

2024 BSA Systematics Section Report

J. Mandel, Chair & L. Watson, Secretary-Treasurer

Jennifer Mandel served as Section Chair, and Linda Watson served as the Section Secretary-Treasurer in the dual role as ASPT Program Director (a long-standing precedent). At the annual Botany Conference, the Section, together with ASPT, holds a joint Business Meeting.

Going forward, the Section (of 600+ members) should consider providing travel awards to students and a best poster award. They may also wish to engage IAPT and SHC in shared activities.

The Section held a joint business meeting with ASPT at Botany2023 in Boise, and emphasized the collaborative nature between the section and ASPT and overlapping memberships.

For Botany 2024, the BSA Systematics Section and ASPT co-sponsored and/or co-funded the following:

Symposia:

The future is here: Undergraduate-driven research in a changing world

(co-funded with the Section providing \$500 and ASPT providing \$500)

The evolution of land plant life cycles – empirical advances of the past ten years and key challenges

(co-funded with the Section providing \$500 and ASPT providing \$500)

Colloquium:

Herbaria for the future: Early Career Researchers and Their Uses of Herbarium Specimens

(no funding provided)

Together, the Section co-sponsored seven half-day sessions totaling 75 oral presentations, and 45 posters (topics and numbers of presentations are listed in parentheses).

Oral presentations: *Systematics* (15), *Phylogenomics* (17), *Floristics and Taxonomy* (12), *Biogeography* (12), *Macroevolution* (10), and *Biodiversity Informatics and Herbarium Digitization* (12)

Posters: *Systematics* (20), *Phylogenomics* (4), *Floristics and Taxonomy* (4), *Biogeography* (3), *Macroevolution* (1), and *Biodiversity Informatics and Herbarium Digitization* (13)