Botanical Society of America 2007 Council Meeting, Chicago Hilton Sunday, July 8, 2007; 1-3 PM

I. Call to order and introductions.

Christopher Haufler, BSA President, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions. Those in attendance were:

Lynn Clark, Systematics Section, Iowa State University (lgclark@iastate.edu)

Janice Coons, Ecology Section, Eastern Illinois University (jcoons@eiu.edu)

Bill Dahl, BSA Executive Director (wdahl@botany.org)

Janice Dahl, Anchor Management, St. Louis (jdahl@anchormanagement.net)

Pam Diggle, Council Representative to Executive Committee, University of Colorado (pamela.diggle@colorado.edu)

Chris Haufler, BSA President, University of Kansas (vulgare@ku.edu)

Warren Hauk, Pteridological Section, Dennison University (hauk@denison.eud)

Kent Holsinger, BSA Treasurer, University of Connecticut (kent@darwin.eeb.uconn.edu)

Harry (Jack) Horner, Financial Advisory Committee, Iowa State University (hth@iastate.edu)

Larry Hufford, Developmental and Structural Section, Washington State University (hufford@mail.wsu.edu)

Kathryn Kennedy, Conservation Committee (Kathryn.kennedy@mobot.org)

Judy Jernstedt, Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of Botany, University of California, Davis (jjernstedt@ucdavis.edu)

Fabián Michelangeli, Tropical Biology Section, New York Botanical Garden (fabian@nybg.org)

James Mickle, SE Section and Paleobotanical section, North Carolina State University (james.mickle@ncsu.edu)

Karl Niklas, incoming BSA President Elect, Cornell University (kjn2@cornell.edu) Karen Renzaglia, BSA Program Director, Southern Illinois University (renzaglia@plant.siu.edu)

Ed Schneider, BSA Past President, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (eschneider@sbbg.org) Andrew Schwendemann, BSA graduate student representative, University of Kansas (aschwend@ku.edu)

Pam Soltis, BSA President Elect, University of Florida (psoltis@flmnh.ufl.edu)

Randy Small, Genetics Section, University of Tennessee (rsmall@utk.edu)

MacKenzie Taylor, BSA graduate student representative, University of Tennessee (mackensie@utk.edu)

Anitra Thorhaug, Physiological Section and International Affairs Committee, Yale University (athorhaug@msn.com)

Gordon Uno, Education Committee, University Oklahoma (guno@ou.edu)

Steve Weller, BSA Secretary, University of California, Irvine (sgweller@uci.edu)

II. Approval of Minutes of 2006 Council Meeting.

Minutes from the 2006 Council Meeting were approved unanimously.

III. Reports of the Executive Committee, Editors and Staff.

President Chris Haufler asked that all presentations of reports be given in abbreviated form so that there would be time for a full discussion of the bylaws revisions and strategic development. Reports of Executive Committee members, Editors, Staff, other committees, sections and representatives follow. If no additional information was presented at the meeting, please refer to the appendix of the minutes for these reports, which are also located on the BSA website

(http://www.botany.org/bsa/membership/council2007/council.shtml).

- A. President (Chris Haufler). See Appendix.
- B. Past President (Edward Schneider). See Appendix.
- C. President Elect (Pamela Soltis). See Appendix.
- D. Secretary (Stephen Weller). See Appendix.
- E. Treasurer (Kent Holsinger). See Appendix.
- F. Program Director (Karen Renzaglia).

Karen Renzaglia noted that there were 1076 abstracts for this meeting. Her report will be on the BSA website. Altogether, approximately 3000 people attended the meeting when both societies (BSA and ASPB) were considered.

Karen reminded council members that the next BSA meetings will be at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver from July 26-30. In 2009, the annual meetings will be at Snowbird in Utah. Information is in the printed program for Botany 2007, and also on the web. Karen asked for ideas for field trips in British Columbia.

G. Council representative (Pam Diggle).

Pam Diggle asked that people remember to nominate candidates for the BSA Young Botanist of the Year Award, given to outstanding graduating seniors in the plant sciences. Information on nominations is on the web.

H. Editor, American Journal of Botany (Judy Jernstedt).

Judy Jernstedt noted that the impact factor for the American Journal of Botany rose from 2.572 in 2005 to 2.969 in 2006. The journal's ranking went from 22 to 16. The "Green Tree of Life" special issue in October 2004 was probably responsible for the increased impact factor. The challenge is to further increase the impact factor.

- I. Editor, Plant Science Bulletin (Marsh Sundberg). See Appendix.
- J. Webmaster (Bill Dahl). See Appendix.
- K. Business Office/Executive Director (Bill Dahl). See Appendix.

IV. Reports of the Committees, Sections, and Representatives.

- A. Standing committees (Administrative)
- 1. Executive Committee Report.

Chris Haufler stated that the Executive Committee report would be presented as recommendations under new business.

- 2. Annual Meetings Program Committee. See earlier comments by Karen Renzaglia regarding meeting venues for the next two years.
- 3. Archives and History Committee (Shirley Graham). See Appendix.
- 4. Committee on committees (Pamela Soltis). See Appendix, President Elect's Report.
- 5. Conservation Committee (Kathryn Kennedy). No report available.
- 6. Education Committee (Gordon Uno). See Appendix.

Gordon Uno reported that the education committee meeting, which included representative from BSA and ASPB, was very interesting. Several initiatives will be pursued, and the two societies would like to continue with collaborative efforts that stress the importance of plants for the world. The year 2009 has been designated the Year of Science, and each organization is committed to activities in 2009 to help with public understanding of science. The three ideas that received the most supported were podcasts and spots on NPR broadcasts, having BSA and ASPB participate in a National Association of Biology Teachers convention, and promoting a Science Saturday as an opportunity to present science issues to the public. Gordon asked what activities the council would like to see. These activities could be in line with those sponsored by the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS). Claire Hemingway, who was in part responsible for the Monsanto Award that now supports the PlantingScience program, might need funds to support these activities. Gordon suggested that the BSA really needs to have a presence in the Year of Science activities. Karl Niklas suggested that the executive committee look into these issues, and bring back suggestions to the council. Another project discussed by the education committee is to ensure that plants are stressed across the biology curriculum.

- 7. Election Committee (Edward Schneider). See Appendix. Ed Schneider, representing the Election Committee, announced that we have two new officers, Karl Niklas (President Elect), and Laura Galloway (Treasurer). Ed extended thanks to the outgoing officers.
- 8. Financial Advisory Committee (Jack Horner). See Appendix. Jack Horner, representing the Financial Advisory Committee, noted that BSA finances are in good shape, and that there has been a net increase of 16.2% in our holdings.
- 9. Membership and Appraisal Committee (Suzanne Koptur). See appendix.
- 10. Publications Committee (Patrick Herendeen). See appendix. The publisher for AJB will be Sheridan Press beginning in January 2008. Sheridan Press appears to be at the forefront of publishing technology, which favorably impressed the publications committee and the AJB staff.

- 11. Webpage committee (Bill Dahl). See Appendix, Webmaster's report. Karl Niklas moved that all reports of the administrative standing committees be approved. This motion was seconded, and supported unanimously.
- B. Standing Committees (Awards and Prizes)
- 1. Corresponding Members Committee (Edward Schneider) Ed Schneider announced that we have four new additions for corresponding members:

Dr. Stephen Hopper, the new Director of KEW from Perth Austrailia, **Dr. Brian Huntley**, past Director of Kirstenbosch Garden, Cape Town, South Africa, and who now is senior conservation advisor to the government,

Dr. Paula Rudall, of the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanical Gardens KEW, and **Dr. Bao-rong Lu**, Professor in botany and genetic resources, Chairman of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology of Fudan University, Deputy Director of the Institute of Biodiversity Science, Fudan University, and Chairman of Academic Committee of the Ministry of Education Key Laboratory for Biodiversity Science and Ecological Engineering.

- 2. Bessey Award (Gordon Uno/James Wandersee). See Appendix, under Education Committee Report.
- 3. Cheadle Award Committee (Larry Hufford). See Appendix.
- 4. Darbaker Prize Committee (Martha Cook). See Appendix.
- 5. Esau Award Committee (Uwe Hacke). No report filed.
- 6. Karling Award Committee (Wanda Lovan) No report filed.
- 7. Merit Awards Committee (Dick Olmstead). See Appendix.
- 8. Moseley Award Committee (Pat Gensel). No report filed.
- 9. Pelton Award Committee (Ann Hirsch). No report filed.

Karl Niklas moved that all reports of the Standing Committees (Awards and Prizes) be approved. This motion was seconded, and supported unanimously.

C. Ad hoc Committees

1. BSA Development Committee (Edward Schneider)

Past President Edward Schneider informed council members that the Development Committee met in St. Louis in February, 2007. The committee targeted the strategy of planned giving, because the BSA has many members who are becoming senior botanists and may wish to remember the Society. Members who agree to remember the BSA become members of the Legacy Society. A social gathering for the Legacy Society will take place on Wednesday. Bill Dahl noted that the membership in the Legacy Society has been increasing. Only those individuals who have been members of the BSA for 25 years or more have been asked to join the Legacy Society. Ed Schneider stated that responses to these requests have been very rewarding, because members have deeply appreciated their connection to the BSA, and feel that the Society has meant a great deal

to them. The next step will be communication with somewhat younger members of the Society about their participation in the planned giving program.

2. BSA International Committee (Anitra Thorhaug)

Anitra Thorhaug reported that there was an overwhelmingly favorable response from those invited to participate on the BSA International Committee. The Committee plans a series of workshops for international meetings, exchange of ideas, and discussion of cultural issues and federal rules associated with international exchange and outreach. President Chris Haufler stated that given international nature of our programs, the International Committee will become a standing committee.

Karl Niklas moved that all reports of the Ad hoc Committees be approved. This motion was seconded, and supported unanimously.

D. Sections.

Not all section representatives were present at the council meeting, but reports from the sections are on the web, and reproduced, when available, in the Appendix of the minutes.

Karl Niklas moved that all reports of the Sections be approved. This motion was seconded, and supported unanimously.

E. Representatives to other Organizations.

President Chris Haufler emphasized that AAAS and AIBS are fine organizations. The Biological Stain Commission is also a worthwhile organization. The Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP) meets twice a year, and networks beyond life sciences. Because the CSSP provide leadership development, Ed Schneider recommended continued participation. A report from the Natural Science Collections Alliance was chaired by Alan Prather (not Larry Skog as stated in the council agenda).

Karl Niklas moved that all reports of the representatives to other organizations be approved. This motion was seconded, and supported unanimously.

V. Old Business

Chris Haufler asked if there was any old business. No one present raised any issues related to old business.

VI. New business

A. New Corresponding Members were already discussed.

B. Financial Advisory Committee

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) will have \$50,000 available for the Executive Committee for special initiatives the Committee deems worthy. Bill Dahl stated that we do use money from the FAC, although no money has been taken out of the endowment.

For example, PlantingScience was supported by the FAC, but instead of taking money from the endowment, we put less in because we have these funds.

Judy Jernstedt moved to accept the recommendation of the FAC.

C. Membership Rates (2008).

There has not been a recommendation to increase membership rates. The committee proposed that if students join the BSA before Jan 1, 2008, the membership fee will be \$15, which should encourage students to sign up early. Another membership drive is about to start. Last year, there was an initiative to get faculty to invite students to join. Bill Dahl proposed that sections waive their fees for new students. Karl suggested that if some sections are too slow to make recommendations to waive section fees, then new student members could be at large. Bill, however, would like to maintain memberships in sections. The two dollars fee for section membership is not making money for BSA. Bill stated that the fee break is only for new members signed up by professional members. As traveling scientists, we can also sign up people in foreign countries. The primary benefit is access to the online version of AJB. Pam Soltis asked whether reductions in fees would be appropriate for postdocs, who don't have access to student rates. The Membership Committee could look into this option. It is important to ensure that memberships do not lapse.

D. American Journal of Botany Rates

Institutional rates for AJB will increase. Costs continue to go up. Bill will recommend an increase for members of \$5, because if institutional rates are going to increase, we need to indicate that members of BSA are doing their part as well. The \$5 increase will be for professional members only; student rates will stay the same.

E. 2007/2008 Budget.

The biggest change for BSA is that we are now going to manage the Society of Economic Botany (SEB). As the BSA becomes the business office for SEB we will take on one additional staff member. Compensation for this position is coming from the SEB. About \$100,000 will be added to (and spent from) the BSA budget.

F. Executive committee recommendations

1. Updating bylaws.

Chris Haufler spoke extensively on the need to revise the bylaws. We now have bylaws that are amalgamated with a set of policies and procedures. The inclusion of policies and procedures in the bylaws makes changes to the bylaws more frequent and cumbersome than need be. To solve this problem we would like to extract policies and procedures from the bylaws.

The bylaws should have a core structure allowing an organization to function efficiently. By streamlining the bylaws, we hope to make it possible to change elements of our operation (like policies for making awards) without having to change the bylaws. A

description of the procedure for making awards, for example, should not be in the bylaws.

