



**Board Report**  
**Conference Program Director**  
**July 19, 2023**

## **Overview**

### **Participating Societies**

American Bryological and Lichenology Society  
American Fern Society  
American Society of Plant Taxonomists  
Botanical Society of America  
International Association of Plant Taxonomists  
Society of Herbarium Curators

### **Abstract Submissions**

Oral and poster presentations opened February 15 (closed April 3, extended to April 10)  
Recent Topics posters and Lightning Talks opened June 28 (closed July 17)

### **Conference Registration**

Opened March 9

## **Updates and News**

### **Conference format**

Botany 2023 is our second hybrid conference. Responding to feedback and experiences from Botany 2022, we made numerous adjustments to enhance the functionality of the hybrid format and to improve engagement between virtual and in-person attendees. Some of these changes include:

- Additional training of student assistants that will be assigned to provide technical support to all contributed talk sessions and colloquia; implementation of two moderators for all sessions; updated instructions for moderators and student assistants, in a unified document to increase effectiveness of this presentation support team
- Later deadlines for uploading prerecorded videos for virtual presentations (due end-of-day July 23)
- Pre-recorded videos optional for in-person presentations (deadline for optional videos is one week following the end of the conference)
- Extensive information provided about conference format, presenter instructions, and how to use the conference platform and app provided in advance and in multiple formats/places (conference website, conference platform, conference app)
- Welcome videos from society presidents for each day of conference available on platform
- In-app / platform email and messaging capability to connect attendees; whether virtual or in-person, people can easily follow up on presentations, ask and answer questions, and network
- Poster presentations must be delivered in person, but digital posters may be uploaded for viewing following the live poster session

## Conference Technology Update

After an extensive search to find a new system that would encompass the three pieces for the conference—an abstract submission site, a registration site, and an onsite conference app—we decided upon X-CD (pronounced “exceed”) as our all-in-one conference platform. This platform greatly streamlined program organization; abstract submission, registration, program scheduling, presentation slide and video uploads, and attendee information is all in one place, as well as conference e-mailing / messaging.

## Procedural Change/Notes

Following recommendations from last year’s planning meeting in Anchorage, we instituted a review process for workshop proposals. All proposals were reviewed by an ad hoc committee comprised of society representatives selected from the planning committee.

Also, new this year, we have Ombuds/mediator services that are provided as part of the [ROOT&SHOOT](#) initiative at no cost to us. These Ombuds/mediators were recently engaged by the R&S RCN to serve as joint Ombuds for several plant science conferences this summer.

## Conference Content

### Featured Speakers

Plenary Speaker – Jacquelyn Gill  
BSA’s Emerging Leader – Karolina Heyduk  
*Annals of Botany* Special Lecture – Jill T. Anderson  
ASPT Incoming President Talk – Jun Wen  
Belonging in Botany Lecture: TBD  
Incoming BSA President Talk – Brenda Molano-Flores  
Kaplan Lecture – Erika Edwards  
Regional Botany – Don Mansfield

### Field Trips

Local rep James (Jim) Smith organized an array of pre-conference field trips. Full details available on website. In addition to the field trips, there are opportunities to visit the Harold M. Tucker Herbarium (CIC) and the Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History (CIDA) at the College of Idaho. Information for self-guided wildflower walks is posted on the website.

This year there are two Botany in Action projects; a botanical project on Sunday, July 23 with Boise River ReWild, and a social action project on Thursday, July 27.

### Workshops

Complete descriptions are on the Botany 2023 website.

#### All Day 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

- Biodiversity data wrangling: Linking large phylogenies with species traits and ecologies
  - Organized by: Ryan Folk, Carol Sinischalchi, Rob Guralnick, Nicholas Engle-Wrye
- Methodological advances in reticulate evolution
  - Organized by: George Tiley, Claudia Solís-Lemus
- Using Digitized Herbarium Data in Research: Applications for Ecology, Phylogenetics, and Biogeography
  - Organized by: Pamela S. Soltis, Douglas Soltis, Maria Corez, Shelley Gaynor, Elizabeth White
- Introduction to Phylogenetic Comparative Methods in R
  - Organized by: John Schenk

- Navigating deep learning with digitized herbarium specimen image data
  - Organized by: Richie Hodel, Rebecca Kikow, Jenna Ewkwealor, Will Weaver, Sundre Winslow
- 3D printing for plant science: design to optimize
  - Organized by: Mason McNair

#### **Morning, Half-Day, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

- Writing your CV and translating it into a public-facing website
  - Organized by: Ioana Angel, Eli Hartung
- A Working Group to summarize newly described vascular plant taxa in North America north of Mexico from 1995-2019
  - Organized by: Neil Snow, Sarah Jacobs
- Supporting inclusive and sustainable research infrastructure for systematics (SISRIS) by connecting scientists and their specimens
  - Organized by: Shawn Krosnick, Andrea Weeks

