



Publications Report for the BSA Board Meeting November 23, 2020

This report updates progress for BSA publications since this summer's "Virtual" Botany meeting in July.

Online author webinars and discussions led by Editors-in-Chief **Theresa Culley and Pam Diggle**, with panels including Mike Barker, Rocío Deanna, Nora Mitchell, Marcelo Pace, and Rachel Prunier, were held via Zoom on October 7 and 13. The free sessions were focused on "Learning to Write Your Story Well" and "The Editor's Perspective: Maximize the Chances your Paper Will Be Published" and were well attended. The recordings are available online on the BSA's Virtual Professional Development Resources page (<https://cms.botany.org/home/resources/virtual-professional-development-resources.html>).

AJB Reviews: The first Review, "**From Carlquist's ecological wood anatomy to Carlquist's Law: why comparative anatomy is crucial for functional xylem biology**," by Mark Olson, was published in October 2020.

The next Review, "Parasites on parasites: hyper-, epi- and autoparasitism among flowering plants," by Luiza Teixeira-Costa et al., is scheduled for January 2021.

APPS Special Issue: "**Advances in Plant Phenomics: From Data and Algorithms to Biological Insights**," with guest editors Sunil Kenchanmane Raju, James Schnable, and Addie Thompson, was published in August.

APPS Special Issue Calls for Papers will be announced soon for two SI's scheduled for early 2022:

1. "Methodologies in Gametophyte Biology," led by guest editors Sally Chambers, Jerald Pinson, and Susann Wicke (Call for Papers planned in November 2020).
2. "Methods in Aquatic Botany," led by guest editors Greg Pec and Julia Cherry (Call for Papers planned by January 2021).
3. "Meeting the Challenge of Exceptional Plant Conservation: Technologies and Approaches" (tentative title), led by guest editors Valerie Pence and Emily Coffey (Call for Papers planned by February 1, 2021).

Reviewing Editor Board for *APPS*: In September, *APPS* welcomed its newest [Reviewing Editors](#). This group of graduate students and postdocs will serve a two-year term, paired directly with Associate Editors as mentors to gain a behind-the-scenes understanding of the editorial and publication processes.

AJB Changes to the Editorial Board post-meeting:

New Associate Editors: Kathleen Kay, Jürg Schönenberger, and Sandy-Lyn Steenhuisen.

Retiring Associate Editors: Greg Anderson, Kay Hodgins, and Cindi Jones.

APPS Changes to the Editorial Board post-meeting:

Retiring *APPS* Associate Editor: Diane Byers.

2021 Special Issues:

- [Life Without Water](#)—led by Karolina Heyduk, Michael McKain, and Olwen Grace, will be published in February in *AJB*.
- [Exploring the Potential of Angiosperms353, a Universal Toolkit for Flowering Plant Phylogenomics](#)—a joint special issue between *AJB* and *APPS*; the papers are being submitted now, in anticipation of publication mid year 2021. The effort is led by Bill Baker, Felix Forest, Lisa Pokorny, Steven Dodsworth, Jennifer Tate, Sean Graham, Susann Wicke, Angela McDonnell, Norm Wickett, and Matt Johnson.

BSA Early Career Advisory Board: The inaugural group was recruited last November. We are considering 2- or 3-year rotations, with terms beginning at the time of the annual meeting in the future.

Free content in *AJB* to be curbed. Wiley has brought to our attention a potential threat to our future income: Unsub is tool now available to help librarians cancel journal subscriptions on a large scale, based on the amount of free content a journal has available compared to its level of usage at a given institution. This means that journals with a high proportion of free content are at increased risk of subscription cancellation. Wiley is recommending that we scale back the free content we provide, and for material we *do* want to promote (e.g., our OTNOT essays, Reviews, virtual issues), we limit the time they are free. [Our rolling embargo of 1 year is contractual and will not be touched.]

Data Availability: Beginning this winter, *AJB* will *require* authors to deposit data in publicly accessible repositories and to clearly state this in a “data availability” paragraph in their articles. Previously, this was strongly recommended. [*APPS* already had this as a requirement.]

Open Research Badges: In November, both *AJB* and *APPS*, in partnership with the non-profit Center for Open Science (COS), began offering authors the option of choosing “badges” to clearly signal they’ve made their data publicly available. See the [wiki](#) for more information.

A 2021 Marketing plan for *AJB* and *APPS* is in development and will be shared with the team soon.

Manuscript submissions:

For *AJB*, manuscript submissions are up 9% over where we were last year at this time. For *APPS*, submissions are down 43%, due to the discontinuation of Primer Notes on November 1, 2019.

NOTE: We knew submissions would decrease when we stopped accepting Primer Notes; we also anticipate a higher Impact Factor in the future because of this. However, low submission numbers are a concern, and a Wiley-BSA strategy session for *APPS* is planned for early 2021.

The *Plant Science Bulletin* published its largest issue to date this past fall and covered newsworthy topics, including how COVID-19 affected BSA members personally and professionally, as well as news on Black Botanists Week. The issue can be found at <https://cms.botany.org/file.php?file=SiteAssets/publications/psb/issues/PSB-2020-66-2.pdf>.

The BSA has recruited one new Student Social Media Liaison: Sonal Gupta (University of Michigan) joins Jared Meek (Columbia University) in efforts to enhance the BSA's social media reach—and will help promote the authors and their work published in BSA journals.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy McPherson
13 November 2020