

# Proposed changes to Distinguished Fellow and Emerging Leader award criteria.

A description of the proposed change of each award is followed by its current description.

## 1. Distinguished Fellow award title - PROPOSED CHANGES

Title. Several suggestions have been made to rename this award to something other than 'Distinguished Fellow' (e.g., Distinguished Botanist, Distinguished Scientist) because one common usage of 'fellow' refers only to males.

### 2A. Distinguished Fellow award description - PROPOSED CHANGES

The "Distinguished Botanist of the Botanical Society of America" is the highest honor our Society can bestow. Each year, the Distinguished Botanist Committee solicits nominations widely from the membership, evaluates candidates, and selects those to receive an award. Awardees are chosen based on their outstanding contributions to the mission of our scientific Society. The committee identifies recipients who have demonstrated excellence in basic research, education, public policy, or who have provided exceptional service to the professional botanical community, or who may have made contributions to a combination of these categories.

**Requirements for Nomination.** Nominations will be submitted by BSA members through the BSA online awards portal and should include: (1) a formal letter of nomination including a clear statement of (a) the notable accomplishments of the candidate; (b) disciplines or areas that have been significantly influenced by the contributions of the candidate; (c) **at least three letters of support and evaluation including complete contact information for each letter writer (email, postal address, phone)** supporting and evaluating the candidate's nomination; and (2) the curriculum vita of the candidate being considered and (3) letters of support. All items should be combined into one PDF file that will be submitted with the nomination form. **Please feel free to contact the Executive Director with any questions about the nomination and application process.**

### 2B. Current description of the Distinguished Fellow award (below):

<https://cms.botany.org/home/awards/awards-for-established-scientists/distinguishedfellow.html>

The "Distinguished Fellow of the Botanical Society of America" is the highest honor our Society can bestow. Each year, the Distinguished Fellow Committee solicits nominations, evaluates candidates, and selects those to receive an award. Awardees are chosen based on their outstanding contributions to the mission of our scientific Society. The committee identifies recipients who have demonstrated excellence in basic research, education, public policy, or who have provided exceptional service to the professional botanical community, or who may have made contributions to a combination of these categories.

#### Requirements for Nomination

The selection of awardees is driven by nominations from the membership. Nominations will be submitted through our online awards portal and should include: (1) a formal letter of nomination including a clear statement of (a) the notable accomplishments of the candidate; (b) disciplines that have been significantly influenced by the contributions of the candidate; (c) letters of

support and evaluation regarding the nominee's candidacy, with complete contact information (postal address, phone and e-mail address); and (2) the curriculum vita of the candidate being considered. All items should be combined into one PDF file that will be submitted with the nomination form.

### 3A. Proposed changes to the Emerging Leader Award description:

The “**Emerging Leader Award**” of the Botanical Society of America is given annually in recognition of creative and influential scholarship as well as impact in any area of botany reflecting the breadth of BSA. Awardees should have outstanding accomplishments and also have demonstrated exceptional promise for future accomplishments in basic research, **education, public policy, exceptional service to the professional botanical community, or a combination of these categories**. The **BSA Emerging Leader Award Committee** will evaluate the applications. Awardee(s) will be recognized at the annual **meeting** and have the opportunity to each present a special lecture at the next annual meeting, with all reasonable meeting expenses covered by the BSA. Each awardee will also receive a five-year membership in the BSA, an invitation to submit a special paper to the *American Journal of Botany*, and free on-line publication for two years in *AJB*.

**Eligibility:** 1) The candidate must be within **ten** years of earning a Ph.D. (or equivalent; not including time on parental or other leave) and 2) must be a member of the Botanical Society of America **at the time of the award**. **Nomination/Application Process:** Candidates may apply directly, but **more senior members** also are encouraged to nominate outstanding young scientists who may be unaware of the existence and prestige of this prize.

Each application must be supported by the following materials detailing the candidate's career to date to be considered for this award by the BSA Emerging Leader Award Committee.

Please send in pdf format to [bsa-manager@botany.org](mailto:bsa-manager@botany.org) :

- (1) Nominee/Applicant: First and Last Name, Email Address, Institution, Phone Number
- (2) Nominator: First and Last Name, Email Address, Institution, Phone Number
- (3) Applicant's curriculum vita,
- (4) Applicant's summary statement including accomplishments in research **and** activities to promote education, outreach, and/or service as well as a vision for future activities in these areas. This document should be no more than three pages.
- (5) Three recent publications (pdf format),
- (6) Names and contact information (email, address, institution, phone) of letter writers
- (7) Under separate cover, two letters of reference (including the nominator's where applicable), should be sent directly to [bsa-manager@botany.org](mailto:bsa-manager@botany.org). No application will be considered complete without these letters.

### 3B. Current description of Emerging Leader award (below):

<https://cms.botany.org/home/awards/awards-for-early-career-scientists/emergingleaderaward.html>

In 2014 Botanical Society of America announced the establishment of an “**Emerging Leader Award**” to be given annually in recognition of creative and influential scholarship in any area of botany reflecting the breadth of BSA. Awardees will have produced outstanding scholarship and also demonstrated exceptional promise for future accomplishment. The awardee will be recognized at the annual **banquet** and have the

opportunity to present a special lecture at the following years' meeting, with all reasonable meeting expenses covered by the BSA. The awardee will also receive five year's membership in the society, free publication in the *American Journal of Botany* for two years, and an invitation to submit a special paper to *AJB*.

**Award Recipients:** 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014

**Eligibility:** 1) The candidate must be within **eight years** of earning a Ph.D. (or equivalent) (not including time on parental or other leave) and 2) must be a member of the Botanical Society of America.

**Nomination/Application Process:** **Established researchers** are encouraged to nominate outstanding young scientists who may be unaware of the existence and prestige of this prize. Candidates may also apply directly.

**Each candidacy must be supported by the following materials detailing the candidate's career to date:**

Send the following information and documents (in .pdf format) to [bsa-manager@botany.org](mailto:bsa-manager@botany.org):

**Nominator:**

First and Last Name

Email Address

Institution

Phone Number

**Nominee:**

First and Last Name

Email Address

Institution

Phone Number

(1) applicants curriculum vitae,

(2) a summary of research accomplishments and vision for future activities including **research and, if applicable**, education, outreach, and service. This document should be no more than three pages,

(3) pdf copies of three recent publications,

(4) names and contact details of the two referees (including the nominator where applicable) who have sent supporting letters. N.B.: The letters of reference should be sent separately, but no application will be considered without these letters.

**Process for Selection of Awardee:** The BSA Distinguished Fellow Award Committee will evaluate the applications.