#### **Morning, Two-Hour, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

- What makes botanical illustration science
  - Organized by: Linda Vorokbik

#### **Afternoon, Half-Day, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

- Decolonizing botany discussion + workshop
  - Organized by: Tabitha Faber, Louisa Bartkovich, Nick Koenig, Amy Wroblewski
- National Science Foundation proposal writing workshop
  - Organized by: Judy Stone, Shannon Fehlberg
- Rekindle your creativity: unifying art and science for personal and professional wellbeing
  - Organized by: Nicolette Sipperly, Patricia Chan, Rosemary Glos, Kasey Pham, Ashley Hamersma

## **Symposia**

- From theory to practice: new innovations and their application in conservation biology
  - Organized by: Christopher Krieg, Briana Gross
  - *Financially supported by the BSA and the BSA Ecology Section. Sponsored in name only by the BSA Physiology Section*
- Seeing the network for the trees: Methodological and empirical advances in reticulate evolution
  - Organized by: George Tiley, Claudia Solís-Lemus
  - *Financially supported by the BSA, ASPT, and the BSA Systematics Section. Sponsored in name only by SHC, and the BSA Ecology Section*
- Standing your ground: understanding plant defense from molecules to morphology
  - Organized by: Kira J. Tiedge, Gaurav D. Moghe, Stacey D. Smith, Thiti Suttiyut
  - *Financially supported by the BSA and the BSA Development and Structural Section. Sponsored in name only by SHC, and the BSA Ecology, Economic Botany, and Physiology Sections*
- Whole genome duplications and impact on angiosperm character evolution
  - Organized by: Hong Ma, Patrick Edger, Michael McKain, Yuannian Jiao
  - *Financially supported by the BSA, ASPT, and the BSA Systematics Section. Sponsored in name only by the BSA Northeast Section*
- The ploid thickens: methodological developments, empirical advances, and remaining challenges in polyploid phylogenetics
  - Organized by: Jenna Ewkwealor, Carl Rothfels
  - *Financially supported by the BSA, ASPT, and the BSA Systematics Section. Sponsored in name only by the BSA Pteridological Section*
- Global Change and Plant Reproductive Failure: Beyond Climate Change Effects: An Annals of Botany Sponsored Symposium

- Organized by: Mauricio Quesada, Johanne Brunet, Rowan F. Sage
- *Financially Supported by Annals of Botany*

## Colloquia

Sections and societies have been given the list of Symposia to rank. Six will be chosen to be presented. Once chosen we will begin marketing the conference.

- Shifting baselines and altered landscapes: botany in the Anthropocene
  - Organized by: Klara Scharnagl
  - *Sponsored in name only by ABLs, SHC, and the BSA Ecology and Economic Botany Sections*
- Neotropical Pteridology: A Dedication to Robbin Moran
  - Organized by: James E. Watkins, Jr., Alejandra Vasco
  - *Supported Financially by the BSA Developmental and Structural and the Pteridological Sections and Sponsored in name only by AFS, SHC, and the BSA Northeast Section*
- One World Many Kingdoms: conservation of bryophyte and lichen biodiversity
  - Organized by: Scott Schuette, Jessica Allen
  - *Sponsored in name only by SHC, and the BSA Ecology and Northeast Sections*
- Attack of the (haploid) clones: resurgence of gametophyte biology across land plants
  - Organized by: Jessie Pelosi, Elissa Sorojsrisom
  - *Sponsored in name only by AFS, SHC, and the BSA Physiology Section*
- Ecological and Evolutionary Consequences of Genome Size Variation in Plants
  - Organized by: Erika Hersh-Green
  - *Supported Financially by the BSA Developmental and Structural and the Ecology Sections and Sponsored in name only by SHC*
- Strategic uses of herbaria, specimens, and digital specimen data
  - Organized by: Kateline Pearson, Jenn Yost
  - *Supported in name only by SHC and the BSA Ecology Section*

## Other Conference Enhancements

- Botany and Dragons gaming night
- Assortment of mixers and social events (Botany Scoop Alcohol Free Ice Cream Social; Student Networking Event; Gathering for Disabled Botanists and Allies; Asian, Asian American, & Pacific Islander Mixer; LGTBQ & Allies Mixer; and more!)
- Boise Resources posted to conference website and platform/app, including links for:
  - Local businesses that support diversity and inclusion
  - Health and wellness resources
  - Local grocery stores
  - Recommendations from Boise locals
  - Bike Around Boise
  - Fun Things to Do
  - Restaurant Map/Guide

## Future Conferences

Botany 2024 – Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 15-19

Botany 2205 – Tucson, Arizona, July 26-30

### **Botany 2023, By the Numbers (as of 7/19/23)**

- 1041 – 100 Virtual Registered  
38% - 391 - Professionals  
3% - 33 - post-Docs
- 32% - 333 - Grad Students
- 12% - 128 - Under Grads  
490 - BSA Members  
53 - Countries represented.
- 850 - Presentations  
443 - Papers  
254 - Posters  
8 - Special Presentations  
6 Symposia  
6 Colloquia  
20 Lightening Talks  
13 Workshops

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie Link-Perez (Conference Program Director)  
Johanne Stogran (Director of Conferences)