



Board Report
BSA Program Director
BSA Conference Director
June 9th, 2024

Overview

Participating Societies

American Fern Society
American Society of Plant Taxonomists
Botanical Society of America
International Association of Plant Taxonomists
Society of Herbarium Curators
Society for Ethnobotany

Abstract Submissions

Oral and poster presentations opened February 1 (closed April 3, extended to April 10)
Recent Topics posters and Lightning Talks opened May 15 - closed June 6

Conference Registration

Opened February 1 – Always a goal to have abstracts and Registration open together. Thanks to X-CD's program it was easy to do and successful this year

Updates and News

Conference format

Botany 2024 has returned to the traditional format of our conference – everything in person! All presentations in-person and no recordings. This decision was made by the Botany 2023 program committee at their final meeting in Boise.

We do have an app for the conference – also powered by X-CD. App was released June 8th, it allows attendees to create their agenda, read abstracts, chat with other attendees and much more!

Conference Content

Featured Speakers

Plenary Speaker – Colin Khoury - Director of Science and Conservation San Diego Botanic Garden
BSA's Emerging Leader – Joyce Onyenedum – New York University
Annals of Botany Special Lecture – Kathleen Kay- University of California – Santa Cruz
ASPT Incoming President Talk – Dave Tank – University of Wyoming
Incoming BSA President Talk – Jenny Xiang – North Carolina State University
Kaplan Lecture – Cynthia Jones – University of Connecticut
Regional Botany Special Lecture – Kaya Deerinwater - Citizen Band of Potawatomi
Distinguished Ethnobotany Speaker – Mark Merlin - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Society for Ethnobotany Mid-Career Awardee – Morgan Ruelle – Clark University
Belonging in Botany Panel Discussion – Moderated by Karolina Heyduk

Panelists include:

- Josh Felton – Cornell University
- Ana Flores - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Jocelyn Navarro – University of Arizona
- Charles Bush - Texas Tribal Buffalo Project
- Katherine Toll – University of South Carolina

Field Trips

Unfortunately, there was no one available to be the field trip coordinator this year. Recommendations for trips were solicited from many areas of Michigan botany! In addition the Botany in Action project was canceled this year due to lack of participation last year and anyone's willingness to organize a project.

Trip descriptions are on the conference website:

- West Michigan's Natural Communities Sampler- Sphagnum Bog, Oak Barren and more
- Flower Creek Dunes Nature Preserve
- Kellogg Biological Station
- Ferns and Lycopods of Yankee Springs
- Nature Journaling Science and Art
- Frederick Meijer Garden and Sculpture Park (Sunday and Tuesday evening)
- Kayaking on the Grand River

Workshops

Complete descriptions are on the Botany 2024 website.

Full Day

- Introduction to Phylogenetic Comparative Methods in R
- Data Analysis and Visualization In R
- SNPs, genes, genomes: using assembled genomes for answering evolutionary questions
- Biodiversity data wrangling: Linking large phylogenies with species traits and ecologies
- Common methods in leaf gas-exchange research: an introduction to measurements, theory, and data analysis

Morning, Half-Day, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

- How to Tackle Teaching Plant Life Cycles
- Winter twig and fruit identification
- Conservation through Ethnobotanical Relationships: A case study in Generational Remembrance of Plants through Culturally Significant Foods in Metro-Detroit's Ukrainian Diaspora.
- SISRIS: Supporting Inclusive and Sustainable (collections-based) Research Infrastructure for Systematics

Afternoon, Half-Day, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

- Genome Skimming: A Bioinformatics Approach to Assembly-Free Analysis of Genomic Information
- Traditional Cyanotype Printing with Jessie Swimeley
- Ethnobotany, natural products, and microbiomes through a One Health collaboration

Symposia

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

Submitted By: Jessica Savage, University of Minnesota – Duluth
 Financially supported by the BSA, IAPT, ASPT, and the BSA Physiology and Systematics Sections. Sponsored in name only by SHC and the BSA Phytochemistry Section.

New Roots for Restoration: integrating plant traits, communities, and the soil ecosphere to advance restoration of natural and agricultural systems

Submitted By: Allison Miller, Saint Louis University and Danforth Plant Science Center.
 Financially supported by the BSA and the BSA Ecology Section. Sponsored in name only by the BSA Physiology Section.

Bessey's Legacy: Enthusiasm and Innovation in Botanical Instruction

Submitted By: Ben Montgomery, University of South Carolina Upstate
 Financially supported by the BSA. Sponsored in name only by the BSA Development and Structural and the Historical Section.

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

Submitted By: Susanne Renner, Washington University, Saint Louis, MO
 Financially supported by the BSA and ASPT, and the BSA Systematics Section. Sponsored in name only by the BSA Development and Structural and the Pteridological Sections.

Ethical Dimensions of Food System Resilience: Resilience of what and for whom?

Submitted By, Ashley McGuigan, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USDA Southwest Climate Hub
 Financially supported by the BSA.

Colloquia

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

Submitted By: Nina House, University & Jepson Herbaria
Financially supported by the IAPT and the BSA. Supported in name only by ASPT and SHC
and the BSA Systematics Section

Small molecules shaping big interactions: Interdisciplinary perspectives from early career botanists
bridging biochemistry, physiology, animal behavior, ecology, and evolution.

Submitted By: Jacob Francis, Florida Atlantic University and University of California, Davis
Financially supported by the BSA and the BSA Phytochemistry Section. Supported in name
only by the BSA Ecology Section

Fire's role in plant conservation and restoration

Submitted By: Aaron David, Archbold Biological Station
Financially supported by the BSA Ecology Section.

Research Priorities for Traditional African Crops

Submitted By: Will McMahan, University of California, Davis
Financially supported by the BSA

African Ethnobotany

Submitted By: Prof Ben-Erik Van Wyk, University of Johannesburg

Other Conference Enhancements

- Offering Botany and Dragons gaming night again
- Assortment of Affinity Group mixers and social events (Botany Scoop Alcohol Free Ice Cream Social; Student Networking Event; Gathering for Disabled Botanists and Allies; LGBTQ & Allies Mixer; and more!)
- Grand Rapids Resources posted to conference website and platform/app, including links for:
 - Local businesses that support diversity and inclusion
 - Health and wellness resources
 - Fun Things to Do
 - Restaurant Map/Guide

Future Conferences

Set - Botany 2025 – Tucson, Arizona, July 26-30

In contract negotiation - Botany 2026 – Omaha, Nebraska, July 29-August 7

Botany 2024, By the Numbers (as of 6/8/24)

- 832 – Registered
 - 36% - 391 - Professionals
 - 8.5% - 33 - Post-Docs
 - 32% - 333 - Grad Students
 - 19.8% - 128 - Under Grads
- 490 - BSA Members
- 53 - Countries represented.
- 746 - Presentations

375 - Papers
252 - Posters
10 - Special Presentations
5 Symposia
6 Colloquia
16 Lightning Talks
12 Workshops

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Link-Perez (Conference Program Director)
Johanne Stogran (Director of Conferences)