

**BSA Council meeting
July 1, 1:00 PM, Clift Lodge Superior B**

Attendees

Joseph Armstrong (BSA Treasurer)
Martha Cook (Chair, Phycological Section)
Bill Dahl (Executive Director)
Pamela Diggle (Chair, Developmental and Structural Section)
Linda Graham (BSA President)
Harry (Jack) Horner (Chair, Financial Advisory and CPC-xx)
Lee B. Kaas (Historical Section)
Suzanne Koptur (Chair, Ecological Section)
James Lawrey (President, American Bryological Society, substitution for Paula DePriest, Chair,
Bryological and Lichenological Section)
Jim Mickle (Chair, Teaching Section)
Nancy Morin (Chair, Conservation Committee and Chair, Pacific Section)
Karl Niklas (Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of Botany)
Jeffrey Osborn (Program Director)
Kathleen Pigg (Secretary/Treasurer, Paleobotanical Section)
Karen Renzala (Secretary, Pteridological Section)
Scott Russell (Past President)
Steve Scheckler (Mosely Award Chair)
Randall Small (Vice-Chair, Genetics Section)
Denise Seliskar (Chair, Physiological Section)
Allison Snow (President-Elect)
David Spooner (Secretary, BSA and recorder for this meeting)

President's report. Linda Graham opened the meeting and reminded the council that one purpose of this meeting was to obtain votes from the council members for BSA business items and initiatives. This also is a good time for the BSA section representatives and committee chairs to get to know each other. The last council meeting minutes were distributed and passed. Linda thanked everyone for great service to the BSA. She thanked BSA Executive Director Bill Dahl and his staff for help in running the BSA. She mentioned that one of her initiatives this year is to stimulate the BSA committees. She initiated a system to evaluate personnel in the BSA office. She wishes to raise visibility of our society; Bill Dahl and Scott Russell are helping her in this initiative. During this year she attended the AAAS meeting and the Council of Society Presidents meetings, she wrote many tenure support letters for BSA members.

Executive Committee reports

Past President Scott Russell. Scott Russell encouraged everyone to nominate botanists in their institutions for the Young Botanists Award. He has been working on the electronic interface for these nomination letters and these are now available on-line. He organized the plenary symposium entitled Seed Plant Gametophytes: Still the Forgotten Generation? Four speakers will present talks at the symposium (Dr. Mohan B. Singh, University of Melbourne, Australia; Dr. Hugh G. Dickinson, University of Oxford, United Kingdom; Dr. Ueli Grossniklaus, University of Zürich, Switzerland; Dr. William E. Friedman, University of Colorado, Boulder). Scott represented the BSA at Argentina and Chile joint botanical meetings, and also was involved in the INTEL Science and Engineering fair where he served as a special judge with Linda Graham.

President Elect Allison Snow. Allison served in her role as a member of the BSA Executive council. She served as Chair of Committee on Committees, and filled many posts in these committees.

Secretary's report. David Spooner submitted a report of the spring meeting of the BSA Executive Council on April 3-4, 2004. Spooner led an effort to obtain a special BSA Systematics Section award for Christiane Anderson, Editor-in-Chief of Systematic Botany Monographs. \$3,500 was raised from past authors of many of the 68 volumes of this series (Chris Anderson edited all but the first volume) to be used at Chris's

discretion for the continued health of the monographic series. An award and this check will be presented to her at Wednesday's Annual BSA Banquet. Spooner printed all correspondence among members of the EC these last six months and has organized it into a binder, with tabs delimiting action items. Last October 31 Bill Dahl sent a letter to BSA members to distribute a Botanical Society of America poster and associated "tear away" information slips in their respective departments. Spooner mailed these fliers to all 32 University of Wisconsin Branch Campuses.

Treasurer's report. Joseph Armstrong reported that the BSA is in great shape financially and operated in the black this year. Kent Holsinger is the new BSA treasurer. Total assets this year are \$3,100,000. This is \$700,000 above last year. The endowment is now 2.5 million dollars. Bill Dahl has set up a great bookkeeping system and budget in much better shape this year and it is much easier to plan budgets. There is a \$1,655,000 budget proposed for next fiscal year. He proposed increasing the allocation of funds to active sections to \$1300, and suggested that this was a very cost-effective use of BSA funds. The Executive Committee endorsed this initiative last night.