We also need to bring the bylaws in line with how we are doing business. We have not changed the bylaws since Bill Dahl was brought on board as the Executive Director. Volunteers no longer have same duties because day to day operations are handled by the staff.

Additionally, the bylaws are not particularly helpful in determining the responsibilities of the two primary governance elements of society, the council and the executive committee. Chris stated that he would like to have Bill Dahl discuss the current state of the bylaws, and our need for revision. Chris also asked for input on the bylaws revision, in the form of a bylaws revision committee that would work with Bill, and a professional organization in order to bring our bylaws in line with our current operations.

Bill noted that Janice Dahl has been involved in advising the BSA as part of her role in Anchor Management. Bill stated that we need to get to a position where our bylaws reflect the core of our operation as a society. For example, according to our current bylaws, we need a vote from entire membership by mail or fax to change anything. Institution of elections via e-mail has greatly increased the number of people who now vote, with a quarter of the membership (500-600 members) now participating. Our bylaws, which do not permit e-mail votes, lag behind our current mode of operations. Additionally, we are operating outside of our bylaws when other practices are considered. How we spend our money is a matter of policy. The entire membership does not need to know the details of policy regarding these decisions, although the council could be involved in these decisions. We need a mechanism for the council to be able to communicate to the membership.

Karl Niklas noted that in a short period we have seen a major revolution in AJB. We are in time of great technological change, but the bylaws do not reflect even the 20^{th} century. Our current bylaws were adopted in 1985, and although they have been modified since then, they have the tone of earlier years. The other major change in the Society is the move to professional management. Karl stated that he is a staunch advocate of changing the bylaws, and moved that Janice Dahl be a contributor to the bylaws revision committee. Anitra Thorhaug noted that we need to anticipate changes that might come in the future. Fabián suggested that we should not have a statement to this effect in the bylaws.

Pam questioned the mechanism for changing the bylaws, and whether we needed to communicate the council's immediate interest in changing the bylaws in time to receive ballots by fax or mail, as currently required by our bylaws. If our intentions were announced now, we could send out ballots immediately, and begin the process of changing the bylaws as soon as ballots come in. Bill Dahl noted that people sometimes get sensitive about changing things. The question was raised of whether the council needs to make the decision to revise the bylaws. Chris Haufler stated that the initiative to change bylaws should come from council. The business meeting could be used to

approve sending out ballots, which could go out right after the meeting. Bill stressed that ballots always go out by mail to members who do not have e-mail addresses. Karl Niklas made a motion that the council express its intent to change the bylaws at the business meeting, and permit balloting by most expeditious means available that will reach the greatest number of people, including electronic balloting. Chris seconded this motion. Bill Dahl re-emphasized that they try to reach everyone in the Society. There was unanimous support for this motion.

The role of council and the executive committee in managing the Society was then discussed. One question is how is the council role is changing now that we have professional management. Additionally, how does the executive committee remain flexible in response to a changing world? Chris, after reading the bylaws, concluded that the executive committee acts on interim matters between annual meetings of society. The council has the important role of bringing information to the elected officials, management, and the membership. The communication role of council should be emphasized. The council provides advice to the members, who care about the society. The efficiency of the executive committee should be maintained, and we need to enhance interactions between council and executive committee. Anitra Thorhaug stressed that the council provides a democratic element to the society by bringing views in from members. Ideally, there would be a two way flow of information. Judy Jernstedt suggested that the role of the council representative is to bring issues to the executive committee. Karl Niklas noted that e-mail is changing how the council does its business because it is very easy to disseminate information. Chris Haufler suggested that we might be trying to second guess the bylaws. Judy Jernstedt would like to see information flowing both ways through council representatives. Ed Schneider would like us to think more conceptually, because the bylaws were written in an age of volunteer committees. We need to think how we will do business with a governance board and a professional staff.

Chris Haufler suggested potential membership of bylaws committee, including Ed Schneider, Judy Jernstedt, Scott Russell, Jack Horner, and a student representative.

Judy Jernstedt thought some new blood was important, and will think about other potential members. Chris stated that the committee will work together to go through the bylaws, preferably meeting face to face, and also communicate electronically. Bill Dahl will be an ex officio member of the committee.

Karl seconded the motion to establish a bylaws committee. Bill suggested that if there are other ideas for members, give them to Chris, who would like a relatively small committee.

The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Developing a new strategic plan.

The implementation of the strategic plan developed in 2001 has worked out well. Two of the main goals from this strategic plan, instituting professional management and the formation of a development committee, have been achieved. These changes have

resulted in significant improvements for BSA that will extend into the future. Now that we have accomplished our previous goals, we need a new strategic plan that will advance the BSA in the future.

Chris Haufler made a number of suggestions as a way of initiating this discussion, including:

- i. Encourage meeting with other societies. In the next 3 years, we are integrating our activities more with other societies.
- ii. Education is very important. Our outreach to the community is growing and needs to grow more.
- iii. Student involvement. We need to involve students more and enhance their representation in the Society. We need to reach out to students and provide them with mentorship and opportunities for leadership.
- iv. Outreach to community. We need to enhance the vision that the community already has of the importance of plants.
- v. Membership services. With professional management we are in a position to be more responsive to the needs and interests of our members.
- vi. Politics. Can we change the political outlook on issues important to the Society?
- vii. International outreach. We should continue to encourage international involvement.
- viii. Under-represented groups. The participation of under-represented groups in the BSA should be encouraged.
- ix. Development. We need to capture the interest of potential donors.

A lively discussion ensued of issues that might be taken up by a strategic planning committee. Karl Niklas suggested that the BSA retain the services of a professional writer for the Society and AJB. A professional writer could write grants and convey to a non-science audience important scientific ideas. Karl also noted that this year for the first time we have had a symposium organized by students. He would like to see more student-initiated symposia. Anitra Thorhaug noted that we have been living in era where physics and chemistry came together with biology. With agricultural shortages, and then water shortages looming in the near future, agriculture will become more important. We need to make certain that our society is in strong position to have significant impact when these shortages become apparent. Gordon Uno suggested that we should join a coalition for national science funding.

Judy Jernstedt noted that the Society has made few efforts to influence the congress, and that we need to have more interactions with science policy makers. This would gain more recognition for BSA. Bill Dahl stated that at the moment we work through AIBS. The issue comes down to money. We have a fairly effective voice now through AIBS- if we wished to have our own voice, we would have to spend our own resources. Kathryn Kennedy suggested that public policy should be considered more broadly, and that we should make the membership more broadly aware of issues. We are not talking to the agencies that have a great deal of influence. These agencies do not have bias against plants- they simply have not thought of plants. Judy Jernstedt argued that we should place more emphasis on job opportunities for botanists. We need alliances with non

botanical organizations that also recognize the importance of understanding whole organisms. Our workforce will be short on expertise in this area.

Karl Niklas suggested that crafting position papers for leaders would be helpful, and that the importance of science is simply not communicated to non scientists. Gordon Uno reminded council members of the importance of the COPUS project (see Education Committee Report for a discussion of COPUS). Karl argued that we will need to pay for better communications with non-scientists. Kathryn Kennedy stated that although botanists have credibility, they are drastically underrepresented in policy-making, and individuals need to be encouraged to speak out. Communication of public policy to members of the Society is critical, so they know the issues. Larry Hufford said that we need to lobby university administrators as well. Fabián Michelangeli noted that Organization for Tropical Studies applicants are not from small schools.

Anitra Thorhaug suggested that newsletters should have brief statements about legislation in front of congress and policies of concern. Karl Niklas stated that the BSA has always tried to avoid active involvement in political issue, although as individuals, we can be involved. Judy Jernstedt said that as a society we can educate and inform policy makers. The BSA does not have someone to take on this responsibility, and it has never been done before. Bill Dahl pointed out that Kathryn Kennedy and the Center for Plant Conservation is moving in next to the BSA office, and some of these suggested changes will be taking place. We will also have more about public policy on the website. Kathryn Kennedy stated that she was not proposing an action agenda. Individual actions do not bring the collective wisdom of society to the forefront. Judy Jernstedt suggested that the Plant Science Bulletin should be added to portfolio of science writer. Karl Niklas suggested that a student organized symposia could be focused on some of these important issues.

Bill Dahl provided an overview of our need for strategic planning. There are some things that we clearly need to do, including development of partnerships, and increasing our membership. We will develop tactics to deal with these issues. As we move forward, the strategic plan will become part of the budgeting process. At the moment, we could not afford many of the ideas that have been proposed. Ed Schneider stated that a strategic plan should result in a document that is useful, and should not exceed abilities of society. A strategic plant should have utility for about 3 years to keep it realistic. Ed suggested that we need to think about the goals that will fit in with the capacity of the Society. The 2001 strategic planning meeting (Deep Thought) was successful because we had clear goals. A real strategic plan should think beyond concrete goals and should develop ways for the Society to advance. Gordon Uno asked if the resources going to AIBS for public policy could be used more effectively? Bill replied that he thought they are doing a good job already.

Bill Dahl listed some of the ideas that have come up with respect to strategic planning. This list includes: Collaboration, Marketing and promotion, Outreach, Public policy, Membership, Development, Student involvement, Technology

Kent Holsinger noted that NEON has taken 10 years from when the idea was first proposed to fruition. NEON was promoted originally from NSF. Does the Botanical Society have a similar idea?

Chris Haufler asked if there were other ideas we should consider. Karl Niklas suggested that modeling, soil biology, phytoplankton, spore/pollen indices, and species lists should be considered. Larry Hufford thought it would be difficult to identify resources we all need because we are so diverse. NEON provides a service to ecologists. Larry suggested that we identify 10 questions of importance. Ed stated that one of largest problems we face is that we have only 3000 members. Ed views this as a reason for focusing on partnerships and coalitions to achieve common goals. Bill suggested that we need to think about partnerships with the ESA as well. Bill would like to get more societies involved with PlantingScience, and he would also like BSA to be more involved with botanical gardens.

Anitra Thorhaug stressed the need for international outreach, and for making information available at an international level. Information about journals, societies, universities, availability of funding, and meetings should be made available to our international colleagues. Anitra would like to have workshops for training people to work in international arena. Cultural practices should be included in such workshops.

Chris Haufler made some suggestions for membership on the strategic planning committee. This committee should gather information and develop a planning document. The timeframe for this product would be next year. Larry Hufford volunteered to serve on the committee. Others suggested as committee members were Peter Crane, Ruth Stockey, Suzanne Singer, Allison Snow, Linda Graham, Jeff Osborne, and Simon Malcomber. We also need a student member. This committee will interact via telephone, e-mail, and perhaps a two day meeting.

Karl stated that we would have our individual goals, and strategies to achieve those goals. We need to focus on mechanisms to achieve goals.

Chris Haufler pointed out that we need a new council representative to the executive committee because Pam Diggle is at end of her term. It is up to the council to identify a new representative, who will have a two year term. Judy Jernstedt pointed out that it would be best to have newly elected member of council, so that the terms would overlap.

David Spooner nominated as Council Representative to the Executive Committee.

Meeting Was Closed

Appendix. 2007 BSA Council Meeting

President's Report, July 2007

In my address to the Society at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Chico, CA, I proposed a theme for the Botanical Society of America (BSA) of "Growing Together." I proposed that we provide options for members to engage our fellow scientists, reaching across disciplinary boundaries and establishing opportunities for integration and innovation. I also proposed that the BSA should expand its contributions to the general public. Finally, I thought we should promote a "greener" future, promoting research and education involving plants, and reaching out to our neighboring scientific societies.

Through the year, this theme guided my activities and agendas. In December, I met in Washington, DC with Past President Ed Schneider, President Elect Pam Soltis, and Executive Director Bill Dahl, in conjunction with a meeting of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. We all attended this meeting, and we used the opportunity to share ideas about the upcoming activities of the BSA. The action items that emerged from those discussions included:

- We should promote opportunities at our annual meeting for the governance of BSA to meet with their counterparts in our fellow societies
- An International Committee should be established (as proposed and chaired by Anitra Thorhaug) to foster outreach to botanists around the world
- A committee to promote BSA activities for Underrepresented Groups should be formed

As a result, we are meeting after this year's Council Meeting with available individuals representing the American Fern Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists, and American Society of Plant Biologists. We will discuss how our societies can "grow together" to promote plant research and education, and how the BSA can foster the continuation of this agenda.

