



Publications Report for the BSA Spring Board Meeting, February 2022

This report updates progress for BSA publications since the BSA Board meeting on November 22, 2021.

Wiley Proposal and Contract Negotiations

As the Board knows, Heather and Amy have been working with the consulting firm Clarke & Esposito (C&E) on negotiations for our contract renewal with Wiley. Heather has taken the lead and continues to advocate for favorable financial terms for the Society.

We are pleased that we've come to an overall agreement on financial terms, recently approved by Board consensus. As part of the financial agreement, we have agreed to raise our Article Publication Charges for Open Access over the next 5 years: for *AJB*, increasing by 10% every year beginning in 2024; for *APPS*, increasing by 5% each year beginning in 2023; and gradually decrease the member discount, from 50% to 20% (20% is more in line with discounts other societies offer). Currently, the APCs for *AJB* are \$2000; for *APPS*, they are \$1800.

We will continue to work on the terms of the contract over the next several months.

Funding APC Waivers for *APPS* in 2022

See the separate document.

New Editor-in-Chief for *Applications in Plant Sciences*

After a widely publicized search, we are pleased to report that **Briana Gross**, of the University of Minnesota-Duluth, accepted the position of Editor-in-Chief for *APPS*. She has actively been transitioning into this role since mid-January, with the assistance of the *APPS* team, including former Editor-in-Chief Theresa Culley.

The members on the ad hoc search committee were: Emily Sessa (chair); Joyce Onyenedum (nee Chery), Norm Wickett, Mike Moore, Pam Soltis, Karolina Heyduk, Amy McPherson, and Beth Parada.

An editorial board meeting is being scheduled for late March, with a Wiley-*APPS* Strategy session to follow.

New *AJB* Synthesis Papers and Prize

The call for applications for the *AJB* Synthesis Papers and Prize went out in December 2021. See <https://botany.org/home/awards/awards-for-early-career-scientists/ajb-synthesis-papers-and-prize.html>.

We received 20 applications and requested reference letters for 13 of the applicants. A subset of these will be invited to submit a 3000-word, single-authored synthesis on their chosen topic. From the published papers, one will be chosen to receive the \$2000 prize.

The ad hoc committee organizing the effort includes Sean Graham (chair), Kasey Barton, Emily Sessa, Pam Diggle, Lucia Lohman, and Amy McPherson.

BSA Early Career Advisory Board:

The ECAB is a group of early-career botanists who engage with and advise the editors of the *American Journal of Botany*, *Applications in Plant Sciences*, and the *Plant Science Bulletin* in several ways, including recommending timely topics for review papers, identifying papers in pre-print archives that may be appropriate to publish in our journals, and advising on issues of importance to the publications team.

From over 50 applicants, 10 were selected to serve on the 2022-2024 Early Career Advisory Board for BSA Publications, based on diversity of interests and backgrounds. See <https://botany.org/home/publications/ecab.html>.

The ad hoc members of the committee were Emily Sessa (chair), Pam Diggle, Theresa Culley, Mackenzie Taylor, Beth Parada, Richard Hund, and Amy McPherson.

New Freelance *AJB* Assistant/Content Editor

Marian Chau stepped down in December 2021 and **Staci Nole-Wilson** took over the role of *AJB* Assistant/Content Editor (part-time contracted position) in February 2022. The Editor Assistant/Content Editor checks papers that are tentatively accepted to make sure they adhere to our final requirements before they are officially accepted and sent to production; edits author "highlights"; and fills in with routine tasks (checking in original MSS, assigning out revised MSS, sending routine reminders, etc.) when the managing editor is away from the office for extended periods.

***AJB* Changes to the Editorial Board post-meeting:**

New Associate Editors: Meghna Krishnadas (CSIR, India) and Robert Schaeffer (Utah State University).

Retiring Associate Editors: Barnabas Daru and Aaron Liston.

***APPS* changes to the Editorial Board:**

Retiring Associate Editor: Matthew Gitzendanner.

Publications Committee

The BSA Publications Committee met in December 2021 and discussed the contract

negotiations with Wiley and how important it is that members support their Society journals; topics related to publications that may be appropriate for Botany360 webinar/workshops efforts; suggestions for review papers for AJB and APPS; Open Access and equity; and supporting PSB by contributing articles and suggesting topics.

Upcoming Special Issues

AJB:

Approaches to the Study of Quantitative Fitness-Related Traits
Pollen as the Link Between Phenotype and Fitness

APPS for 2022-2023:

Methodologies in Gametophyte Biology
Advances, Applications, and Prospects in Aquatic Botany
Meeting the Challenge of Exceptional Plant Conservation: Technologies and Approaches
Emerging methods in botanical DNA/RNA extraction
Bioinformatics for Plant Biology
Imaging techniques
Low-Cost Methods 2

2022 Marketing plan for *AJB* and *APPS*: See Wiley's plan, plus:

Social Media presence:

- We use Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to promote papers in the journals, our authors and other BSA members, and items we think will be of interest to our followers. We reach >53K followers across these three platforms.
- Facebook: >35K followers
- Twitter: >15.7K followers
- Instagram: >2.8K followers

Plant Science Bulletin

The *Plant Science Bulletin*, now in its 68th volume as the voice of the Society, shares news of interest to BSA members (and beyond). Recent issues have focused on DEI issues, plant awareness disparity, and much more. We also look forward to greater involvement and input from the Early Career Advisory Board as we move forward into 2022. The most recent issue can be found at <https://botany.org/home/publications/plant-science-bulletin.html>.



Respectfully submitted,
Amy McPherson
15 February 2022