



Publications Report for the BSA Spring Board Meeting, March 2024

This report updates progress for BSA publications since the BSA Board meeting in November 2023 and is a companion to the Publisher Report provided by Gillian Greenough from Wiley.

Search for new EiCs for *AJB* and *PSB*

We have been very fortunate to have Pam Diggle as the Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Botany* and Mackenzie Taylor as the Editor-in-Chief for the *Plant Science Bulletin* for almost 10 years! [The EiC term for both publications is 5 years, with the option to renew once.] Both Pam and Mackenzie will complete their second 5-year terms in December 2024.

We have thus formed a search committee to recruit new Editors for these important BSA publications. The members of the committee met on Zoom on February 20, 2024, and include Emily Sessa (Chair), Eugenio Larios, Nora Mitchell, Andy Schnabel, Mackenzie Taylor, Amy McPherson, and Richard Hund.

Timeline for next steps: The committee has drafted a call for applications/nominations and will launch the search process during the week of February 26. *We encourage the Board to spread the word so we can find the best possible candidates!*

Nominations are due March 15; applications are due April 5.

We anticipate that interviews will take place in late April into May, and a recommendation to the Board will be made in late May or early June. Ideally, an offer will be extended to candidates for both publications in early June (before the Botany meeting), but otherwise by the end of July. The terms for the new EiCs will begin in January 2025.

***APPS* Recruiting Editor**

Applications in Plant Sciences held an open call for a new Recruiting Editor in October-November 2023 and received 11 applications from a geographically diverse pool (5 applicants from Europe, 2 from the US, 2 from Pakistan, 1 from India, and 1 from China). After interviews and careful consideration, Tilottama (Tilo) Roy, of Missouri Western State University, was offered the position and began working with the journal in early February 2024.

Artificial Intelligence and Publications: Guidelines

An ad hoc committee, chaired by Theresa Culley, was formed in September 2023 to discuss the issues of how generative AI is changing the process of “doing science” and publishing—and what publication guidelines we should be providing for our community. The committee included 3 working groups, who all came together to complete drafts of guidelines for authors and reviewers; they are working jointly on an article for the *Plant Science Bulletin*.

Update on the *AJB* Synthesis Papers and Prize

<https://botany.org/home/awards/awards-for-early-career-scientists/ajb-synthesis-papers-and-prize.html>

The second round of Synthesis papers is currently going through peer-review (one was published in February), and those published before June 2024 will be in competition for the second \$2000 Synthesis Prize.

The third round is underway—10 proposals are under consideration by the committee [Sean Graham (chair), Carol Goodwillie, Pam Diggle, Lúcia Lohman, and Amy McPherson].

The *Plant Science Bulletin*: Special Art & Science Features

The *Plant Science Bulletin* is publishing a special multi-issue section on “Art in the Botanical Sciences: Past, Present, and Future.” The first of these 3 planned issues was published in Fall 2023 and received broad and enthusiastic appreciation from the authors, editors, and community at large (as evidenced by feedback on social media and appreciative emails). Mackenzie Taylor has been working with special section editors Nicolette Sipperly, Rosemary Glos, Kasey Pham, Patricia Chan, and Ashley Hamersma, as well as Richard Hund and Johanne Storgan, on articles that include numerous artist-scientist collaborations, integrations of art and science in museums, scientists’ and artists’ accounts of what drives their curiosity and exploration, and the role of art in teaching and herbarium curation.

In efforts to bring excellent papers and an expanded readership to our journals, we are pleased to announce calls for papers for upcoming special issues.

Special Issue Calls for Papers: *AJB* and *APPS*

AJB

“Understanding novel fire regimes using plant trait-based approaches”

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/ajb/cfp-plant-traits-and-novel-fire-regimes.html>

[A Climate Change Special Issue is in development—details to come!]

APPS

“Advances in analyzing and engineering plant metabolic diversity”

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/apps/apps-special-issue-call-for-papers-plant-metabolic-diversity.html>

[A special issue on methods in reticulate evolution is in development, with a Call for Papers planned for June 2024.]

[Reviewing Papers for Scientific Journals](#)

This free Botany360 panel discussion and Q&A session took place on December 13, 2023, and was organized by BSA President, Brenda Molano-Flores, and the BSA Publications Team. Reviewers and editors from the Botanical Society of America’s journals shared information about reviewing scientific papers. Geared particularly toward early career scientists, this virtual meeting provided an overview of the manuscript review process, addressed common questions from first-time reviewers, and included an open Q&A session. The panel included Drs. Brenda Molano-Flores, Briana Gross, Karolina Heyduk, and Stephen Weller. The discussion was moderated by BSA Director of Publications Amy McPherson.

Changes to the Editorial Boards post-meeting:

New *AJB* Associate Editors: Liming Cai (UT Austin), Myong Gi Chung (Gyeongsang National University, South Korea), Andrés J. Cortés (Colombian Agricultural Research Corporation), Lucía DeSoto (Complutense University of Madrid), Carole Gee (University of Bonn), Brenda Grewell (USDA ARS and UC Davis), Eugenio Larios (Universidad Estatal de Sonora), Amy Litt (UC Riverside), Elena Lopez Peredo (Rochester Institute of Technology), Giacomo Puglielli (University of Seville), Susan Rutherford (Wenzhou-Kean University), Yuval Sapir (Tel Aviv University), Elizabeth Stacy (University of Nevada Las Vegas), Juan Carlos Villarreal A. (Université Laval, Québec)

Retiring *AJB* Associate Editors: Daisy Dent, Scott Russell, Steve Weller

New *APPS* Associate Editors: Tatiana Arias (Marie Selby Botanical Garden), Rob Baker (National Park Service), Mario Blanco-Sánchez (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos), Gordon Burleigh (University of Florida), Jordan Dowell (Louisiana State University), Katie Emelianova (University of Vienna), Richie Hodel (Smithsonian Institution), Vadivelmurugan Irulappan (University of Missouri, Columbia), Gianalberto Losapio (University of Lausanne), Ed McAssey (University of Connecticut), Nora Mitchell (University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire), Giuseppe Diego Puglia (National Research Council of Italy), Dustin Ray (University of Minnesota-Duluth), Luiza Teixeira-Costa (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Maria Fernanda Torres Jimenez (Vilnius University), Aarón I. Vélez-Ramírez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Yunjian Xu (Yunnan University)

Respectfully submitted,
Amy McPherson
BSA Director of Publications
22 February 2024