Program Director's report. Jeffery Osborn reported that there were 871 pre-registered participants at this year's meeting and this is expected to grow to climb 900 or so. The on-line abstract submission site is new this year and is running well, and all the abstracts are now – everything on-line. Value added this year because web links are now capable of being viewed and archived on-line. Authors can now upload files to build their abstracts, and there are new browsing options. Jeff solicited ideas from the council for improvements in the site. The Program Chairs can now build their sectional programs entirely on-line. All program information is on the abstract website. There are 730 presentations this year. The program is incredibly robust and there are eight discussion sessions. Future meetings are scheduled for 2005 in Austin Texas where there will be an educational forum, with a focus on K-12 teachers. Linda Graham is heading this K-12 outreach initiative. The 2006 will be in Chico California during July 28-Aug 3. The 2007 site is not yet determined but we are in contact with the American Society of Plant Biologists who we will meet with in 2007 and plans are moving along well. Karen Rinzogia has obtained a grant to bring to bring in 11 minority attendees for this meeting. Here. The 2008 meeting is planned with the Canadian Botanical Association and we may meet in Halifax or Vancouver. In 2009 we may meet with the Ecological Society of America.

American Journal of Botany Editor's report. Karl Niklas reported that the American Journal of Botany was doing very well. *American Journal of Botany* has been mentioned in *Science*, *Nature*, and *Science News*. The impact factor for *American Journal of Botany* has increased from 2.263 in 2002 to 2.373 in 2003. The 2003 impact factor ranks *American Journal of Botany* as 19 out of 135 plant science journals. In terms of total citations, the *American Journal of Botany* is ranked 12 out of 136 journals (for comparison: *New Phytol.* = 11, *J. Exp. Bot.* = 13, *Annual Rev. Plt. Biol.* = 15; *Canadian J. Bot.* = 16). *American Journal of Botany* has experienced a large increase in submissions, possibly because of the new on-line submission feature. This is Karl Niklas's last annual report and he thanks the leadership of society for their help and support during his tenure as Editor of *American Journal of Botany*. He especially thanks Spencer Barrett (book review editor) and Scott Russell, as well as Elizabeth Lawson and Louise Spellman. *American Journal of Botany* has experienced incredible revolutions such as on-line submissions and reviews, and Judy Jernstedt it will introduce more innovations. Beginning December 1 all new manuscripts to go Judy Jernstedt, but Karl will follow up on those in the pipeline on his charge.

Marshall Sundberg Plant Science Bulletin Editor. Marshall Sundberg is not present, but other Council members report that he will stay on another year because a replacement has yet to be found. Linda Graham asks help in identifying an editor for the *Plant Science Bulletin*.

Webmaster's report. Bill Dahl indicated that he tries to use the website in strict support of BSA's mission. New initiatives this year include JSOTR allowing us to place all BSA abstracts on our site. Previously these were not searchable from the web. As well, all six years of *Plant Science Bulletin* are now available on the BSA website. A grants and opportunities newsletter is now on the web thanks to support from Truman State University. The web structure is now completed and we need fill for these items. We could also use peer-review of items on the web. There currently are 2000 hits a day to website. These are increasing with increased web content. In the future all the prior *American Journal of Botany* abstracts will be placed on the

web. The Executive Council addressed free access to *American Journal of Botany* on-line. We will put up all abstracts and we will have access control. We will revise the BSA *Careers in Botany* and devote funds for its revision. We are developing an initiative to work with aspiring students to develop ideas and we help them answer their questions and develop their ideas in a real-time web-based interactive system. There also is a young peer-young peer interaction planned for the web. Nancy Morin asked for a collection of web-based syllabi. Scott Russell says that he will bring this up to the Education Committee. This follows an Acme Animation Initiative for aspiring animators (work with Pixel, Dreamworks, etc.).

Business Office /Executive Director's report. Bill Dahl reported that the BSA finances are in good shape. The BSA membership is down 200-300 people. Memberships a responsibility of everyone and Bill encourages us to solicit membership from our students and other colleagues. Institutional subscriptions and on-line memberships are slightly increased.

