

## **Distinguished Fellow and Emerging Leader Award Committee**

### Current Committee Members

- Jim Leebens-Mack, Chair (2025)
- Stacey Smith (2025)
- Sean Graham (2026)
- Selena Smith (2026)
- Mike Barker (2026)
- Brenda Molano-Flores (2024), President, ex officio

In early April, our committee received nomination material for three **BSA Emerging Leader Award** candidates and a single BSA Distinguished Fellow Award candidate. One of the three EL award candidates had graduated in 2007 and was therefore not eligible for consideration the two other candidates were very strong, but **Aaron David** (Director of Plant Ecology and Assistant Research Biologist, Archbold Biological Station) was regarded unanimously as the EL Award recipient for 2024. The committee agreed that the other candidate should be encouraged to apply next year, along candidates from previous years who are will be eligible for next year's competition (having earned doctoral degree no earlier than 2015). The committee will reach out to three qualifying candidates and promote submission of more applications for the 2025 BSA Emerging Leader Award.

A single nomination packet was received for the **BSA Distinguished Fellow Award**. The committee was enthusiastic about the nomination of **Steven Handel** (Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University) and voted unanimously for him to receive the award. At the same time, the committee was surprised that there were not more BSA Distinguished Fellow nominations. As with next year's EL award competition, the committee will promote submission of more nominations next year.