In March, 2007, I chaired the Executive Committee meeting in St. Louis, MO. Recommendations from that meeting included:

- Accepting (unanimously) the report from the American Journal of Botany Printer Selection Committee to switch from Allen Press to Sheridan Press. The transition began in May, and a systematic plan for making the changeover seamless has been instituted.
- Continuing to enhance involvement of students in the future of the BSA. Several
 workshops are scheduled for the Chicago Annual Meeting on topics suggested by
 students as well as a continuation of the mentorship workshop/lunch sponsored by
 Sherwin Carlquist. For the future, a two year term, with staggered term limits,
 was recommended for each of two student representatives on the Executive
 Committee.
- Given the huge increase in symposia proposed for our Annual Meeting, and the scheduling problems for organizers and attendees that this increase causes (many members were frustrated by the large number of concurrent sessions that were necessary), opportunities for selecting from among those symposia submitted

- were proposed, including the development of a Symposium Screening Committee to review and recommend a fixed number of symposia.
- Coordinating the 2009 annual meeting (to be held at Snowbird, Utah) with the Year of Science commemoration of Darwin's and Lincoln's (he founded the National Academy of Sciences) birthdays, to celebrate science and raise public interest in and understanding of science.
- Going Green: the BSA is reaching out to other societies to provide services and
 coordinate activities. BSA staff are now providing help to the Society for
 Economic Botany, and the North American Phytochemical Association may be
 interested in a similar association. An association with the Center for Plant
 Conservation that will have offices adjacent to the BSA may be developed as
 well
- Strategies are being entertained for enhancing the BSA development activities. Toward this end, a Legacy Society has been created and members have been contacted and encouraged to become part of this development program.
- *Planting Science* has successfully launched its next set of programs for high school and undergraduate students and has involved many BSA members. In May, Monsanto agreed to fund a grant proposal for *Planting Science* activities.
- The need for developing better and more prescriptive guidelines for BSA Merit Awards was discussed. A committee will be assigned the task of making recommendations for the future of these important awards.
- The need to update and streamline our Bylaws was discussed. A Bylaws revision committee will need to be formed, and discussions at the Council Meeting will finalize the process by which this will occur. Changing the Bylaws to reflect current practice is a minimum, and developing roles for officers should be considered
- The need for a strategic plan was discussed, and the value of meeting the needs of members should be part of that plan. Now that we have the benefit of professional management, interested members can make recommendations for how the BSA can serve its members as well as the national and international community in both research and education. To make this process representative, a representative and thoughtful group should be charged with making recommendations that can be shared with members for further refinement.

Thus, the results of this spring meeting have energized the activities for our Annual Meeting.

I look forward to the progress that will be possible at our Council Meeting and throughout the discussions at our Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Christopher Haufler President

Past President's Report 2007

During 2006-07 I had three main responsibilities: chairing the Elections Committee, planning the Plenary Symposium for Botany 2007 in Chicago, and chairing the Corresponding Members Committee. In addition, I served as a member Executive Committee as well as a member of the team that annually reviews the BSA Executive

Director1s performance. I also participated as a member of the newly formed Development Committee and now acting as the Chair of that committee

The Elections Committee identified excellent two candidates for President and two for Secretary, as charged. **Karl Niklas**, Cornell University will be the new President-elect, and **Laura Galloway**, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, will be the incoming Treasurer.

For the Plenary Symposium, I chose the topic "Saving the Biodiversity of Plants". Speakers were chosen from nominations that I solicited from sister societies and conservation organizations and represent global leaders in the plant conservation arena. The final slate includes five prominent researchers who will describe how their field has evolved and where it is headed.

The Corresponding Members Committee was directed by a vote of the members in 2006, to increase the number of corresponding members above the historic cap of fifty (50), recommending as many as five new individuals had up to five be added. We were saddened to learn that **Joji Ashida** (Japan) and **Roberst Hegnauer** (Netherlands) both passed, thus as many as seven positions could be considered in 2007. Although the electronic call for nominations for BSA Corresponding Membership (January 1 - April 1, 2007), unfortunately did not result in any nominations, the committee unanimously recommends four new nominees. They are:

Dr. Stephen Hopper, the new Director of KEW from Perth Austrailia.

Dr. Brian Huntley, past Director of Kirstenbosch Garden, Cape Town, South Africa, and who now is senior conservation advisor to the government;

Dr. Paula Rudall, of the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanical Gardens KEW, and **Dr. Bao-rong Lu**, Professor in botany and genetic resources, Chairman of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology of Fudan University, Deputy Director of the Institute of Biodiversity Science, Fudan University, and Chairman of Academic Committee of the Ministry of Education Key Laboratory for Biodiversity Science and Ecological Engineering.

Each of these four individuals are senior and distinguished botanists and the committee believes will represent excellent additions to our Corresponding Members group.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Schneider, Past-President and Chair of the Corresponding Members Committee

President-Elect, Annual Report, Pamela S. Soltis

1. Along with President Chris Haufler, Past President Ed Schneider, and Executive Director Bill Dahl, I attended the Council of Scientific Society Presidents in December, 2006, in Washington, DC. One of the main themes of the meeting was science literacy, and this fits in well with ongoing activities of the BSA.

2. The Committee on Committees presents the following slate of nominees for approval:

Committee on Committees - Jeff Osborn, Joe Colosi, Mackenzie Taylor

Conservation Committee – Matt Gitzendanner, Carl Weekley

Education Committee – Robynn Shannon, Joe Armstrong

Election Committee – Jeff Doyle

Committee on Membership and Appraisal – Allison Snow

Publications Committee – Pat Herendeen, Susan Kalisz

Webpage Committee – Ashley Morris, Claire Hemingway

Merit Awards Committee – Ed Schneider

Graduate Student Research Awards Committee - Chris Caruso, Veronica Di Stilio

Cheadle Awards Committee – Shelley McMahon

Darbaker Prize Award Committee - Chuck Delwiche

Esau Award Committee – Joe Williams

Moseley Award Committee – Roger Meicenheimer

Pelton Award Committee - Elizabeth Lord

Ad hoc Committee on Participation of Underrepresented Groups – Muriel Poston

Secretary's Report 2007

- 1) During 2006-2007 I attended the Council Meeting at the Botany2006 meeting in Chico, and the Executive committee meeting in St. Louis in March.
- 2) As a member of the Elections Committee, I participated in selection of candidates presented to the membership.
- 3) As a member of the Committee on Committees, I helped in selection of committee members.

Treasurer, Kent Holsinger

The Botanical Society is in very healthy financial condition. Although institutional print subscriptions to the *American Journal of Botany* continue to decline slowly, income associated with the journal remains sufficient not only to continue its operations but also to expand and improve them and to allow the Society to expand and improve its operations. The Society also has substantial financial assets, the income from which could also be used to support new or expanded program initiatives for the Society.

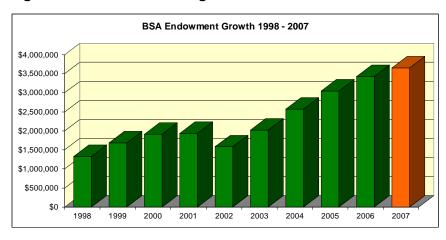
Assets

As of 1 June 2007, assets in the Society's investment accounts totaled nearly \$3.7M (Table 1), an increase of nearly \$600K from 30 June 2006. All of that increase was the result of investment returns (approximate annual rate of return 19.4%). The Society's investments are distributed among domestic equities (62%), international equities (15%), and fixed income securities (11%). The cash balance (12%) reflects funds in equity accounts from dividends or sales that has not yet been re-invested. Figure 1 provides a history of endowment growth since 1998. Total investment growth over that period is \$2.3M, of which \$1.3M represents returns on investment and \$1.0M represents additions from BSA operating surpluses.

Table 1: Investment fund balances for the Botanical Society of America

Investment funds balance 30 June 2005	\$3,103,576
Dividends, interest, and appreciation	562,746
Additions	0
Investment funds balance 30 June 2006	\$3,666,322

Figure 1: BSA Endowment growth 1998 - 2007



Income and expenses
The budget approved
for 2006/2007
included budgeted
income of \$1.22M
and budgeted
expenses of \$1.31M
versus year-to-date
totals of \$1.30M and
\$0.56M, respectively
(Table 3). The Society
budgeted investment
income (dividends

plus capital gains) *very* conservatively at \$66K. The actual investment income of \$383K is primarily responsible for the difference between budgeted and actual income. Expenses are on track to be slightly lower than the \$1.20M budgeted for the Society's fiscal year, which ends on 30 September 2007.

Budget for 2007/2008

Budgeted income is projected at \$1.32M in 2007/2008 *versus* \$1.22M in 2006/2007. The increase reflects primarily special contributions associated with providing business services to the Society for Economic Botany and anticipated income associated with an increase in institutional subscription rates for the *American Journal of Botany*. Budgeted expenses are projected at \$1.31M in 2007/2008 *versus* \$1.20M in 2006/2007. The increase reflects primarily expenses associated with providing business services to the Society for Economic Botany and transitional expenses associated with moving the *American Journal of Botany* and *Plant Science Bulletin* from Allen Press to Sheridan Press.

Table 2: Summary of income and expenses for the Botanical Society of America

	Budgeted 2006/2007	Actual YTD 2006/2007	Budgeted 2007/2008
Income	\$1,221,502	\$1,298,923	\$1,325,075
Operational income	1,042,052	915,679	1,141,075
Investment income	61,000	383,243	66,000
Meetings income	118,000	0*	118,000
Expenses	1,196,342	\$ 562,693	\$1,308,013
Operational expenses	1,118,822	527,787	1,230,493
Investment expenses	36,000	32,145	36,000
Meetings expenses	41,520	2,761*	41,520
Balance	10,178	\$ 736,230	11,471

^{*}Figures for 2007 are not included because of timing



2007-2008 Budgets	Budget	Budget	Actual
Budget Comparison Sheet	2007-2008	2006-2007	2006/7 YTD
Income			
4000 BSA OPERATIONAL INCOME	447.400	404.000	445.000
4100 BSA Membership Income	117,100	134,900	115,839
4200 Section Dues	3,500	3,500	
4300 Special Funds Contributions	51,700	16,700	3,928
4400 AJB Income	858,195	776,822	787,713
4500 Meeting Income	10,580	10,580	
4600 Other/Grant Income	100,000	100,000	8,199
7000 INVESTMENT INCOME	41,000	41,000	49,942
7200 GAIN / (LOSS) SSB FUNDS	25,000	20,000	333,302
8000 BOTANY CONFERENCE INCOME	118,000	118,000	
TOTAL INCOME	1,325,075	1,221,502	1,298,923
Total Income	1,325,075	1,221,502	1,298,923
Operational Income	1,141,075	1,042,502	915,679
Investment Income	66,000	61,000	383,243
Meetings Income	118,000	118,000	-
Expenses			
5000 EMPLOYMENT EXPENSES	631,853	552,142	281,823
5100 TRAVEL & MEETINGS	43,580	43,580	22,919
5200 FACILITY EXPENSES	23,360	22,400	15,203
5300 INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENSES	7,500	7,500	4,330
5400 OFFICE EXPENSES	21,500	21,500	5,326
5500 OTHER EXPENSES	23,200	23,200	12,565
5600 PUBLICATIONS	369,400	353,400	169,768
5700 DEVELOPMENT	110,100	95,100	15,853
7500 INVESTMENT EXPENSES	36,000	36,000	32,145
8000 Conference Expenses	41,520	41,520	2,761

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,308,013	1,196,342	562,693
Total Expense	1,308,013	1,196,342	
Operational Expense	1,230,493	1,118,822	527,787
Investment Expense	36,000	36,000	32,145
Meetings Expense	41,520	41,520	2,761
Consolidated BSA Operations			
Income	1,141,075	1,042,502	915,679
Expense	1,129,605	1,032,324	527,787
Balance	11,471	10,178	387,892
Botany Conference Series			
Income	118,000	118,000	-
Expense	112,408	103,018	2,761
Balance	5,592	14,983	(2,761)
BSA Investment			
Income	66,000	61,000	383,243
Expense	66,000	61,000	32,145
Balance	-	-	351,098
TOTAL			
Income	1,325,075	1,221,502	1,298,923
Expense	1,308,013	1,196,342	562,693
Balance	17,063	25,160	736,230

Editor - American Journal of Botany Council Report - 2007

- The current editorial staff includes Ms. Amy McPherson (Managing Editor), Dr. Beth Hazen (Production Editor and lead copy editor), Dr. Sophia Balcomb, and several freelance copy editors. Sincere thanks are extended to reviewers, Associate Editors, and the Editorial Staff for their diligent work on behalf of the *AJB* over the past year.
- As of January, 2008 (Volume 95, Number 1), Sheridan Press will be the printer of *AJB*. A new online manuscript submission and tracking system will be adopted (EditorialManager is the top contender), with the training and trial period to begin later this month.
- All communications (electronic, mail, and telephone) should be directed to the Editorial Office, which is located in St. Louis, at the BSA headquarters at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The address is American Journal of Botany, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; tel. 314-577-5112; fax 314-577-9515; email to: ajb@botany.org; www.amjbot.org). If you return paper copies of reviews or marked manuscripts, please send them to St. Louis, not to Davis.
- Associate Editors (AEs) are very involved in the publication process. Their responsibilities include suggesting reviewers, reading and evaluating reviews, and making recommendations for the EiC's final decision. There are now 52 Associate Editors, with two more to join the Editorial Board in January 2008.
- Suggestions for special paper topics and books reviews are encouraged. Please contact Darleen DeMason (demason@ucr.edu) for special papers and Michael Christianson (mxianson@pacbell.net) for book reviews.