Reports of Committee Sections and Representatives

Annual Meetings Program Committee. Jeffrey Osborn indicated that there is nothing new to report.

Archive and History Committee. The representative of this committee is present and no report on file. Bill Dahl reported that the archives will go from the University of Texas to the Missouri Botanical Garden soon to be permanently filed there.

Committee on Committees. Allison Snow reported that with considerable help from BSA members her committee chose new committee chairs. Many members moved up the ladder in responsibility and there are many new members. These new members are on the BSA website. The BSA Executive Committee approved these new members. Allison moved that this list be approved. President Graham called for vote and the new committee members were approved unanimously. Allison suggested that this job be done earlier so that committee members and the members of the Committee on Committees can meet at the annual meeting and get to know each other better.

Conservation Committee. Nancy Morin mentioned the importance of the global conservation strategy. Ideally the BSA Conservation Committee would serve as a liaison for regions to suggest contacts to help with conservation issues. The world of plant conservation is very wide and there are many controversial positions. Nancy Morin suggested that despite this complexity we need a BSA position. Linda Graham mentioned the availability of BSA funds to draft a White paper on conservation issues, including a BSA position on the Endangered Species Act. Nancy raised the problem of having committee members who are inactive and asked how we can replace them. Allison Snow took note of this comment and indicated that she would address this problem in next year's appointments to the Conservation Committee. Karl Niklas says there are no bylaws for this committee. Scott Russell mentioned that outside of this council the BSA President has ultimate authority to make replacements. Bill Dahl reminded Nancy and others that the BSA has financial resources that can be granted to address issues of committees.

Chair Education Committee. Gordon Uno mentioned that the digital library is in for a second round of funding. This will be a huge and significant library and it is essential that BSA be a part of this. The Education Committee will screen the images for this library. The Education Committee is also working to revise the BSA publication *Careers in Botany*. Gordon moved that the Bessey Award be moved from the Education Committee to become a BSA-wide award. He mentioned trends of declining students interested in botany careers and the decline in Botany Professorships. He mentioned the initiative Bio 2010 that left out organismal biology and systematics; this endangers BSA subject areas. Gordon is working with others to expand the Bio 2010 away from just a biomedical focus. He also is working with others in ASPB to increase high school curricula in botany. Also interested in expanding botany training from a concentration on just photosynthesis and life cycles.

Election Committee. Scott Russell mentioned that the candidates for President Elect and Treasurer were voted on by the BSA membership. Ed Schneider was elected President Elect and Kent Holsinger as Treasurer. Allison Snow suggested that we have a link to the candidate's personal website. Next year the BSA will move to digital balloting; Bill Dahl is working on this. Nancy Morin asked if we will reach all

members this way. Bill Dahl responded that we will mail out ballots to those without web access. The digital balloting was passed with this combination of polling methods.

Endowment Committee. Jack Horner (Chair) reported that the BSA endowment has increased 33% over last year and it now stands at \$2,419,122.64. The average increase per year over the past 10 years has been 15.8%/year. This is \$646,789.60 more than 30 June 2003 (\$1,772,333.04), an increase of 36.5%. This increase was in part growth of principle, and in part, an influx of excess cash.

Membership and Appraisal Committee. Don Hauber indicated that a membership drive poster has just been made. He encouraged BSA members to it take back to their institutions and to post them.

Publications Committee. Andrea Schwarzbach reported that this committee is moving to get a new *Plant Science Bulletin* editor. They also are working on new subject headings for *American Journal of Botany*. Karl Niklas suggested that we can list an “other” and the authors can give their own suggestion and the journal prints this. This is an Executive Council recommendation, not a motion.

Webpage Committee. Bill Dahl indicated that there was nothing new to report.

Corresponding members Committee. Scott Russell mentioned that the BSA corresponding members limited to 50 foreign members. Prof. Hugh G. Dickinson from Oxford University is one of our new members. This is just provided for information at the Council Meeting because corresponding members are voted on at the annual business meeting.

Darbaker Prize Committee. The Darbaker Prize for 2004 is currently under consideration. The Darbaker Committee consists of: Debashish Bhattacharya (chair), Richard McCourt, and Annette Coleman. The award will be announced at the BSA banquet.

