



## 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 FY2018 with a net operating income of \$151,985. This is \$116,000 above what was budgeted as the surplus for that year. The draft financial statements from FY2018 have been prepared by our contracted accounting firm, Schowalter and Jabouri, and have been included in the agenda for approval by the Board. Our investment account has been on quite a roller coaster over the last six months, but has now regained more than what was lost in the downturn of the last quarter in 2018.

FY2019 income and expenses are also on track. (Please see FY2019 Profit and Loss Statement in Board agenda). Key things to note about our financial picture for FY2019 so far:

- 1) Our salaries and benefits are down this year compared to last year same period. We had previously built up a surplus in payroll funds at the Missouri Botanical Garden and have been paying MOBOT less in payroll and benefits in order to diminish that surplus with the Garden. This will even out later this summer.
- 2) Publication income is now solely reliant on the contracted amount with Wiley and is spread throughout the fiscal year. We still have no word from Wiley as to how much we can expect in royalties from our 2018 publications licenses and sales. That royalty will be paid to us in June.
- 3) Publication expenses are significantly lower than last year at this time, as planned. We have now been able to fully sever all previous contracts (Highwire Press, in particular) and that saves us significant expenses so that this year we will see a true financial picture of our publishing partnership agreement. Our hope is that royalties will improve over time as Wiley works on our behalf to broaden the dissemination of the journal and increase our impact.
- 4) As planned, income and expenses for grant activity is down as we began Year 4 of the Digging Deeper education and outreach grant. The largest expenditures were captured in the early years of the grant.
- 5) The small profit from our 2018 conference is reflected in FY2019 income.

The total of our investment account at Morgan Stanley took a big dip with the losses in the stock market during Q4 of 2018. We have made significant gains back since then. As of February 22, 2019, our BSA investment portfolio stood at \$5,334,406.

As of February 22, 2019:

BSA Conference Account:	\$78,508
BSA Checking Account:	\$329,689
BSA Money Market Account:	\$481,476

\*Cash in our accounts is higher than normal. We just received the main deposit from Wiley in January and recall that this is the majority of the revenue we will work with for the entire year

## II. Governance

In the last several months, I have been training and working closely with Amelia Neely, our new Membership and Communications Manager. She has been brought up to speed in our database management (CiviCRM), web site editing and enhancement, launched a new year of membership renewals, and she is now revamping and sending out society communications and emails. I also introduced her to the SSE and SEB membership services that we provide.

In the last several months, I devoted quite a bit of my time to preparing a Request for Proposal for our audit and researching CPA firms in the area that might be a good fit with significant nonprofit and governmental auditing experience. At this Board meeting you will select an auditor, and the audit fieldwork will begin in April.

Working with the BSA officers, and now the Ad Hoc Committee for Investments, we have had ongoing discussions about the BSA investment portfolio, replacements for the open slots on the Investment Committee, and researched best practices in financial oversight in associations and nonprofits.

Fundraising efforts continue and we were able to bring in several significant donations at the end of 2018. After some discussion, Dorothy Kaplan provided a fantastic gift to the Society to set up the Kaplan Dissertation Improvement Award in Comparative Morphology, an award of \$10K per year for a graduate student. We will need to lay more groundwork to set up the mechanism for the award and its selection criteria in the coming months. In addition, our BSA President was approached by a family foundation that specializes in conservation efforts. I have been talking with one of their Board members about the potential for a significant yearly gift that would support field botanists.

Last spring we responded to the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), which affects the way we collect and store the personal data of our members and conference attendees. The staff team prepared a new BSA Privacy Policy that was approved by the Board and distributed to our members via email. This winter, I oversaw the implementation of GDPR requirements for our online membership renewal process and for Botany 2019 registration.

I have also been working with HR and payroll at the Missouri Botanical Garden to provide oversight for financial payments, staff structure, and performance reviews. Wanda and I sat down with Garden staff and our accountants to better understand payroll and benefit reports. This month I completed the performance review process for our staff.

Other items I have been working on are:

- Overseeing a collaboration between SSE, ASPT, and BSA to share the cost of a new awards submission and evaluation system with the work of an IT contractor;
- Conference planning and oversight for Botany 2019 and 2020;
- New options for paying our international award winners and symposium presenters to avoid wire transfer fees or cash payments;
- Keeping abreast of the issues and discussions about sexual harassment in STEM, in particular following the creation of a new consortium of scientific societies which we may want to join;
- Holding discussions with ASPB Executive Director regarding potential areas of cooperation and collaboration;
- Gathering information on potential strategic planning consultants.