- The impact factor for the *American Journal of Botany* rose from 2.572 in 2005 to 2.969 in 2006, and the Journal's impact factor ranking rose from 22 to 16. This probably reflects the popular and widely cited "Green Tree of Life" special issue in Oct. 2004. The challenge will be to sustain and build on this increase.
- A major problem with papers continues to be authors' failure to explicitly state in the abstract and elsewhere why they did the research they did, what major question in biology in general or botany in particular their research addressed; why anyone outside the specific discipline of the paper should care about the results; and how knowledge of general principles and mechanisms of biology is expanded by publication of this paper. The answers to these questions should appear explicitly in the abstract, or the manuscript may be returned for revision without review.
- Authors have two opportunities to submit an acceptable manuscript to *AJB*: the original submission and one revision. If the revised manuscript is deficient in any way other than typos and very minor details, it is declined for publication.
- There is a moving one-year wall for open access to all AJB content. BSA members and subscribing institutions have immediate access to all current and past AJB content.
- Comments and suggestions are always welcome from readers, authors, reviewers, staff, and Associate Editors. E-mail to ajb@botany.org.

AJB Statistics
Manuscript Types and Processing Time
ABOT Journal
Summary Report
For Period:
1/1/2006 12/31/2006

						Days	
				Total #		from	Days from
	Total # of	Accept	Total # of	of	Total # of	Receipt	Receipt to
	Submitted	Rate	Accepted	Rejected	Pending	to 1st	Final
Manuscript Types	Mss.	(%)	Mss.	Mss.	Mss.	Decision	Decision
Research Article	396	42	148	202	46	73.31	147.09
Special Paper	21	100	21	0	0	38.14	119.05
Brief							
Communications	12	36	4	7	1	45.67	113
Book Review	1	100	1	0	0	3	3
Total	430	45	174	209	47	70.66	144.34

For Period: 1/1/2005 – 12/31/2005

Days Total # from Days from Total # of Accept Total # of Total # of Receipt Receipt to of Submitted Rate Accepted Reiected Pendina Final to 1st Decision Manuscript Types Mss. Mss. Mss. Decision Mss. (%)Research Article 397 42 157 217 23 70.89 122 Special Paper 3 0 0 1 2 19.67 59 Brief Communications 18 11 2 16 0 54.17 76.67 **Book Review** 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 119.77 Total 418 40 159 234 25 69.8

Manuscript Categories Submitted to Journal

Manuscript Category	Total 06	Total 05
Ecology	107	112
Systematics and Phytogeography	96	96
Reproductive Biology	94	87
Anatomy and Morphology	64	47
Population Biology	51	48
Physiology and Biochemistry	28	13
Genetics	20	13
Paleobotany	19	23
Developmental Biology and Developmental Genetics	10	21
Cell Biology	8	4
Mycology and Plant Pathology	7	4
Phycology	4	4
Pteridology	3	3
Bryology and Lichenology	2	2
Structure and Development	*	10
Tropical Biology	*	7
Physiology and Development	*	4
*Not a separate category in 2006		

Decisions on Manuscripts

	Total 2006	Total 2005
Original Manuscripts Submitted	479	482
Revised Manuscripts Resubmitted Manuscripts Accepted Without	487	438
Revisions	1	3
Return with Revisions	254	216
Manuscripts Rejected	198	196
Rejected With Review Returned Without	101	97
Review	97	99
Rejected After Revisions	39	24
Requires Another Revision	289	216
Accepted after Revisions	315	231
Manuscripts Withdrawn	10	68
Original Manuscripts Not Withdrawn Total Manuscripts Submitted	469	414
(originals + revisions)	966	920

Respectfully submitted, Judy Jernstedt Editor-in-Chief

Amy McPherson Managing Editor

Editor's Report, Plant Science Bulletin

Volume 52

- Four issues, 148 pages, were published on schedule with press runs of 3800 copies.
- 2 Feature articles included:
 - Truman State University's Solar Clock Garden
 - 100th Anniversary Series
 - -C.J.A. The Last Mycologist Who Was BSA President.
 - -Adriance Sherwood Foster: An Academic Grandchild Remembers
 - -Crime-Solving Plants
 - -The Conservatory at MUH and the 4th Grade Project
- 3. Summaries of the Annual Meeting
 - -Forum Plenary Address , "Communicating an Awareness of Plants through Science and Art. Roger P. Hangarter, Indiana University
 - Presidential Address. A Century of "Botanical Opportunity:" Building on the Past, Providing for the Future. Christopher Haufler
 - -Plenary Address. "A Historian Reflects on 100 Years of American Botany. Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis
 - -BSA Strategic Planning Discussion. "Building for the Future." Peter Raven
- 4. A new regular section was added to News from the Society BSA Science Education News and Notes.
- 5. 79 books were received for review; 37 reviews were published.

Volume 53

- 1. Two issues, 88 pages, have been published on schedule. Fall issue is in preparation.
- 2. Feature articles included:
 - -Public Gardens and the New Family Visitor
 - -Allelopathy of Pseudo-allelopathy in Classromm Experiments
 - The University of Northern Iowa Botanical Canter 70 Years of Progress
 - The Lloyd Library and Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio
 - -Linnaeus
 - -CITES
- 3. A total of 36 books were received for review, 27 reviews were published.
- 4. Career Opportunities link on web page now identified with Plant Science Bulletin.

Individuals interested in submitting feature articles or in suggesting future article topics should contact the editor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsh Sundberg, Editor, *Plant Science Bulletin*

Webmaster

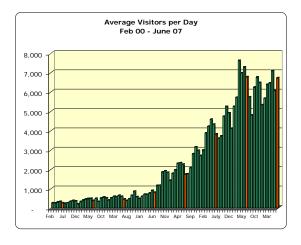
1. Introduction

Two million, two hundred and thirty-seven thousand, four hundred and forty-six (2,237,446) visitors came to the Botanical Society of America's main websites from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007. This is up 7.8% on the previous year, and reflects website statistics across the board.

The BSA website is continuing to develop as a major support tool for the Society in impacting its mission. We preformed a major site upgrade over the past year to improve

access and visibility to all online offering. It is important to note that number of people accessing the main site is leveling off. We need more and better resources to keep growth going.

Again this year I ask for your assistance in adding web content. The Education Committee and Teaching Section are setting up structures for the review of images and educational resources. If you have some spare time, they could use your help. And what of those old educational resources and images you developed that are just sitting on



a hard drive somewhere - we can help people find, and use, these items.

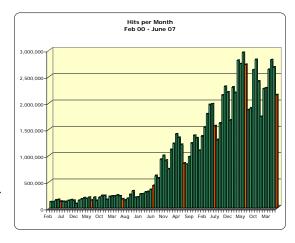
We have completed or made substantial progress on all of the projects listed in last year's report. Our accounting systems are now all online. As those attending the Botany 2006 conference can attest, we have made major changes to the conference support systems on the web, and this component will continue to evolve. Our educational outreach is gathering momentum and will be a big part of what we accomplish over the coming year. The Scientific Inquiry through Plants project remains our single largest effort.

2. Statistics – BSA site

As the "Average Visitor Session per Day" diagram indicates, the trend for people accessing the BSA website has leveled off. Over the past few months we have had

roughly 6,662 people per day visiting the site. For the same period last year the number was about 7,000 and 4,000 people per day in 2005. Our highest rate of visitors per day was achieved in March 2006 with an average of 7,945 (7,092 in 2007). March 2006 was also our busiest month to date with over 235,991 visitors (199,892 in 2007).

Over the past year our main web sites experienced over 28,151,775 hits. For the month of June 2007 the Botanical Society of America's main websites experienced 2,149,304 successful hits (2,872,508 in 2006).



The "successful hits per month" trend for the period February 2000 through June 2007 is highlighted in the diagram to the right. Our record high was achieved in May of 2006 with 2,952,683 hits.

Over the past year out main web sites transferred over 771 gigabytes of information to visitors' computers. In June of 2007 we transferred 67.78 gigabytes of data to visitors (59.34 in 2006). Our highest month for data transfer was May of 2007 at 84.404

gigabytes. With increased content it is important to note that people are also spending longer at our site.

In each of my previous webmaster reports I point out that the website is a tool with two main purposes. It acts as: 1.) a means of storing and communicating information to the BSA membership; and 2.) a medium for the dissemination of information that supports our wider mission. I also asked that you consider the fact that the vast majority of people visiting our website are not botanists. They are coming to research, explore, or find out something about botany. The website's job, if it is aimed at our mission, is to promote botany by getting people to the website and having them stay and explore what we/it has to offer. Over time our goal is to ensure: more people are coming to the site; people who visit are exploring more pages; and they are staying longer.

Developments over the past year have focused on the mission and appear to be producing the desired outcomes. Trends indicate more people are coming, they are visiting more pages, and they are staying longer. To continue this we must develop meaningful, challenging, and changing content. Again I'd like to stress the fact that our potential to reach people, including potential future botanists, is nearly unlimited but very much related to the effort we put into the content we place for use on the site. We could reach thousands more teachers and young people by simply dropping an advertisement in the NABT or NSTA monthly magazines, but we need the content to engage them and bring them back.

Over the past year we have added significantly to the foundations of the BSA website. We have continued the task of creating a tool that provides impact on our mission (and the promotion of the science of botany). We look forward to continued developments in the year ahead.

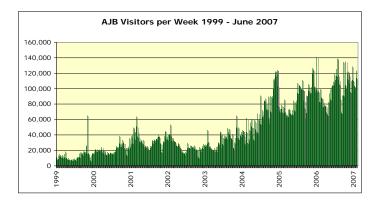
Website statistics can be viewed online in the reports section of the website at: http://www.botany.org/newsite/reporting/webstats.php

3. Statistics - American Journal of Botany

The overall trend for use of the American Journal of Botany online remains positive. Access after the introduction of paid online subscriptions continues to grow. We will

monitor this closely over the coming months as we continue to add links from the main site directly to AJB articles. We hope to dramatically increase traffic over the next twelve months.

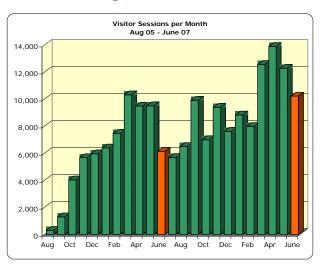
We currently have 1,616 members (1,634 in 2006, 1,404 in 2005, 1,476 in 2004 and 1,505 in 2003) and 1,259



institutions (1,366 in 2006, 1,038 in 2005, 764 in 2004 and 182 in 2003) activated for

online access to the *American Journal of Botany*. We are working with subscription agents to ensure as many institutions as possible activate and use the online component of their subscriptions.

4. PlantingScience



In 2006 the PlantingScience web statistics were included in the main BSA web stats. In 2007 we moved to tracking this site as a separate entity. Stats will be reported alongside the main site at http://www.botany.org/newsite/reporting/webstats.php. As you can see, we are growing! One hundred eleven thousand, eight hundred and twenty seven people visited the site from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

5. BSA Educational Outreach

In early 2006 the BSA's main website began to support a range of educational

activities. Stop for a moment and consider the potential. For example, a topic in the "Scientific Inquiry through Plants" project may include in its resource list images for the main site, links to articles in the AJB, links to articles in the PSB, links to specific members works or links to the new "Classroom PLANT talking points". Our goal is to link our resources together wherever and whenever appropriate. Member contributions and support have, and will continue to play a critical part of site development.

Thank you to members who donated images to the site. Over the past year we were able to add over 200 new images.

6. Functional Developments

Over the past year we have continued to develop the BSA websites as centers for our educational outreach, business, and conference operations. We have streamlined our processes in an effort to improve accuracy, reduce manual input, and improve timeliness of and accessibility to information.

7. Summary

In 2007 the BSA staff continued to develop the BSA's **3M concept**, with the three Ms being: Mission, Member Services & Support, and Member Recognition. We trust you'll find the concepts carrying forward to the BSA websites in that we are: #1 moving forward and delivering on the BSA's mission; #2 making things easier for you in all aspects of member support and services; and #3 if you are producing work for the Society, be it in the AJB, PSB, images, educational resources... we'll make sure people find your work if they are looking.

I look forward to your contributions and, wherever possible, your involvement over the coming year. Your feedback is most appreciated.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Bill Dahl

Business Report

Introduction

The following report provides an overview of the activities of the Botanical Society of America's business office over the past twelve months. Let me begin by thanking and acknowledging the Executive Committee for their support and direction. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Society, and myself, I also thank and acknowledge the Society's staff, Rob Brandt, Beth Hazen, Claire Hemingway, Wanda Lovan, Amy

McPherson and Johanne Stogran, for their efforts and dedication to the Botanical Society of America. What an exciting year! Once again, as a team, we were able to improve our ability to support BSA members, meetings and our mission.

Thank you!

