



## BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

**Mission:** *The Botanical Society of America exists to promote botany, the field of basic science dealing with the study and inquiry into the form, function, development, diversity, reproduction, evolution, and uses of plants and their interactions within the biosphere.*

**The objectives of The Society are to:** *sustain and provide improved formal and informal education about plants; encourage basic plant research; provide expertise, direction, and position statements concerning plants and ecosystems; and foster communication within the professional botanical community, and between botanists and the rest of humankind through publications, meetings, and committees.*

### I. Financial Update

BSA finances are quite healthy. We ended FY2019 with a net operating income of \$384,184. This total includes the hefty gift from the Kaplan family and is missing a quarterly payment from Wiley that arrived late, just after the end of the fiscal year. If you remove the large donation and add the Wiley quarterly payment in, we arrive at around \$101,600 for net operating income which is very close to the budgeted surplus for FY2019 - \$85,836. Our investment account has been on quite a roller coaster over the year, so you will see that our increase in investments is minimal.

Total giving in FY2019 amounted to \$402,851. Giving was up exponentially thanks in large part to the donation of \$355,000 from the Kaplan family to start a new student research award. Giving to the BSA Endowment was also up, ending the fiscal year at \$27,300, a 20% increase.

#### **Key things to note about our fiscal year performance:**

- 1) Our overall income from membership dues increased because of the \$25 additional fee for Professional members and directly supported the Grad Student Research Awards.
- 2) Our salaries and benefits are up for this year in comparison to FY2018. In FY2018, we were down one staff person and in addition, we were paying the Missouri Botanical Garden less than normal for salaries and benefits due to a build-up of excess funds from the BSA which had been held in reserve.
- 3) Please note that the total publications income for the fiscal year appears a bit low because the \$72K check due to us in September from Wiley did not reach us until after the fiscal year end. Thus, our overall income for the year appears lower than it should be. During FY2019, we received our first royalty payment, which stems from journal sales in 2018. The royalty payment totaled \$93K. We will not receive another royalty payment until May of 2020.
- 4) Publication expenses are significantly lower than last year at this time. We have now been able to fully sever all previous contracts (Highwire Press, in particular) and that saves publishing expenses. Costs for copyediting were also down in FY2019.
- 5) As planned, income and expenses for grant activity are down as we were in the last year of the Digging Deeper education and outreach grant. The largest expenditures were captured in the first two years of the grant. We have received a no-cost extension to continue the work on this grant for one more year.
- 6) We just barely made a profit on Botany 2019. Split with our partners, the BSA portion of the profit is miniscule, just a few thousand dollars and will be paid to us in November (FY2020). The profit shown for the meeting during FY2019 reflects the 2018 meeting profit share in Rochester.

The total in our investment account at Morgan Stanley has fluctuated greatly in the last year. As of September 30, 2019, our BSA Investment portfolio stood at \$5,669,529. Our accountants at Schowalter Jabouri are now conducting the fiscal year end reconciliation that will allocate earnings from the fiscal year to each of the award funds, sections, and BSA partitions within the investment account.

**As of Oct 22, 2019\*:**

<b>Conference Account:</b>	<b>\$15,918</b>
<b>BSA Checking Account:</b>	<b>\$211,085</b>
<b>BSA Money Market Account:</b>	<b>\$381,921</b>

\*Cash in our accounts is higher than normal. The BSA and other partner societies are soon to pay the Botany conference account for conference expenses pertinent to each Society. For the BSA checking account, recall that this is the majority of the revenue we will work with for the remainder of the calendar year.

## **II. Governance**

After the meeting, there has been much administrative work to take care of as the fiscal year wrapped up. We submitted our audit and response to the Federal Clearinghouse, a surprisingly laborious process which was required for our single audit per NSF guidelines. We recently received a letter back from NSF administrators where they nit-picked the way that the auditors presented a few of the findings and also asked BSA to submit a corrective action plan as a separate document in any future single audits. (Our corrective actions were submitted as part of the overall audit report with the auditors' findings). They have accepted our audit report and we do not anticipate needing a single audit like this for another three years.