Graduate Student Awards Committee. This committee has been changed from Karling Awards Committee. The awardees will be announced at the BSA banquet.

Merit Awards Committee. The awardees will be announced at the BSA banquet.

Moseley Award Committee. Steve Scheckler reported that the winner will be announced at the BSA banquet.

Jeannette Siron Pelton Award. Scott Russell announced that the William E. Friedman was to receive this award.

Ad hoc committees

BSA Centennial Award Committee. Jack Horner indicated that there is much work ahead for the next two years. A history of the society will be written. Special symposia are planned. Medallions are being developed. Invitations to other societies will be made.

Cooperation with AABGA (Association with Arboreta and Botanical Gardens) and BSA Collaboration. No report yet, but the Executive Committee is working on this.

Section reports (note some extensive reports are on-line under Botanical Society of America 2004 Reports to the Council)

Bryological and Lichenological Section. Paula DePriest indicated that this section had twice as many attendees as normal.

Developmental and Structural Section. Pamela Diggle indicated that this section sponsored three symposia and funds were used for travel awards to graduate students.

Ecology Section. Suzanne Koptur thanked Scott Russell for making the list server available for section members. The sectional bylaws were changes this year to revise the election of sectional representatives.

Economic Botany Section. David Spooner reported that the Economic Botany Section sponsored a Tuesday luncheon. Three papers and one poster were presented. With the Tropical Biology and Genetics Section a symposium was sponsored on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Genetics Section. Chair Stephen J. Novak is in France on sabbatical. Randall Small reported that 15 posters and two full paper sections were sponsored. An award for best poster was presented.

Historical Section. Lee B. Kass (not in attendance) indicated nothing to report.

Mycological Section. No report given.

Paleobotanical Section. Lisa Boucher indicated that four sessions, a co-sponsored symposium, and one field trip was conducted.

Phycological Section. Martha E. Cook reported that electronic balloting was initiated.

Physiological Section. Denise Seliskar reported that one contributed paper session was sponsored and two awards given out.

Phytochemical Section. No report.

Pteridological Section. Warren Hauk Chair, but Karen Renzaglia reported that a full report was provided on line and there was nothing new to report here.

Systematics Section. Wayne Elisens reported that a full report was provided on line and there was nothing new to report here.

Teaching Section. James L. Mickle Report reported that a full report was forthcoming on-line.

Tropical Biology Section. Susanna Magallón reported that this section developed a symposium on the Convention on Biological Diversity, with funding assistance from the Genetics and Economic Botany Sections.

Mid-continent Section. This Section is vacant, nothing to report.

Northeastern Section. Nancy N. Williams reported that a full report was provided on line and there was nothing new to report here.

Pacific Section. Nancy R. Morin reported that this section is working to get active.

Southeastern Section. James L. Mickle reported that the BSA Southeastern Section normally meets with the Association of Southeastern Biologists. This section will present an award in the form of a plaque, membership to BSA, and \$300 travel award.

Representatives to other sections

AAAS. Linda Graham attended two AAAS meetings. AAAS is an opportunity for us to have a public policy presence. It also is an opportunity for us to get Fellowship recognition to AAAS. Linda participated in the development of plant-focused symposia. She also mentioned that the science writers meet at the AAAS meetings and this is a great way to get plant topics at AAAS meetings.

AIBS. Alison Snow indicated that this is a wonderful organization (they publish *Bioscience*). They are always looking for good topics for *Bioscience*.

CSSP (Council of Scientific Society Presidents). Linda Graham reported that CSSP publishes one-page white papers on controversial scientific topics and of use to legislators.

Old business. None.

New Business.

Joseph Armstrong presented the BSA budget. The budget is approved at the Executive Committee meeting, so at this point this is for information only.

The Financial Advisory Committee asks that we vote to advise the Executive Committee and the BSA Council on strategic planning for the \$25,000 that goes for initiatives. The vote was 8 for 6 against. So the Executive Committee is directed in making a plan to spend these funds by planning a less conservative attitude for long-range planning on society initiatives.

A vote was called for increasing the Section allocations from \$1150 to \$1300/year. This was passed unanimously.

Karl Niklas requested the Executive Committee to consider making the *American Journal of Botany* Editor-in-Chief an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

Adjourned at 4:15 P.M.