I extend a special thank you to those members who donated to our endowment and to the BSA sectional/awards funds. Contributions totaled over \$15,600. At the meeting you will hear about our efforts to support future generations of botanists through the establishment of the BSA

BSA Financial Sun	BSA Financial Summary - June 21, 2007									
Operations		2007 YTD	2007 YTD 200			2006 YTD				
Income	\$	979,611.45	\$	1,022,302.00	\$	884,541.07				
Expenditure	\$	630,626.86	\$	1,006,724.00	\$	621,755.00				
Balance	\$	348,984.59	\$	15,578.00	\$	262,786.07				
Meeting										
Income	\$	-	\$	118,000.00	\$	11,692.07				
Expenditure	\$	2,761.22	\$	103,018.00	\$	18,225.20				
Balance	\$	(2,761.22)	\$	14,982.00	\$	(6,533.13)				
Investments										
Income	\$	458,040.33	\$	56,200.00	\$	178,547.61				
Expenditure	\$	34,860.93	\$	61,600.00	\$	34,933.07				
Balance	\$	423,179.40	\$	(5,400.00)	\$	143,614.54				
Overall Position										
Income	\$	1,437,651.78	\$	1,196,502.00	\$	1,074,780.75				
Expenditure	\$	668,249.01	\$	1,171,342.00	\$	674,913.27				
Balance	\$	769,402.77	\$	25,160.00	\$	399,867.48				
Current Account B	alan	ces - June 21, 20	007							
St. Louis Cash	\$	74,357.98								
St. Louis MM	\$	498,053.30								
Meeting	\$	49,096.15								
Smith Barney	\$	3,638,944.83								
Balance	\$	4,260,452.26								

Legacy Society. It is exciting to see this aspect of the Society maturing and planning so positively for our future.

Financial Update

BSA account balances are provided in the table to the left. Operational income and expenditure are up over the same period last year. Both fall within a reasonable range when compared to the 2007 budget for the first eight months of the financial year. I anticipate we will finish the year close to the budgeted income and slightly below anticipated expenditure.

Please note: The meeting finances are being managed by the American Society of Plant Biologists, thus explaining the lack of income/expenditure in this area. We are expecting to meet budget.

The BSA Smith Barney investment account stands at \$3,638,944.83. We have had a good year in terms of investment growth.

BSA Treasurer Kent Holsinger will provide further financial details in his report, including the 2008 BSA Budget.

American Journal of Botany

The 2008 American Journal of Botany institutional rates have been set at \$565.00. This is an increase of 9.7% (\$50.00) over the 2007 rate.

Membership & Institutional Subscription Activity

Print Subscriptions			Online On	ly		Total Overall Relationship			
USA	Other	Total	USA	Other	Total	Total	US	Other	Total
scriptions									
612	329	941	987	314	1,301	2,242	1,599	643	2,242
584	342	926	1,055	329	1,384	2,310	1,639	671	2,310
537	320	857	940	327	1,267	2,124	1,477	647	2,124
532	260	792	1,037	294	1,331	2,123	1,569	554	2,123
462	291	753	934	330	1,264	2,017	1,396	621	2,017
471	272	743	1,516	558	2,074	2,817	1,987	830	2,817
Subscription	ns								
1,309	380	1,689	9	3	12	1,701	1,318	383	1,701
1,217	344	1,561	23	14	37	1,598	1,240	358	1,598
1,212	342	1,554	34	17	51	1,605	1,246	359	1,605
1,177	297	1,474	44	44	88	1,562	1,221	341	1,562
1,106	274	1,380	61	61	122	1,502	1,167	335	1,502
1,033	264	1,297	102	74	176	1,473	1,135	338	1,473
	USA scriptions 612 584 537 532 462 471 Subscription 1,309 1,217 1,212 1,177 1,106	USA Other scriptions 612 329 584 342 537 320 532 260 462 291 471 272 Subscriptions 1,309 380 1,217 344 1,212 342 1,177 297 1,106 274	USA Other Total scriptions 612 329 941 584 342 926 537 320 857 532 260 792 462 291 753 471 272 743 Subscriptions 1,309 380 1,689 1,217 344 1,561 1,212 342 1,554 1,177 297 1,474 1,106 274 1,380	USA Other Total USA scriptions 612 329 941 987 584 342 926 1,055 537 320 857 940 532 260 792 1,037 462 291 753 934 471 272 743 1,516 Subscriptions 1,309 380 1,689 9 1,217 344 1,561 23 1,212 342 1,554 34 1,177 297 1,474 44 1,106 274 1,380 61	USA Other Total USA Other scriptions 612 329 941 987 314 584 342 926 1,055 329 537 320 857 940 327 532 260 792 1,037 294 462 291 753 934 330 471 272 743 1,516 558 Subscriptions 1,309 380 1,689 9 3 1,217 344 1,561 23 14 1,212 342 1,554 34 17 1,177 297 1,474 44 44 1,106 274 1,380 61 61	USA Other Total USA Other Total scriptions 612 329 941 987 314 1,301 584 342 926 1,055 329 1,384 537 320 857 940 327 1,267 532 260 792 1,037 294 1,331 462 291 753 934 330 1,264 471 272 743 1,516 558 2,074 Subscriptions 1,309 380 1,689 9 3 12 1,217 344 1,561 23 14 37 1,212 342 1,554 34 17 51 1,177 297 1,474 44 44 48 1,106 274 1,380 61 61 61 122	USA Other Total USA Other Total Total scriptions 612 329 941 987 314 1,301 2,242 584 342 926 1,055 329 1,384 2,310 537 320 857 940 327 1,267 2,124 532 260 792 1,037 294 1,331 2,123 462 291 753 934 330 1,264 2,017 471 272 743 1,516 558 2,074 2,817 Subscriptions 1,309 380 1,689 9 3 12 1,701 1,217 344 1,561 23 14 37 1,598 1,212 342 1,554 34 17 51 1,605 1,177 297 1,474 44 44 48 1,562 1,106 274 1,380	USA Other Total USA Other Total Total US scriptions 612 329 941 987 314 1,301 2,242 1,599 584 342 926 1,055 329 1,384 2,310 1,639 537 320 857 940 327 1,267 2,124 1,477 532 260 792 1,037 294 1,331 2,123 1,569 462 291 753 934 330 1,264 2,017 1,396 471 272 743 1,516 558 2,074 2,817 1,987 Subscriptions 1,309 380 1,689 9 3 12 1,701 1,318 1,217 344 1,561 23 14 37 1,598 1,240 1,212 342 1,554 34 17 51 1,605 1,246 <td< td=""><td>USA Other Total USA Other Total Total US Other scriptions 612 329 941 987 314 1,301 2,242 1,599 643 584 342 926 1,055 329 1,384 2,310 1,639 671 537 320 857 940 327 1,267 2,124 1,477 647 532 260 792 1,037 294 1,331 2,123 1,569 554 462 291 753 934 330 1,264 2,017 1,396 621 471 272 743 1,516 558 2,074 2,817 1,987 830 Subscriptions 1,309 380 1,689 9 3 12 1,701 1,318 383 1,217 344 1,561 23 14 37 1,598 1,240 358</td></td<>	USA Other Total USA Other Total Total US Other scriptions 612 329 941 987 314 1,301 2,242 1,599 643 584 342 926 1,055 329 1,384 2,310 1,639 671 537 320 857 940 327 1,267 2,124 1,477 647 532 260 792 1,037 294 1,331 2,123 1,569 554 462 291 753 934 330 1,264 2,017 1,396 621 471 272 743 1,516 558 2,074 2,817 1,987 830 Subscriptions 1,309 380 1,689 9 3 12 1,701 1,318 383 1,217 344 1,561 23 14 37 1,598 1,240 358

We have registered 1,473 Print, plus Print & Online institutional subscriptions for the year to date. By year's end we should exceed the budgeted sales volume of 1,492 subscriptions. Sales revenue is \$736,892 as compared to a budget of \$710,000.

Member subscriptions, at 732 print copies, have exceeded the budget of 700.

In March 2007, the Executive Council voted to move our printing operations to Sheridan Press. All items are on track for the move to Sheridan Press. We have also gained back the lost time in regards to Journal production and you will receive the July issue during the first week of July!

Recommendation 1: It is recommended member rates for the AJB increase by \$5 for professional (\$85) and emeritus/retired members (\$55) for the 2008 year, a 6.25% increase.

Botany Conferences

Upcoming Botany Conferences:

- 2008 Joint meeting with the Canadian Botanical Association-L'Association Botanique du Canada, ABLS, AFS, and ASPT in Vancouver
- 2009 Joint meeting with the Mycological Association of America, ABLS, AFS, and ASPT in Snowbird

Membership Types

• 2010 – to be discussed by the committee in Chicago (East Coast, Caribbean)

membership categories.

• 2011 – Alaska?

BSA Membership & Subscriptions

Membership levels continue to be a bright spot for the BSA. Membership in the Society stands at 2,817. This is led by a significant increase in student numbers, but is evident across all

JS and Non-US Memberships										
		Other	Total							
	USA	Nations	Members							
Sep-02	1,667	693	2,360							
Sep-03	1,709	691	2,400							
Sep-04	1,541	684	2,225							
Sep-05	1,676	613	2,289							
Sep-06	1,563	682	2,245							
Jun-07	1,987	830	2,817							

Retired	9	0%								
R Family	2	0%								
Professional	1515	54%	1393	62%	1511	65%	1521	68%	1667	68%
P Family	227	8%	187	8%	181	8%	145	7%	161	7%
Student	635	23%	371	17%	377	16%	354	16%	347	14%
S Family	13	0%	11	0%	7	0%	5	0%	4	0%
K-12 Teachers	28	1%	19	196	5	0%	4	0%	8	0%
Affiliate	21	1%	7	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Associate	9	0%	13	196	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Amateur	37	1%	16	196	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	2817		2245		2328		2222		2438	
Professional	2074	74%	1808	81%	1939	83%	1859	84%	2079	85%
Student	648	23%	382	17%	384	16%	359	16%	351	14%
Other	95	3%	55	2%	5	0%	4	0%	8	0%
	2817		2245		2328		2222		2438	

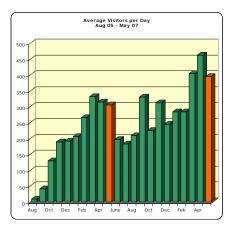
The membership committee will meet on Sunday, 8 July, in Chicago, to discuss a fall student membership drive. We will also come up with a plan to ensure that all members renew early for the 2008 year.

A few years ago, we moved away from early-registration discounts. We may, however, look at a special rate for returning students in 2008. Our goal is to maintain growth within this group.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended membership rates for 2008 remain the same.

Recommendation 3: It is recommended we provide students an incentive to renew, with an "early renewal" rate for of \$15.

Recommendation 4: It is recommended we hold a new student membership drive beginning at the opening of classes in the fall of 2007 at a gift-rate of \$10 per student. In conjunction with this drive it is requested the sections waive fees to allow gift memberships to include sectional memberships.



PlantingScience

PlantingScience continues to grow at a manageable rate. We were awarded a Monsanto Fund grant of \$81,173 over a two-year period for materials development. We are moving forward with plans and Claire has arranged for a topic development group to get together in St. Louis in August to prepare three draft units. We will also be shifting the Advisory Board meeting to the fall of this year in order to have all three units available for testing in the spring of 2008.

Please take the time to look at the program. We are in the process of exploring ways you can use PlantingScience in

meeting your broader impact commitments in NSF grants and we'd appreciate your ideas in this area.

Website

The growth trend on the BSA website continues to flatten. We will need to add resources and find new areas of interest to keep growth heading upward. We ask all sections to consider how they might contribute to the BSA website.

Thinking Green

BSA is developing a relationship with several plant-related organizations in an effort to provide access to our expanding infrastucture, including our membership-subscription and our conference-abstract software. We are in discussions with the Society for Economic Botany Council, Center for Plant Conservation and the Society of Mathematical Botany. We currently provide limited membership support to the American Fern Society.

250,000 200,000 100,00

Thanks, Bill

Archive and History Committee - Report to Botany 2007

Shirley Graham, Chair, Kent Holsinger and David Spooner

The Archive and History Committee has been inactive during 2006-2007. The Archives continue to be safely maintained at the Business Office of the Botanical Society in St. Louis, Missouri.

Various items within the archives were accessed by Marsh Sundberg, BSA staff, members of the Executive Committee and members of the PlantingScience Development committee over the past year. This follows extensive use of the files by Betty Smocovitis during the previous year in preparation for her paper in the July AJB and Plenary Address at the Botany 2006 Centennial Celebration.

Conservation Committee Report

Submitted by Kathryn Kennedy

Conservation work for the Botanical Society of America has been focused on conceptual work this year focused on three areas, resources, partnerships and public policy. There have been active discussions with the office about the support they can provide for information exchange and postings. We have been examining topics and appropriate sideboards for information to include. BSA staff have shown great support seeking ways to make current information available to BSA members, as well as to expand resources available through the website.

The website is obviously powerful, accessible, and economic tool for gathering and sharing conservation information of many types. Investing ourselves to expand website information would be a clear benefit to the membership for professional resources and policy matters of interest. Already, Nancy Morin has done a great job providing conservation related links by state for the BSA website. Check the state by state listings for a sampling! We expect to build on that concept in the coming months, expanding the links for conservation resources for BSA members. We welcome your suggestions for information you have been seeking or useful links you know about.

