

Physiological and Ecophysiological Section Annual Report 2023-2024

Officers during 2023-2024 were Jessica Savage, Chair, Christopher Krieg, Program Director, and Anitra Thorhaug, Treasurer. We also brought on Shiran Ben Zeev as a Social Media Coordinator.

This year, our section voted to change our name from the Physiological Section to the Physiological and Ecophysiological Section. We reinstated a quarterly newsletter and started a presence on bluesky and X. At BOTANY 2023, the section hosted four sessions. There were 2 Ecophysiological sessions and 1 Physiological session bringing the total number of talks to 19. We also had 25 posters. Our student awards were as follows:

- The best LI-COR Oral presentation went to **Spencer Roop**, *Idaho State University*, for the talk "Quantifying genetic variation in physiology and functional traits in subspecies of big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) in a common garden setting."
- The LI-COR Prize for best student poster went to **Leigha Henson**, *Appalachian State University*, for the poster "Light and moisture content as determinants of photosynthetic activity in southern Appalachian mosses from open and shaded habitats."
- The best student oral paper was awarded **Steven Augustine**, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, for the paper "Life at the extreme: understanding how hydraulics constrain some of the longest living pines to unique elevational positions."
- *The best student poster award went to Katherine Charton*, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, Los Angeles, for the poster "An encroaching woody species (*Cornus racemosa*) does not alter gas exchange in response to drought as much as the dominant herbaceous species in a managed temperate grassland."

At BOTANY 2024, the physiological section will have 3 sessions including 2 on Ecophysiology and 1 on Physiology with a total of 21 papers and 29 posters. We will hold a business meeting, an election for the Program Director and shared mixer with the Ecological Section. We will continue to provide 4 students awards, two from the section (best student oral presentation & the best student poster award) and two from LI-COR (best student oral paper & poster using LI-COR equipment). We are also supporting a symposium on undergraduate-driven research that is organized by our Chair.

Sincerely,
Jessica Savage
Christopher Krieg
Anitra Thorhaug