Wanda, Johanne and I have been reviewing income and expenses for FY2019 and for the Botany 2019 meeting to conduct a final year-end reconciliation. Our accountants have begun the process of reviewing our books and we should have the final account reconciliation finished later this month. We have also been working with our accountants to eliminate the 3 sectional accounts (Pacific, Phytochemical, and MidContinent) all of which had a small amount of funds that now roll into BSA Unallocated within our investment portfolio and to conduct some consolidation of other accounts. After discussion with Lucinda, the Paleo section voted to merge four of their award funds into two larger funds. The discussions with sections and consolidation of all the little buckets have begun. These changes affect the year-end reconciliation and will be reflected in the final accounting of our investment account for FY2019.

The Ad Hoc Kaplan Dissertation Award Committee has been working toward a launch of this new award. Our office has provided input into the description and call for applications for the award based on our experience with previous awards within BSA and SSE. These items come before the Board for review and approval and we are planning to launch before the year end so that the first \$10,000 research award can be provided in 2020. We have also been approached by another BSA family who wants to potentially provide a gift to support BSA female scientists and Ned Friedman has been instrumental in those discussions.

The Kaplan Award, and the increasing international nature of our society, has prompted me to investigate how an increase in international awards (amount of funds, and number of awards provided) might affect our tax filings. It appears that more paperwork will be required in the future and we will need to be especially careful with our international awardees in obtaining their

documentation to use when filing our organization's 990. Schowalter Jabouri, our CPA firm, is doing some further analysis at my request.

With Linda's recent committee appointments we reconstituted the Financial Advisory Committee. I created an orientation document for them and will share the BSA FY2019 budget- to -actual and FY2020 budget to bring them up to speed. Going forward, they will work with the BSA Treasurer on review of our quarterly financials.

Working with the new Investment Committee, we have had ongoing discussions about the BSA investment portfolio, and the new committee is investigating a shift to socially responsible investing for our portfolio. ESG investing is a growing category of investment choices that blend environmental, social, and governance factors into traditional investment evaluations.

Other items I have been working on are:

- Wrap up of the PLANTS and Diversity grant payments and evaluations
- Discussions with PLANTS Co-PIs about planning for the future of the program
- Replacement of the contracted AJB Content/Assistant Editor (AJB editorial assistant of 14 years resigned and has been replaced)
- Assisted with the hiring and contracts for two social media liaisons
- Working with our Conference Manager to tie up 2019 Conference finances
- Overseeing the new awards submission/evaluation platform and the potential addition of a fourth partner (Society for Systematic Biology) with new enhancements to the module
- Launching join/renewal season and messaging for the BSA and SSE
- Overseeing the successful redesign of the SEB web site and initial planning for their 2020 meeting in Mona, Jamaica
- Researching and selecting a new insurance broker (better coverage and saves us money)
- Updating our computer systems and software in the office (2 workstations replaced with upgraded computers and new software, move to new email clients)
- Gathering information on potential strategic planning consultants
- Preparing a new membership survey for use during strategic planning
- Updating all investment and credit card paperwork to include the correct authorities from the Board and staff

### **III. Membership**

We are tracking pretty much on pace with where we were last year at this same time so we don't anticipate any big changes in membership numbers from last year. Student memberships have rebounded and we have seen early adoption of the new 3-Year Student membership, that was just implemented in August; however, Professional membership overall has seen a decrease in the last several years. BSA renewal season started in mid-October. We are offering an incentive this year to join and renew early with a drawing for a complimentary registration to Botany 2020 if members join/renew or give \$100 total donations before the end of the year.

After reviewing 16 applications and interviewing our top candidates, we are excited that our two new social media liaisons are hired and now working on our behalf. Welcome to Taran Lichtenberger and Jared Meek! Our student reps, BSA staff and Dr. Chris Martine all contributed to the decision-making process. We have held a few conference calls with them, they have worked out plans for coordinated efforts, and they will start posting to our sites in November.