Other organizations are very interested in collaboration. There have been discussions about formal working partnerships with the Plant Conservation Alliance and informal work with other groups activley involved in national and international plant conservation, working to share information and concerns on the website through expanded links, and providing information about the conservation work of other botanical organizations, using the electronic publications of the Society.

In the public policy arena, currently we are tracking federal budget items related to funding for plant conservation action and research, as well as new legislation for private landowner incentives and global climate change. All are still in procedural stages of the federal legislative cycle. We are also monitoring the executive branch regulations implementing the Endangered Species Act for any proposed changes, particularly those related to the standards and approach for evaluating the qualifications for listing species

and the standards for recovery for species relative to their current vs. historic ranges. More information about these issues should be available to members in the coming weeks as legislation matures and action is more imminent. We expect much more activity in the federal legislative arena in the next three months.

Education Committee Report

Submitted by Gordon Uno

Major advances took place in two BSA Education projects this year, mostly due to the efforts of Claire Hemingway and Bill Dahl. The two most important activities were the ongoing Planting Science project and the potential future collaborative educational efforts between BSA and the ASPB.

Claire Hemingway and her collaborators have submitted a number of proposals to funding agencies to support the Planting Science project. One of those proposals, to the Monsanto Foundation, was successful, which indicates the current strengths of and bright promise for the project. Several Education Committee members serve on the steering committee to Planting Science, and this advisory committee met in April to address some of the issues that have arisen based on the interactions between students, teachers, scientists and the Planting Science website. Education Committee members will also be involved in the recently funded project to develop new inquiries for Planting Science.

The upcoming BSA/ASPB joint annual meeting is an opportunity to continue to cultivate interactions between members from both societies who are interested and engaged in educational activities. Two ASPB members have met with the steering committee of Planting Science, including the former chair of the ASPB Education Committee, Larry Griffing, and Paul Williams. In addition to the Joint Education Forum at this year's Chicago meeting, the current ASPB Education Committee chair, Mary Williams, will attend the BSA Education Committee meeting, which will be an excellent opportunity to strengthen collaborations and plan for future interactions. High on the list of topics will be those activities that help to increase plant projects used at the pre-college level and to increase awareness of Botany and Plant Science majors in college.

Two nominees were selected for the Bessey Award this year: Dr. Tom Rost, from the University of California, Davis, and Dr. Jim Wandersee from Louisiana State University.

Financial Advisory Committee (FAC)

Joe Armstrong <u>jearmstr@ilstu.edu</u> (Member)
Russell Chapman <rchapman@ucsd.edu> (Member)
Jack Horner htth@iastate.edu (Member and Chair)
Bill Dahl <wdahl@botany.org> (ex officio, Executive Director)
Kent Holsinger <a href="heterogeneequation-left: bedden: bedden:

To: Executive Committee and Council of the Botanical Society of America

Re: Annual Report of the FAC for 2006-2007

Since the previous 2006-2007 Annual Report, the FAC has:

- monthly monitored the BSA Endowment Fund (EF) invested with Smith Barney (SB);
- had two conference calls, one in the fall and one in the spring, with the SB staff in Des Moines, IA;
- made decisions on how the portfolio was to be configured to meet the changing global markets
- not recommended an amount of the EF for 2007-2008 to the EC/Council for initiatives, pending further discussion in Chicago prior to Council meeting

As of June 6, 2007 the EF value was \$3,633,455. As of June 30, 2006 (about one year ago) the EF value was \$3,097,239, an *increase of \$536,216* for the present fiscal year. This represents a *gross 17.3 percent annual increase* in the value of the EF. The Endowment Fund total management fee for last fiscal year was \$38,000 (1.1%) which means for 2006-2007, the net gain is 16.2%.

Presently, the EF is divided into three categories:

```
    Stocks + Money Funds = $2,613,166
    Stocks + Money Funds = $610,960
    Fixed Income + Money Funds = $409,329
    Total = $3,633,455 (as of end of June 6, 2007)
```

During the spring conference call, rebalancing of the EF to come closer to its expected 9.44% net return goal was discussed and approved. There were four areas within the entire portfolio that were changed to accomplish the rebalance: decrease Legg Mason custom MDA portfolio; decrease Delaware-International; Increase Madison-Intermediate Fixed Income; and acquire iShares Emerging Market Index Fund. These changes are reflected in the numbers above. Even though the increase this past year is above the FAC/SB goal of 9.44% for this year, the latter number is based on an average goal to be maintained over a much longer period of time.

The FAC believes the EF is growing at a reasonably steady rate but needs infusion by the membership to reach the 5 million mark it established two years ago.

There is *no recommendation at this time* to provide the EC/Council with an amount of money from the Endowment Fund for BSA initiatives for fiscal 2007-2008. A recommendation may be forthcoming at the FAC's meeting in July, in Chicago, and before the Council meeting. The reason for this is that Bill Dahl and Kent Hollinger requested a delay in any recommendation until they were able to pursue one or more initiatives before the July meeting.

The FAC has scheduled a committee meeting at the Chicago Meeting, at 8:30 am, Sunday morning, July 8, in the Chicago Hilton (location to be determined).

The chair or any member of the FAC will be willing to answer questions about the EF.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry T. (Jack) Horner, FAC Chair

Membership

Despite the initiative to increase the number of members (up to 2,817 from 2,017 the previous year) by offering inexpensive gift memberships for international colleagues and students, the society faces challenges to keeping membership up in this electronic age. With many libraries providing electronic access for their clientele to journals, and many modern scientists eschewing print versions of scientific publications, some of the benefits of society membership are no longer as attractive as they once were. 2,074 members are 'on-line only', with 725 print subscriptions, an indication of this change. Though the society had budgeted for 700 print subscriptions, no increase in dues is recommended at this time.

We see the need to make the membership aware of, and more involved in, the many potentially beneficial aspects of belonging to the Botanical Society of America: networking with colleagues about research interests, opportunities, and funding; sharing resources and materials for teaching and public education; getting together to share research findings, explore new places, and discuss botanical challenges of the new millenium. We have some suggestions for extending our reach and influence, and hopefully, our membership.

- 1) Increase our international outreach, considering that 'America' means more than the U.S.A. Canada, Central, and South America are all on the American continent, yet we have fewer publications from Latin America than Asian countries. We need to actively solicit collegues in other American countries to join us, and nominate accomplished Americans for Corresponding Memberships. This will inspire their students and colleagues to get more involved with the society, for the benefit of all.
- 2) Increase student membership, fostering an alliance that continues with professional memberships after the terminal degree. To this end, our Executive Director suggests a discount for early renewal for students (\$15), to encourage renewals as well as first-time memberships.

Our recommendations are:

Recommendation: It is recommended membership rates for 2008 remain the same.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended we provide students an incentive to renew, with an "early renewal" rate for of \$15.

Recommendation 3: It is recommended we hold a new student/ foreign colleague membership drive beginning at the opening of classes in the fall of 2007 at a gift-rate of \$10 per student. In conjunction with this drive it is requested the sections waive fees to allow gift memberships to include sectional memberships.

Publication Committee

Patrick S. Herendeen, Chair 8 June 2007

The only significant activity of the Publications Committee this year was to evaluate the printing contract proposals for AJB. The journal's printing contract will end this year and therefore the Publications Committee was asked to help in evaluating materials submitted by two printers, Allen Press and Sheridan Press. The committee was in agreement that the materials submitted by Sheridan Press provided evidence that this company is at the forefront of publishing technology and is working hard to maintain this reputation. The company was very responsive to BSA in answering questions and providing requested details so that we could make an informed comparison of services. Allen Press was not as responsive and in some respects does not seem to be as current in technological advances in the trade. The committee was favorably impressed with the Sheridan proposal. We were not asked to consider cost differences so this did not enter into our deliberations.

Respectfully submitted, Patrick S. Herendeen

Bessey Award Committee - See Education Committee Report

Cheadle Award Committee

The Cheadle Award Committee (Frank Ewers, Bruce Kirchoff, and Larry Hufford [chair]) evaluated proposals from seven applicants. We selected four students to each receive \$500 awards based on each student's plans to attend Botany 2007, the relevance of the talk/poster to structural botany, and the intellectual quality of the talk/poster.

The following students were selected to receive awards:

Madelaine Bartlett, University of California, Berkeley; Patricia Ryberg, University of Kansas; Julia Nowak, University of Guelph; and John Mossberg, University of Central Arkansas

Prepared by Larry Hufford

Darbaker Prize Committee Report 2007

The committee was composed of Wayne Fagerberg, Linda Graham and Martha Cook (chair).

The solicitation for nominations was sent out electronically to members of the BSA and to the Phycological Society of America. It was also posted on the BSA and PSA websites and put in the Plant Science Bulletin and the PSA Newsletter. Three nominations were received. The committee unanimously agreed that JoAnn Burkholder was the most outstanding nominee based on the criterion of meritorious work in the study of microalage during the last 2 calandar years (2005-2006), published in English. Burkholder is at the Center for Applied Aquatic Phycology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh North Carolina.

(http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantbiology/Faculty/jburkholder/jburkholder.html)

Dr. Burkholder is recognized for the breadth of her many important contributions toward understanding harmful dinoflagellates, including the environmental factors affecting these algae, their effects on other organisms, and interspecific differences among the algae.

The nominated papers from the previous two years are cited in the main report.

Esau Award Committee - no report submitted

Karling Awards Committee - no report submitted

Merit Awards Committee

6/19/07

Richard Olmstead, Chair (Dennis Stevenson, Dan Crawford, members)

Five nominations were received for the BSA Merit Award this year. Three nominations were accompanied by letters of support advocating for the nominee, whereas the other two were received in the form of a letter of nomination, accompanied by a CV for the nominee and names of individuals to contact for letters of evaluation (as per the call for nominations).

The Committee met electronically several times during May to discuss the nominations and issues pertaining to the Merit Award and its role in BSA. While accepting that committees in other years may have held different interpretations, this committee agreed that "outstanding contributions to botanical science" should be interpreted to mean scientific contributions. Hence, award decisions were made on the basis of the impact of the research contributions made by nominees. We recognize that BSA members make many contributions that enhance the field of Botany through teaching, service to the scientific community, and to the Society and that such contributions all are worthy of recognition by the Society and should, perhaps, be identified with specific awards (e.g., the Bessey Award for excellence in teaching).

As a small committee, we agreed that we would resolve any conflict over approval of award nominations by consensus. Thus, only nominees about whom we all agreed were meritorious were approved. After reading the files and sharing our views on the nominees, three were approved for Merit Awards. While recognizing that each of the other two nominees had made valuable contributions to botanical science and to the field of botany in many ways, we decided that their contributions did not merit the highest award that the Society bestows at this time. The BSA President, Executive Director, and all nominators were notified of decisions on June 1.

Comments and recommendations. There are a few concerns that arose in discussions this year and which have been raised in recent past years.

Award Criteria. The simple statement of the criteria for the award is appealing for its simplicity, but leaves open to interpretation what is meant by "outstanding contributions to botanical science" and "truly exceptional scientists in plant biology." Perhaps giving the Awards Committee leeway to interpret the criteria as they see fit is desirable, but committees in the past few years have grappled with issues pertaining to criteria, concluding that research should be emphasized, despite the fact that different criteria have, apparently, been applied in the past. A more explicit statement of criteria would be valuable.

<u>Establishment of a BSA Service Award</u>. Many societies have awards for service to the Society, either as regular awards or as special awards. Given that the BSA has a teaching award, establishment of a service award may be one means of clarifying the criteria for the Merit Award as an award based on scientific research contributions.

Form of the nomination. Letters of support accompanying nominations tend to be strictly advocational, whereas letters requested for evaluation purposes have a very different purpose. The latter conforms to the strict interpretation of the call for nominations. However, the former tends to be the way most nominations are received in the past few years. "Complete package" nominations, including letters, are far easier administratively, but do not necessarily provide a critical evaluation of the nominations. The present system does not assure that the most meritorious members are being recognized each year. Whereas it will be easier to continue receiving nominations in the fashion we have in the past, perhaps the Society should consider generating the nominations and soliciting evaluations. This certainly would require more work and a larger committee and may not be feasible. A middle ground may be to have Society members generate the nominations and submit a letter and CV, while leaving it up to the committee to solicit the letters of evaluation. This would be more work for the committee, but would lead to a more objective evaluation process.

Submitted by, Richard Olmstead

Moseley Award Committee - no report submitted

Pelton Award Committee - no report required

BSA Sectional Reports

Bryological and Lichenological – no report submitted

Developmental and Structural

Prepared by Larry Hufford 29 June 2007

At the sectional business meeting held in Chico, California, at Botany 2006 we conducted the following business:

- 1) Students who received Cheadle and Developmental and Structural Section travel awards were introduced.
- 2) Frank Ewers (California State University, Pomona) was elected as the new program director for the section.
- 3) Symposium proposals for Botany 2006 were discussed.

