organized an open house for those in the St. Louis area and at the Missouri Botanical Garden who have given us so much support during our move. During the last several months, BSA has begun accepting new memberships and renewals on the Internet. In the near future, we plan to have all of our membership material directly available to members for updates. This will provide up-to-the-minute current data for our online membership directory, AJB mailings, and our Society offices. Innovations planned in the near future will include offering individual JSTOR access to all of our members. Although this will not be available for a couple of months, in the future you will be able to access all of the issues of the *American Journal of Botany* online, from 1914 to 1997 at JSTOR, and from 1998 to the present at the AJB online site (<http://www.amjbot.org/>). Please be patient, however, as this is contingent on having the database operation online for authentication!

Special Issue of *American Journal of Botany*. In cooperation with the AJB Editorial Board, the Executive Committee approved funding a special issue commemorating the 90th anniversary of the AJB on integrative contributions in phylogenetic biology of traditional botanical scope (see logo). The following have agreed to serve as "Special Editors" for this issue: Mark Chase (Kew Gardens), Jeff Palmer (U Indiana), Doug Soltis (U Florida), and Karl Niklas (Cornell University, Editor-In-Chief, *AJB*).

Enclosed in this mailing, please find a few items that require your attention: (1) First, there are **two ballots**: a) the annual BSA Election Ballot for President-Elect and for Secretary of the Society is enclosed and b) there is a BSA Bylaws amendment. These need to be returned to the BSA Business office in St. Louis postmarked by June 15 for arrival by June 30. (2) Also enclosed is the **Call for Botany 2003 "Recent Topics" posters**. This program allows submission of abstracts on recent developments and is available from May 27 to July 17. These posters are located in a special area in the exhibition area. (3) With a look to the more distant future, we have included **Calls for Botany 2004 symposium topics, field trips and workshops**.

Botany 2003. We hope that you will plan to attend the Botany 2003 meeting, July 26-31, in Mobile, AL. The Plenary speaker will be E. O. Wilson (a distinguished professor with wide-ranging interests in biology, Harvard University) and the Keynote Speaker for the Educational Forum will be Bruce Alberts (President, National Academy of Sciences). Many additional sessions are planned including an outstanding symposium on wetlands biology. Registration materials will be sent to all members within the next month. We anticipate that registration materials will be available online by the time you receive this (see URL: <http://www.2003.botanyconference.org/>).

Botany 2004 will be held at the Snowbird Convention Center, at Snowbird, Utah, July 31—August 5, 2004. We anticipate an excellent meeting and have reserved the entire conference center. Cabins (sleeping up to four) will be available at an attractive shared price, as well as a variety of camping options and other housing facilities. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Rita Colwell, Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), has accepted our invitation to be our Plenary Speaker in 2004. Her biography is at: <http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/forum/colwell/rcribio.htm>. She is an

The Botanical Society of America is a scientific and educational organization devoted to the fundamental study of the form, function, development, diversity, evolution and uses of plants and their interactions within the biosphere.

excellent choice and we are indebted to Pat Gensel, Judy Jernstedt and Jeff Osborn for pursuing the talented speakers that we have been able to attract this year and next!

Other Initiatives. As you may be aware, BSA has provided partial support for American Institute of Biological Science's Public Policy Office in Washington. This has provided us with information and an impact on emerging policy. As an example, the current draft taxonomy of doctoral degrees being organized by the National Academy of Sciences reflects an approach to organization of the plant disciplines that we proposed. We also provide partial support for the Professional Ethics Report—a publication of the AAAS Scientific Freedom, Responsibility and Law Program, in collaboration with the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility and the Professional Society Ethics Group. The BSA is also involved with a number of initiatives that provide access to the *American Journal of Botany* to developing nations, including Hinari (through the World Health Organization), which offers journals free to the 68 poorest countries, and the eIFL project (electronic Information For Libraries), which offers significant discounts to additional countries having financial difficulties. On May 12-14, President-Elect Linda Graham and I will be serving as special judges for botanical entries for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), which will be held in Cleveland. I will also be representing the BSA at the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP), May 3-6, in Washington, DC.

Corresponding Members. A sad note is that we have become aware of the loss of three of our corresponding members in the past year: Professors Knut Faegri, Armando Hunziker and William T. Stearn. Our condolences to their relatives, friends and colleagues. As you may be aware, being named a corresponding member is the highest honor that we bestow on our foreign colleagues, providing lifetime membership and recognition by the Society. In fact, these selections are so important that we elect corresponding members only at the general business meeting. Past President Judy Jernstedt is coordinating nominations this year. For more information, contact her by phone or email at jjernstedt@ucdavis.edu.

Thanks! 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 the volunteers who have or are participating in Society committees, on the Council and as officers. In particular, I would like to thank the hard working member/volunteers of the Executive Committee, Judy Jernstedt, Jeff Osborn, Jenny Richards, Joe Armstrong, Jim Mickle, and Linda Graham. If you want to get involved, there are always opportunities! Linda Graham is already organizing committees for next year when she serves as President of the BSA. If you would like to be part of her administration or any BSA activities, please contact her by phone or email at lkgraham@facstaff.wisc.edu.

Best regards and best wishes,



Scott D. Russell, President

Some special items of interest:

Botany 2003, Mobile Convention Center, July 26-31, 2003. The web site is: <http://www.2003.botanyconference.org/>

- **Registration** will be opening by May 1, 2003. Discounts are available to members of BSA, ABLs, AFS, ASPT
 - ☞ **Early bird discounts** are available until: **June 23**, with significant continuing discounts **until July 24**
 - ☞ **After July 24**, registration will still be payable on site
- **Recent Topics posters may be submitted:** from May 27 through July 17.

Botany 2004, Snowbird Conference Center, Snowbird, Utah, July 31-August 5, 2004. **Please plan to attend!**

Abstracts from past meetings: are still available, archived and searchable at: <http://www.2002.botanyconference.org/>, <http://www.2001.botanyconference.org/>, <http://www.2000.botanyconference.org/>

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- Note the eleven (11) digit number Membership Number on your mailing label
- Go to <http://www.amjbot.org/> and press the dark "SUBSCRIPTIONS" button near the middle of the page
- Establish your username and password, register and login

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