### III. Membership

#### Membership Types

	<b>2018</b>	% of Total	<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>		<b>2015</b>		<b>2014</b>		<b>2013</b>	
Corresponding	65	2.2%	68	2%	63	2%	62	2%	62	2%	59	2%
Life	76	2.6%	69	2%	60	2%	57	2%	54	2%	54	2%
Emeritus	280	9.5%	281	10%	262	8%	255	8%	240	7%	226	7%
E Family	39	1.3%	38	1%	36	1%	36	1%	34	1%	32	1%
Retired	65	2.2%	53	2%	49	2%	52	2%	48	1%	34	1%
R Family	0	0.0%	4	0%	4	0%	2	0%	2	0%	2	0%
3 Yr Professional	242	8.2%	178	6%								
3 Yr Prof Family	17	0.6%										
Professional	984	33.5%	1050	36%	1305	42%	1367	43%	1379	42%	1450	43%
P Family	129	4.4%	145	5%	173	6%	186	6%	209	6%	217	6%
CC Professional	34	1.2%	44	2%	46	1%	41	1%	40	1%	42	1%
CC Family	2	0.1%	4	0%	2	0%	4	0%	8	0%	12	0%
PostDoc	173	5.9%	173	6%	207	7%	183	6%	205	6%	199	6%
PD Family	3	0.1%	1	0%	2	0%	5	0%	8	0%	11	0%
Student	643	21.9%	630	22%	751	24%	818	25%	784	24%	801	24%
S Family	2	0.1%	3	0%	5	0%	6	0%	18	1%	13	0%
S Chapter	34	1.2%	37	1%	41	1%	24	1%	36	1%	46	1%
K-12 Teachers	15	0.5%	13	0%	19	1%	21	1%	23	1%	28	1%
Affiliate	24	0.8%	33	1%	38	1%	35	1%	40	1%	52	2%
Associate	2	0.1%	5	0%	3	0%	2	0%	15	0%	25	1%
Amateur	60	2.0%	64	2%	58	2%	54	2%	71	2%	74	2%
Developing Nations	52	1.8%	24	1%								
	<b>2941</b>		<b>2917</b>		<b>3124</b>		<b>3210</b>		<b>3276</b>		<b>3377</b>	
Professional	2161	73.5%	2132	73%	2209	71%	2250	70%	2289	70%	2338	69%
Student	679	23.1%	670	23%	797	26%	848	26%	838	26%	860	25%
Other	101	3.4%	115	4%	118	4%	112	3%	149	5%	179	5%
Growth/Decline	<b>2941</b>	0.8%	<b>2917</b>	-6.6%	<b>3124</b>	-2.7%	<b>3210</b>	-2.0%	<b>3276</b>	-3.0%	<b>3377</b>	0.4%

Membership for 2018 is up 1%. We had anticipated a larger bounce back in membership numbers with the strong attendance for this year's annual conference, but for 2019 we now are fully staffed with a Membership/Communications staff person in place. A number of our future plans for enhanced membership benefits and outreach can be taken off the back burner. Student memberships seem to be a particular pain point, which bears some exploring since our student membership dues are so low. On a positive note, the 3-Year Professional membership, which was asked for by our members, and implemented in 2017, continues to see growth. We may want to consider adding a 3-Year Student membership option. Please see the Membership and Marketing Report for more information.

### IV. Publications

In 2018, your staff along with the Editors-in Chief of the *American Journal of Botany* and *Applications in Plant Sciences* worked overtime to transition our current production of the journals and the back issue archives to John Wiley and Sons. It was a rocky transition as you have heard, and we were very disappointed and frustrated by some of the troubles we encountered with the new platform and its quirks and issues that prevented better discoverability. 2019 is a new year and we will be focusing on marketing, discoverability, and raising our journals' profiles and submissions. We kicked the year off with a special Publications Strategy Day this January that aided in laying out many items we can accomplish in the next 1-2 years to increase the impact and broaden the reach of our journals.

Please see the Publications Report for more detailed information on the *American Journal of Botany*, *Applications in Plant Sciences*, and the *Plant Science Bulletin*.

## V. BSA Management Support Services

Working with their officer teams, BSA provides a range of support services to SEB and SSE. In the last several months I have been involved in three Board meetings, provided association management advice on several issues, written and deployed communications for those societies, and worked with our new Membership Manager to launch the renewal season for both organizations. Recently, we have been assisting the Society for Economic Botany in setting up their abstract submission system, and meeting and registration web sites. These two societies bring in \$60,000 to the BSA. It must be noted that these services are run at a break-even position and allow us to carry an additional staff member to support our overall efforts. I have been working to negotiate new agreements with increased payments for the FY2019. Both societies have voted to increase their annual payments to BSA for management services - \$25,000 from SEB and \$50,000 from SSE. In the past we only had loosely written agreements with both organizations. We are now implementing association management contracts with each organization and final revisions are in the works.

## VI. Botany Conference

This fall, I oversaw the final financial reconciliation from the 2018 conference. We saw a nice profit from the meeting. Our biggest challenges this year have been grappling with the new data and privacy requirements of the GDPR and implementing revisions to the Code of Conduct for the meeting. We are close to having a Travel Ban policy approved by all partner societies. Childcare at conferences is also an issue that we need to address. Please see the Conference Report for more details.

## VII. PlantingScience & PLANTS Grants

The **PlantingScience** program continues to develop, expand and improve and our proposed \$2.88 million grant, **“Digging Deeper Together – A Model for Collaborative Teacher/Scientist Professional Development,”** is in its final year. We are continually improving the PlantingScience website with help from our contractor HUBZero, and looking to increase scientific society partner involvement and improve our outreach to more classrooms for next fall. A few publications are also “in the works” and we have submitted proposals to NSF for new grants related to PlantingScience. You can read more about that in the Education Report.

Our second PLANTS grant (\$99,000) is in year 4 of 5 years of funding from NSF, supporting students from under-represented groups to attend our Botany Conferences. The Business office manages the advertisement, application and evaluation process; the communications and tracking of the selected PLANTS fellows over time; as well as mentor cultivation. The staff support on this grant is handled by the Membership and Finance Managers, so I will be transitioning much of my hands-on role with the PLANTS program to Amelia.

## VIII. IT Support

Much of the last several months, our IT staffer spent time training our new Membership Manager in web site management of botany.org, econbot.org, and botanyconference.org and working in our membership systems - CiviCRM database, which is used for BSA and SSE member data. We are looking forward to starting an overhaul of botany.org this year. It is important to note that we also spent a good deal of time responding to threats/needed changes and ongoing updates to our IT systems, including the data breach report. Please see the IT Report for more details.