At Botany 2006, 44 papers and 12 posters were presented to the Development and Structure Section. Seventeen of the papers and three of the posters were presented by students.

Symposia sponsored at least in part by the section at the 2006 meeting included the following:

- (1) The Evolution of Ericales: Recent Insights using both Morphology and Molecules.
- (2) A Century Of Wood Anatomy and 75 Years Of IAWA.
- (3) Bringing Together the Living and Dead: Integrating Extant and Fossil Biodiversity in Evolutionary Studies.
- (4) The Comparative Phylogenetic Method of Reconstructing Evolutionary History

The Katherine Esau Award for the most outstanding student presentation on plant development or structure was given to Brigitte Marazzi, University of Zurich, for her paper "Evolution of floral diversity in the buzz-pollinated genus Senna (Leguminosae, Cassiinae)."

The executive committee evaluated applications from students for travel awards to Botany 2007. Five students were given travel awards, including Tatiana Arias, University of Tennessee; Natalia Pabon Mora, CUNY/New York Botanical Garden; Maria Aurineide Rodrigues, Universidade de Sao Paulo; Yannick Staedler, University of Zurich; and Renate Wuersig, Purdue University.

Executive committee members also participated in the selection of the BSA's Cheadle Awards. The following students were selected to receive Cheadle Awards to facilitate travel to Botany 2007: Madelaine Bartlett, University of California, Berkeley; Patricia Ryberg, University of Kansas; Julia Nowak, University of Guelph; and John Mossberg, University of Central Arkansas

The section will have its next business meeting in Chicago, Illinois, at Botany 2007.

Ecology

Highlights from Botany 2006 (Chico, CA)

Botany 2006 in Chico, CA was an exciting centennial celebration for the Botanical Society of America as well as the 30 year anniversary for the Ecological Section. Our section contributed greatly with 33 talks and 27 posters, a symposium (co-sponsored with \$1,000 support) entitled "Human Transformation of California: Botany, History, and Sociology", and a special presentation on "History of the Ecological Section for the Past 30 Years". Our business meeting on August 1 was attended by 44 people who shared their enthusiastic ideas while also sharing food and drink. Following are highlights from our section's business meeting and student awards in Chico.

Ecological Section Meeting

- We welcomed **Jeffrey Walck**, our new section vice-chair. His term began after the meetings in Chico, and continues until 2009.
- Members present at the meeting unanimously supported to change our bylaws by deleting "serve as fiscal officer" from the responsibilities of our secretary and program director.
- The Ecological Section offered **Student Travel Awards** for the first time in 2006. **Thanks** to **Timothy Bell** and **Carl Weekley** for developing materials for these awards during the past year. We had a lively discussion relative to guidelines for those awards in the future. Consensus was to implement the following **guidelines for 2007**:
 - 1) Students do not need to be a member of BSA, but they must have a sponsor (i.e. advisor or coauthor) who is a member,
 - 2) Students must be the lead author, and be the person presenting a talk or poster at the meeting,
 - 3) No reference letters will be required,
 - 4) No question will be asked relative to why they want to be an ecologist,
 - 5) A set number of dollars (\$1000) will be available for awards with those dollars being divided between top candidates (hence the amount per student may vary from year to year and the amount may be on a sliding scale based on estimated costs for student), and
 - 6) Students who receive an award must wait a year to reapply rather than apply every year.

A suggestion was made to increase section dues to help support these awards. No decision was made regarding this increase.

- Carl Weekley (outgoing vice-chair) was thanked for his service to the Ecological Section by a gift of a cutting board with snacks and a BSA hat.
- Carol Baskin shared insight, memories and various documents related to the history of the Ecological Section, which was formed on May 30, 1976 in New Orleans with 70 charter members. The section had 335 members in 1977, just one year after it formed. A photo taken at Botany 2006 in Chico, CA including three

of its charter members (Carol Baskin, Jerry Baskin, James Quinn) was attached to our section's fall newsletter.

Student Awards from Ecological Section (presented at society banquet in Chico)

- **Best Oral Presentation** to **Cristina Aragon** (co-authors Adrian Escudero and Fernando Valladares from the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos) for "Relationship between physiological status and fitness-related traits in a semi-arid specialist, *Helianthemum squamatum*, in two contrasting scenarios". \$150.
- **Best Poster** to **Jessica Rabenold** (co-author Candace Galen from the University of Missouri-Columbia) for "Friend or foe: effects of ants on fitness of an alpine wildflower, *Polemonium viscosum*". \$150.
- Student Travel Awards to Rebecca Anderson of Illinois State University (advisor Diane Byers) who presented a talk on "Selection and adaptation in heterogeneous soil nutrient environments" and to Marissa Jernegan of Eastern Illinois University (advisor Janice Coons) who presented a poster on "Seed longevity of Lesquerella ludoviciana, an endangered species of Illinois sand prairies". \$500 each.
- Thanks to our judges for the oral presentations (Margaret Devall, David Gorchov, and Katherine Preston), for posters (James Quinn, Jeffrey Walck, and Donald Young), and for student travel awards (Timothy Bell and Carl Weekley).

Botany & Plant Biology 2007 (Chicago, IL)

Ecological Section Planned Activities

- 1) Sessions including 34 posters and 38 papers
- 2) **Co-sponsors** for the following **symposia**:
 - Conservation Biology of Eastern Tallgrass Prairie: Integrating Issues of Management and Restoration for the 21st Century (\$600 support)
 - Evolution in a Glaciated Landscape: Contribution of Endemism to Great Lakes Biodiversity (Name only support)
 - Plant-Fungal Interactions (Name only support)
 - The Evolution and Maintenance of Mixed Mating Systems (\$600 support)
 - The Functional Significance of Leaf Shape Variation—Towards a Consensus from Gene to Community (\$400 support)
- 3) **Co-sponsor** for the following **workshop**:
 - Measuring Eco-physiology of Plants from Cells to Ecosystems with Nondestructive Techniques (\$400 support)

Items of Interest

We look forward to working with Colette Amici who has volunteered to help
lead an effort for members of the Ecological Section to develop topics for "plant
talking points" on the BSA website. These webpages will be simple thinking
topics that might highlight important ecological concepts, and will be used for
discussions by middle and high school students. We will discuss this activity in
Chicago.

• A change is being recommended in the **amount of our section dues to fund our Student Travel Awards** which were initiated for Botany 2006 in Chico, CA. Currently dues are \$2/year, generating \$800-900/year. The recommendation is to increase dues to \$4/year to provide a large portion of the money needed to support our Student Travel Awards which are \$1000/year. Without this increase, the Ecological Section will be faced with either reducing the amount provided for student awards or the amount provided to support symposia/workshops. This recommendation will be discussed in more detail followed by a vote in Chicago.

Student Travel Awards

The Ecological Section had 25 applicants for **Student Travel Awards** for Botany & Plant Biology 2007 making it difficult to choose from the many impressive applications. Congratulations to the following students who were selected to receive these awards:

- Cassandra Broadway of Grand Valley State University who will present a poster on "Growth and Nodulation in *Trifolium repens* and *Glycine max* in Response to *Ailanthus altissima* Extracts" (co-authors Jeff Dock and Gary Greer). \$300.
- **John Geiger** of Florida International University who will present a paper on "Experimental Seed and Seedling Performance of the Endangered Vine *Ipomoea microdactyla* Griseb. (Convolvulaceae). \$400.
- **Daniel Hewins** of Rider University who will present a poster on "Jack of All Trades: Biological Invasion Facilitated by Use of Multiple Forms of Nitrogen" (co-authors Danielle Cheong, Sheena Gayomba, and Laura Hyatt). \$300.

Thanks to our judges for these student travel awards (Timothy Bell, Jeffrey Walck, and Carl Weekley).

Respectfully submitted, Janice Coons Chair, BSA Ecological Section

Economic Botany

2006 Economic Botany Section Meeting, Tuesday August 1, 2006, 5:00-6:00 p.m. Bell Memorial Union, Chico, California

Attendees:

- Recorder: Felix Coe, University of Connecticut, Secretary and Recorder, felix.coe@uconn.edu
- Bill Dahl (BSA Executive Director), wdahl@botany.org
- Norman Ellstrand, University of California Riverside, ellstrand@ucr.edu
- Gera Jochum, National Science Foundation, gjochum@nsf.gov
- Elizabeth Hueta Ortiz, University of California Riverside, ehuerta@ucdavis.edu
- Neil Reese, South Dakota State University, neilreese@sdstate.edu
- Mary Joe Ryan Duncan, maryjoeryan@eircom.net
- David Spooner, USDA, ARS: Univ. Wisconsin-Madison (Recorder; Economic Botany Section), dspooner@wisc.edu
- Anita Thorhaug, Yale Univ. (Physiological Section), athorhaugh@msn.com

AGENDA

Review of the presentations this year. This was the first year that the Botanical Society of America organized its talks and posters around topical themes, as well as around sections. Four topical themes were devoted to the Economic Botany Section: 1) Applied Plant Biology, 2) Ethnobotany, 3) Evolution of Cultivated Plants, 4) History of Plants and People. In total, these topical themes accumulated 15 talks and two posters.

Student Awards. Our section should begin looking for funds to give more student awards, and it is important to begin early on this venture.

Botanical Images. Bill Dahl discussed the push for the Botanical Society of America to get botanical images on the web, with documentation to these images. The Economic Botany Section has such fascinating investigations including field work in remote places that we should be able to contribute many good images.

PlantingScience. We discussed ideas for an Economic Botany Sip3 module, but it will take a lot of coordinated effort to get this off the ground.

Economic Botany Officers. David Spooner was reelected as Section Chair and Felix Coe was elected as Secretary.

Genetics

Activities of the BSA Genetics section during the 2006-2007 year include:

- 1. Business meeting conducted in Chico CA, 1 August 2006.
- 2. Genetics section had 5 contributed paper sessions with 44 papers over two days at the Botany 2006 meeting in Chico (these include both Genetics section and related thematic sections that fall under the general heading of Genetics).
- 3. Genetics section co-sponsored a symposium "Hybridization as a stimulus for the evolution of invasiveness in plants" at Botany 2006.
- 4. The 2006 Graduate Student Research Award based on evaluation of submitted proposals was awarded to Jill Duarte (Penn State University). This award includes \$500 for research and an additional \$500 to cover travel costs for a subsequent BSA meeting.
- 5. The 2006 Margaret Menzel Award (\$200) for the best paper was given to Katrina Dlugosch (U. California) for her paper "Inbreeding depression, outbreeding depression, and evolution in founding populations of an invasive plant".
- 6. The 2006 Genetics section Poster Award (\$100) for the section was given to Nyssa Temmel (U. British Columbia) for her poster "Identifying the genes involved in gender differentiation in *Populus trichocarpa*".
- 7. Genetics section will have 5 contributed paper sessions at the Botany 2007 meeting in Chicago (including both Genetics section and related thematic sections that fall under the general heading of Genetics).

- 8. Genetics section will co-sponsor the following symposia/colloquia at the Botany 2007 meeting:
 - 1. Comparative Genomics, Development, Physiology and Systematics of the Brassicaceae and Cleomaceae; Organizers: Jocelyn Hall and Eric Schranz; Nominal support only
 - 2. The evolution and maintenance of mixed mating systems; Organizers: Diane Byers and Johanne Brunet; Nominal support only
 - 3. Evolution of diversity in Sapindales; Organizers: Susan Pell and Allison Miller; Genetics Funds committed: \$250
 - 4. Frontiers in Plant Biology: Emerging Model Species; Organizers: Pamela Diggle and Elena Kramer; Nominal support only
 - 5. The functional significance of leaf shape variation towards a consensus from gene to community; Organizer: Adrienne Nicotra; Genetics Funds committed: \$250
 - 6. Phylogenomics; Organizers: Chris Pires and Jim Leebens-Mack; Genetics Funds committed: \$500

Genetics Section Officers:

Chair: Randall Small (U. of Tennessee); will step down at end of Botany

2007

Vice-Chair: Vance Baird (Clemson U.), will become Chair at end of Botany

2007

Sec/Treasurer: Theresa Culley (U. of Cincinnati), will become Vice-Chair at end

of Botany 2007

Nominations have been made for new Sec/Treasurer; vote will take place at Genetics Section Business meeting at Botany 2007 meeting in Chicago.

Respectfully submitted, Randall Small, Chair

Historical

Botanical Society of America, Historical Section Report for 2005-2006 [Botany 2007]

Lee Kass, Chair of the Historical Section, was our representative on the Centennial Planning Committee. Kass attended Botany 2006 in Chico, California, and gave a paper on the contributions of Cornell to American Botany (Travel funds for Kass to attend the meeting were provided by the Cornell Department of Plant Biology). Carol Kelloff, Secretary/Treasurer of the Historical Section presented a talk in the Tropical Biology Section. Larry Davenport, our Vice Chair did not attend the Centennial in Chico.

