



## **Report to the Board – November 2019**

### **Botany 2019 Wrap up**

Botany 2019 in Tucson, Arizona was a resounding success!

Approximately \$6,000 profit was made. ½ the profit retained by the conference – the other half split among the participating societies.

1200 attendees

1069 Abstracts including:

- 8 Special lectures
- 19 Symposia and Colloquia
- 545 Oral Presentations
- 340 Posters
- 1 Discussion session
- 19 Workshops

A diverse selection of field trips including an overnight fern foray. 60 Graduate and Undergraduate students took advantage of field trip reimbursements - split with ASPT. BSA paid \$1995.00 to BSA member students taking trips. I would like to repeat this program for Botany 2020. (BSA budgeted \$2000.00 – I would like to request \$2500 from BSA as field trips may be more extensive in Anchorage.)

Some comments from the survey:

- Culture of botany conference is very pleasant and inviting, contributes to enjoyable experiences speaking with a wide range of botanically inclined folks
- It was both scientifically stimulating and lots of fun
- Crop wild relative conservation field trip is very nice!
- I attended probably the best symposium since I began coming to BSA...the Land Plant Evolution symposium was outstanding.
- I really enjoy the friendly atmosphere and the chance to see cool talks and catch up with colleagues!
- This was one of the best meetings ever. The energy was great. Personally, I think it is because participants could get outside easily, and because they could hike so readily. I went out for an hour or more every morning but one. Those hikes left me high for the rest of the day.

- Loved the venue, we should consider going back there in a few years. You did a good job providing vegan food this time (usually there are no options, or the options aren't very good). The student housing rates were adequate enough to encourage students to attend.
- I think the PLANTS program and travel grants are extremely valuable. I have participated as a PLANTS mentor for 3 years, and I plan to continue participating whenever possible.

Between the comments from the survey and the financial outcome – I would say it was a successful conference!

#### Other highlights:

- Had another Exhibitor Raffle...Aurora Storage gave away 2 herbarium cabinets. They plan to do this again for Botany 2020 – raised just under \$300.00. The “fund” has approximately \$800.00 to use to support attendance at future Botany conferences.
- Botany 2020 program committee voted to return to Tucson within 4 years and take advantage of the resorts offer to grant us the same contract.
- Kudos to Rich, Amelia and Steve BSA had a vibrant and exciting presence in the exhibit hall – with a new and updated booth!
- This was the first year we offered childcare at the conference. Contracted with KiddeCorp to provide onsite services to attendees. Although very under subscribed - those that took advantage of the service had very favorable comments.
  - 8 families, 9 children of various ages.
  - 139.25 hours of service
  - Parents paid \$5.00/hour
  - Parents were able to contract with sitters for private after a hours sitting services...to attend banquets and etc.
  - Total cost of program - \$8578.72  
 Parents paid - \$696.35  
 BSA promised - \$3000.00  
 ASPT Promised - \$1500.00  
 Final cost to the conference - \$2686.22

Participating societies need to decide the funding model for future childcare programs at Botany conferences.



## **Looking to the Future! Botany 2020**

Planning meeting met in Anchorage October 16-19 to discuss Botany 2020. Toured the Denai'ina Conference Center and the Anchorage Hilton – the venues for the conference. As was in Boise – neither venue was quite large enough so we will be splitting the program to accommodate the sessions - with the least amount of impact to the attendees.

### **Participating Societies**

- American Bryological and Lichenological Society
- American Fern Society
- American Society of Plant Taxonomists
- Botanical Society of America
- International Association of Plant Taxonomists
- Society of Herbarium Curators

**Abstract Submission** are closed - Amy will begin the selection process

- 13 Symposia Proposals submitted
- 17 Colloquia Proposals submitted

### **Field Trips**

A great list of potential field trips is being proposed. To include overnight trips and post conference trips. Tentative list

- Alaska Botanic Garden – potentially will also offer free admission to the garden with conference badge.
- BLM Campbell Creek Science Center
- Chugach State Park
- UAA Herbarium – most likely not an official ft – people can make appt to visit
- Alaska Native Health Center – ethnobotany/traditional healing garden
- Fungi tour in Girdwood
- Portage Glacier

Longer trips to include – Fairbanks – UAF museum, Denali National Park, Lichen tour to Petersburg, trip to Juneau. All details need to be worked out for all the trips and nothing is finalized at this point. Working on a form to submit field trips electronically.

**Workshops** – Submissions will begin soon

**Exhibitors** = Forms are being sent out – need help! Local organizers have agreed to help with the Artisan Event.

### **Featured Speakers**

Committee has offered suggestions and are following up on potential speakers

- Regional Botany Special Lecture – Carolyn Parker – The Folk School – Fairbanks
- BSA Emerging Leader – Emily Sessa
- Plenary Lecture - looking for someone to address indigenous issues - the land and climate concerns.
- Other speakers to be determined

### **Hotels**

- Host Hotel is the Anchorage Hilton
- Overflow at the Aviator Hotel
- Working on a contract with the University of Anchorage for dorm rooms. University is served by public transportation - but considering providing a shuttle (depending on cost)

### **Other issues**

- Continuation of the Child Care Program, buy-in from participating societies, costs to parents?
  - Considering the Carbon Footprint of the conference – travel offsets? Green initiatives? Collecting ideas and will implement as much as possible at the conference. Ideas let me know!
  - Issues with no shows and cancellation of talks. Decided that a strongly worded note will go to ALL folks with submitted abstracts that have not registered by a certain date (TBD), encouraging them to register or their abstract will be pulled from the program. This has been done in the past for submitters that are not members of the participating societies – this year it will go to all. Note will be signed by the program directors. In addition, we will have student conference assistants note the no-shows in each session – during the conference. After the conference we will re-evaluate the idea of charging deposit or early registration fee.