Membership Types	Oct 15	June	Dec												
	'19	'19	'18	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Corresponding	70	65	65	68	63	62	62	59	57	57	57	57	53	53	49
Life	84	82	76	69	60	57	54	54	51	53	53	54	54	54	51
Emeritus	281	278	280	281	262	255	240	226	250	219	212	212	201	192	114
E Family	39	39	39	38	36	36	34	32	0	30	30	27	23	25	14
Retired	54	53	65	53	49	52	48	34	31	33	26	30	21	9	
R Family	2	2	0	4	4	2	2	2	0	4	6	4	2	2	
3 Yr Professional	296	287	242	178											
3 Yr Prof Family	22	18	17												
Professional	854	813	984	1050	1305	1367	1379	1450	1430	1413	1400	1562	1557	1571	1393
P Family	106	108	129	145	173	186	209	217	234	233	231	255	247	236	187
CC Professional	37	32	34	44	46	41	40	42	49	44	31	20			
CC Family	3	2	2	4	2	4	8	12	0	0	5	5			
PostDoc	155	145	173	173	207	183	205	199	217	186	149	88			
PD Family	3	3	3	1	2	5	8	11	0	10	8	5			
3 Yr Student-NEW	35														
Student	650	618	643	630	751	818	784	801	841	900	833	816	765	701	371
S Family	0	0	2	3	5	6	18	13	10	9	9	19	29	14	11
S Chapter	25	22	34	37	41	24	36	46							
K-12 Teachers	11	9	15	13	19	21	23	28	51	68	56	60	54	37	19
Affiliate	20	18	24	33	38	35	40	52	48	45	40	32	30	22	7
Associate	1	1	2	5	3	2	15	25	31	23	19	20	13	9	13
Amateur	46	42	60	64	58	54	71	74	64	59	71	54	47	44	16
Developing Nations	62	51	52	24											
	<b>2856</b>	<b>2688</b>	<b>2941</b>	<b>2917</b>	<b>3124</b>	<b>3210</b>	<b>3276</b>	<b>3377</b>	<b>3364</b>	<b>3386</b>	<b>3236</b>	<b>3320</b>	<b>3096</b>	<b>2969</b>	<b>2245</b>
Professional	2068	1978	2161	2132	2209	2250	2289	2338	2319	2282	2208	2319	2158	2142	1808
Student	710	640	679	670	797	848	838	860	851	909	842	835	794	715	382
Other	78	70	101	115	118	112	149	179	194	195	186	166	144	112	55
Growth/Decline	<b>2856</b>	<b>2688</b>	<b>2941</b>	<b>2917</b>	<b>3124</b>	<b>3210</b>	<b>3276</b>	<b>3377</b>	<b>3364</b>	<b>3386</b>	<b>3236</b>	<b>3320</b>	<b>3096</b>	<b>2969</b>	<b>2245</b>

#### IV. BSA Management Support Services

Working with their officer teams I provided association management advice on several issues, wrote and deployed communications for SEB, and worked with our Membership Manager to launch the renewal season for SSE thus far. By the end of this year, we will have new contracts with both societies. The work we provide for management services will bring in \$74,000 per year. (compared to \$60K previously)

We are currently fostering a collaboration effort between SSE, ASPT, and BSA for a newly created awards submission/evaluation system. The new online award system has been tested with an SSE graduate student research award which has allowed us to work out a few bugs and identify some needs that we did not recognize initially. We are now seeking a bid to create additional functionality and have been in discussions with the Society for Systematic Biologists who wish to join the partnership so they can utilize the awards program. By partnering together, we are able to split any cost with the contractor for development and enhancements and therefore achieve the end results we are all seeking.

#### V. IT Support

Much of the last several months, Rob spent a good deal of time working with a contractor on the new awards submission and evaluation system, and tweaking the system for our needs so it can be rolled out shortly for BSA awards. As mentioned earlier, we are seeking input and a bid to

add an enhancement to the system which will allow letters of recommendation to be submitted separately from award application or nomination. He has also been spending time on the Botany 2020 abstract submission system, some time-consuming security server issues for both BSA and SSE, assisting with computer upgrades, redesign of the SEB web site which is now complete, and updates to our join/renew platform within CiviCRM. He also recently held the first call of the Botany.org Web Site Redesign Committee.

Detailed reports on Publications, Education and the Conference have been prepared for your review.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Cacanindin  
Executive Director