Lee Kass was planning to step down as Chair of the Historical Section this year. Unfortunately, Larry Davenport was not able to succeed her as provided in our by-laws. Had Larry succeeded Lee, a new Vice-Chair should have been elected at our Annual Business Meeting. Lee Kass, therefore, continued to assume responsibility of Chair of the Historical Section. Carol Kelloff offered to continue as Secretary/Treasurer of the Historical Section.

At the Annual Business meeting in Chico, she was elected and has accepted a second term as the Secretary/Treasurer.

In the 2004-2005 report, the section suggested using some of the Historical Sections funds to support the archival research of Dr. Betty Smocovitis for her project on writing a history of the Botanical Society of America in honor of its Centennial Year. In 2005-2006, the historical section provided Dr Smocovitis with an honorarium to conduct research for her project. Dr. Smocovitis, a member of the Historical Section, was the Keynote speaker for the Botany 2006 Centennial Meeting.

The section sponsored 2 papers for Botany 2006; one was scheduled for the Historical Section contributed papers and the other was placed in contributed papers for the Economic Botany Section.

Lee Kass presided at the Historical Section annual meeting on 1 August 2006, at the University of California, Chico. It was suggested at the meeting that the Historical section sponsor a symposium and/or invite a prominent scientist from the area, museum or institution to present a paper on a historical topic of choice. Kass followed up on this suggestion and has organized a symposium for Botany 2007, "A historical perspective on Chicago Area Botany."

Also at the annual meeting in 2006, a new award was established for the best student paper on a historical subject in botany. The section planned that the first award would be given at Botany 2007 in Chicago, Illinois. The award is titled the Emanuel D. Rudolph Award for the History of Botany. The new award was announced in the *Plant Science Bulletin* (October 2006) and colleagues were invited to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to consider presenting a paper on a historical subject in Botany to be eligible for this honor.

Members of the Historical Section also discussed the possibilities for a reliable forum for brief articles on botanical history. Several journals were suggested: *Baileya*, *Endeavor* (British), *Huntea*, and the Tri-Beta Society publication, *BIOS*. Papers presented in the section or symposium can be compiled for a volume of a journal. Initiation for the publication of historical papers could be scheduled for the 2008 botany meetings. Kass pursued the question of such publications in *Baileya*, but the editors did not think it an appropriate venue at this time.

Another topic for consideration for a volume of papers was the presentations given at the symposium titled "Liberty Hyde Bailey's Legacy of Scientific Outreach," hosted by the Historical Section at the Agricultural History Society Symposium, at Cornell University, September 2004. The problem of the cost of publishing such a volume appears to be prohibitive.

Respectfully submitted, Lee B. Kass, Chair Historical Section, BSA

Mycological - no report submitted

Paleobotanical

At the 2006 Meetings in Chico, California, paleobotanists receiving the BSA Centennial Award included Dr. Peter Crane, Dr. Charles Daghlian, Dr. Ted Delevoryas, Dr. David Dilcher, Dr. Patricia Gensel, Dr. Jean Lagenheim, Dr. Karl Niklas, Dr. Jeffrey Osborne, Dr. J. William Schopf, and Dr. Thomas N. Taylor.

Dr. Ruth A. Stockey received the BSA Merit Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions in the field of paleobotany.

Congratulations to these members of the section!

The Paleobotany Section is doing well for 2007. At the Chicago meetings we have 48 contributed presentations: 39 oral papers and 9 posters. We are sponsoring or cosponsoring 4 symposia. The section is sponsoring a field trip to the classic Mazon Creek locality in northern Illinois, led by Dr. Ian Glasspool of the Field Museum.

This year the section is honored to sponsor a visit by Prof. Jean Galtier of the University of Montpellier, France, and Corresponding Member of the BSA.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mickle Secretary/Treasurer

Phycological - no report submitted

Physiological

Physiological Section Report to BSA Board of Directors 2007

The Physiological section, co-sponsored by the Phycological section, created a centennial symposium honoring one of the seminal thinkers and contributors to plant physiology throughout the century from California (born Indiana

1901 and raised in Michigan) Professor Lawrence R. Blinks. Professor emeritus Stanford University, a member of the Naitonal Academy of Sciences , editor J. General Physiology, Director Hopkins Marine Station, Professor and Dean University of California at Santa Cruz . Blinks's many contributions to research plant physiology were examined by 8 of Blink's former students plus Dr. John Blinks, MD, his son, at the symposium "Ions, Light and Algae"

.From this two commemorative papers are in draft "Blinks and Photosynthesis" and "The contributions of L.R. Blinks to Plant Physiology". His major contributions were in membrane transport of algae and light responses of algae to blue and red light, as well as teaching algal physiology.

The 2006 Physiological sections' contributed papers were in several sessions as well as a number of posters. There was a joint session with the Ecological Society on Ecophysiology. Student prizes were three, one poster and two oral presentations.

This year 2007, meeting with the Plant physiologists for the first time in over 20 years, the events will be a symposium by Winslow Briggs and Anitra Thorhaug on blue light receptors and a workshop co-sponsored by the ecological section organized by Anitra Thorhaug on "Non-destructive techniques for ecophysiology". Three student prizes will once more be given to the best oral presentation and the best poster.

Officiers 2007-9: Anitra Thorhaug, Chair Peter STRaub Treasurer Christi Carter Program

Phytochemical

The Phytochemistry Section of BSA works to establish active dialog between members and to extend the Section. A discussion on future activities of the Section has been advanced.

Three presentations are submitted to the Botany 2007 meeting in Chicago and they cover research area on plant phenolics, pigments and terpenoids.

The student travel award by the Section of Phytochemistry was granted this year to graduate student Cassie Majetic from the University of Pittsburgh.

Prof. Dr. Tadeusz Aniszewski Chair of Phytochemical Section of BSA

Pteridological - no report submitted

Systematics

Kathleen A. Kron, chair; Patrick S. Herendeen, Secretary-Treasurer

At the Botany 2006 meeting in Chico, California, Kathleen A. Kron was elected as chair of the section and Patrick S. Herendeen was elected as secretary-treasurer at the Systematics Section business meeting, which is held jointly with the business meeting for the American Society of Plant Taxonomists.

During fiscal year 2007 the BSA Systematics Section supported three symposia with funds and sponsored eight symposia and colloquia without funds for the Botany 2007 conference.

Financial Support of three symposia. The Systematics section supported three symposia for the Botany 2007 conference:

- 1) \$500 for "Comparative Genomics, Development, Physiology and Systematics of the Brassicaceae and Cleomaceae" Organizers: Jocelyn Hall and M. Eric Schranz
- 2) \$500 for "Ranunculales a basal eudicot perspective of angiosperm evolution" Organizer: Stefan Gleissberg

3) \$500 for "Borrowed Chloroplasts: Secondary Endosymbiosis and the Chromalveolates" Organizers: Naomi Phillips, Debashish Bhattacharya, and Ed Braun

Sponsorship (without financial support) of seven symposia and colloquia. The Systematics section sponsored eight symposia and colloquia for the Botany 2007 conference:

- 1) "Deep Time: integrating paleobotany and phylogenetics" Organizers: Pamela S. Soltis and Douglas E. Soltis
- 2) "Evolution in a Glaciated Landscape: Contribution of Endemism to Great Lakes Biodiversity" Organizers: : J. A. Peirson and Anton A. Reznicek
- 3) "A Historical Perspective on Chicago Area Botany" Organizer: Lee B. Kass
- 4) "Colloquium: Integration of Spatial and Ecological Data in Evolutionary Studies" Organizer: Lena Struwe
- 5) "Sherwin Carlquist Symposium" Organizer: S. Y. Smith and Witt Taylor [funding provided by ASPT]
- 6) "Plant phylogenomics: defining synergies between plant systematics and genome biology" Organizers: J. Chris Pires and James H. Leebens-Mack [funding provided by ASPT]
- 7) "Colloquium: Evolution and diversification in the Sapindales" Organizers: Allison Miller and Susan K. Pell

Respectfully submitted, Patrick S. Herendeen

Teaching

Officers

• Chairperson (2007-2009):

James Wandersee

Louisiana State University

223-F Peabody Hall

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Phone: (225) 578-2348

E-Mail: jwander@lsu.edu

• Immediate Past Chairperson (2007):

Beverly J. Brown

Nazareth College

Rochester, NY 14618-1508

Phone: (585) 389-2555, FAX (585) 586-2482

E-Mail: bjbrown@naz.edu

• Vice-Chairperson & Program Director (2007):

Rosemary Ford

Washington College

300 Washington Avenue

Chestertown, MD 21620

Phone: (410) 778-7726

E-mail: rford2@washcoll.edu

Secretary/Treasurer (2007-2008):

Donna Hazelwood

Associate Professor of Biology

Dakota State University

College of Arts and Sciences

Science Center

Madison, SD 57042

Phone: (605) 256-5187

E-mail: Donna.Hazelwood@dsu.edu

- Because the Section's bylaws were revised and the changes were approved at the 2006 BSA meeting in Chico, CA, each elected officer will now serve for three years, with one new officer elected each year. Because the first three-year term was assigned to the chairperson, the new officer to be elected at the 2007 BSA meeting in Chicago will be the vice-chairperson.
- The Teaching Section's New *BSA College Teaching Innovations* short course will be offered from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, July 8, 2007.

Organized by: Jim Wandersee, LSU and Marshall Sundberg, ESU

Abstract:

This 4-hr. short course, co-taught by two experienced full professors with decades of plant biology education experience, is offered especially for graduate students, prospective and new plant sciences faculty, and others interested in innovation. It is designed for those who seek an optimized and prioritized overview of the latest thinking and research on successful, 21st-century, college science teaching. Use of e-Learning, active learning strategies, computer-based concept mapping, findings of misconception studies, and research-supported course organization strategies for teaching large classes will be highlighted. The course is comprised of a carefully structured series of mini-presentations and activities that maximize every minute of the Congress attendees' time. The short-course text book, *Active Learning in Secondary and College Science Classrooms*, will be supplied to each participant for annotation during the course. Each course completer will receive an official *BSA 2007 Professional Update Course Completion Certificate* with a value of .5 CEU (continuing education unit). Attendee Limit: 50.

- The Teaching Section accepted 11 papers for oral presentation at the 2007 BSA scientific meeting. They will be presented on the morning of Monday, July 9th in the *Boulevard A* room of the Chicago Hilton. Immediate Past Chairperson Beverly J. Brown will preside.
- The Business Meeting of the Teaching Section will follow immediately. Chairperson Jim Wandersee will preside.
- At its previous Business Meeting, the Section agreed to consider naming BSA
 Teaching Section representatives (without financial support) to attend related
 professional meetings and to promote BSA and the Teaching Section--if they are

going anyway and would like to volunteer. Stan Rice represented the Section at the 2006 Project Kaleidoscope meeting in Kansas City, MO and Jim Wandersee, at the 2006 International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens at Oxford University in the UK.

• Members of the Section have been active in 2006-2007 updating BSA's Image Collection and carrying forward its PlantingScience initiative.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Wandersee, Chairperson, BSA Teaching Section

Tropical Biology

Recently Fabián A. Michelangeli and Suzanne Koptur were elected as president and treasurer of the Section of Tropical Biology through an e-mail election.

During the 2006 meeting in Chico CA, the Tropical Biology Section had 6 oral papers presented as well as 1 poster. For the 2007 meeting in Chicago there are 4 oral presentations scheduled as well as 7 posters.

In order to increase the participation of the section at future meetings, we have been discussing the possibility of adding a yearly symposium to the BSA meetings. Both of the officers of the section are already exploring topics and speakers for a symposium during the Vancouver meeting in 2008 and hope that section members will start suggesting topics for future meetings.

Submitted by Fabián A. Michelangeli

AAAS – see presidents report

AIBS - see treasurers report

Biological Stain Commission - no report submitted

CSSP – see presidents report

Natural Science Collections Alliance

The annual meeting of the Natural Science Collections Alliance was held in Washington, DC on 14-15 May at the Capitol Hilton Hotel. The meeting was held jointly with the American Institute of Biological Sciences. The theme of the meeting was "Collections for the Future: Forecasting Biological Phenomena." Attendance at the meeting was much lower than the 2006 joint meeting with the Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections in Albuquerque. A number of speakers provided insightful discussions of forecasting distributional ranges of taxa based on climate change models and data from natural history collections. Two presentations, in particular, highlighted new projects will be of importance to BSA. The first was Jim Edward's presentation on the Encyclopedia of Life. There is considerable financial and institutional support behind this project which suggests that it has a better chance of succeeding than previous attempts of similar projects. This project could have tremendous impact on public education and on science, and BSA is encouraged to follow developments and to encourage its members to

participate. The second talk on a project that will be of interest to BSA was presented by Hank Bart (Tulane) and me. We have received funding for a NSF Research Coordination Network Grant titled "Building a Community of Natural History Collections." This project will help foster collaboration and cooperation among Natural History Collections so that they may better serve the scientific community and the public. More details will be released later this summer, and the BSA will be encouraged to appoint a societal representative to the Core Participants of the RCN.

Submitted by:

Alan Prather, Michigan State University alan@msu.edu