

Program Director's Report
Amy Litt and Johanne Stogran, BSA Conference Director
Botany 2018

Participating Societies

American Fern Society
American Society of Plant Taxonomists
Botanical Society of America
International Association for Plant Taxonomy
Society of Herbarium Curators
Canadian Botanical Society/L'Association Botanique du Canada

Submitted abstracts (as of June 28, 2018)

Contributed papers - 479
Symposia – 6
Colloquia - 13
Posters - 266
Discussion sections - 5
Workshops - 14
Special Lectures – 8
Lightning talks (titles only) – 2
Recent Topics – 8
Total – 958

Plenary speaker

Walter Judd, Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Botany at the University of Florida, is a well-known as a botanist, specializing in plant systematics and evolution, a text-book author, and an educator. A former president of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, he has received – among many other awards - the Asa Gray Award from that society, the Merit Award from the Botanical Society of America, and the Jose Cuatrecasas Medal for Excellent in Tropical Botany from the National Museum of Natural History. For years he has had a strong impact on the future of botany through his popular and influential field-based Tropical Botany course taught every summer. His most recent contribution to floristic studies is the publication of the Flora of Middle-Earth (Oxford University Press), co-authored and illustrated by his son Graham A. Judd. Based on four years of research, this unique botanical guide, according to the publisher, “approaches the topic of the plants of Tolkien’s Middle-earth from a botanical (and truly scientific) perspective.” To quote from one of the many five-star reviews on Amazon, “Flora of Middle-Earth... contextualizes both real and invented plants according to their biomes, tracing parallels between our very real (and endangered) ecosystems and those of Middle-Earth.”

Field Trips

Fri-Sat	Fri 2pm – Sat 5 pm	Ferns and Lycophytes of the Driftless Area Option 1
Saturday	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Big Woods and Cannon River Kayaking
	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Weaver Dunes sand prairie and Weaver Bottoms marshes canoe trip
	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Fire and Ice: Glacial Relicts to Fire-Dependent Plant Communities at Whitewater State Park and Great River Bluffs State Park
	10:00 am - 12:30pm	Ferns and Lycophytes of the Driftless Area Option 2

Sunday	8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Whitewater State Park - hiking through an excellent example of the unglaciated Driftless Area
	8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Microhabitat Extremes at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park
	1:00pm-7:00pm	New Bell Museum, MIN herbarium, and Surly Brewing Company
Thursday	8:00am-5:00pm	North Fork Whitewater River - rare cold Karst bedrock and rugged Driftless Area topography hike, and scenic tour of the Whitewater valley.

Note four more were offered (two Saturday, one Sunday, one Thursday) but cancelled due to low enrollment.

Symposia and Colloquia

Symposia	Organizers	Support
Evolution, ecology, development, and genomics of carnivorous plants	Tanya Renner, Tom Givnish, and Rob Naczi	ASPT, BSA, and BSA Development and Structure, Ecology, Genetics, and Systematics sections
Trail Blazing Women as botanical artists in the 19th and 20th century	Nuala Caomhanach and Susan Holland	CBA/ABC, BSA, and BSA Development and Structure and Historical sections
Tools, Standards, Techniques, and Methods for Using Herbarium Specimens in Phenological Research	Gil Nelson, Pam Soltis, Libby Ellwood, and Jenn Yost	ASPT, BSA, and the BSA Ecology, Genetics, Physiology, and Tropical Biology sections
The Future of Digital Projects for Research & Teaching in Botany	Jason Przybylski and Deirdre Ryan	CBA/ABC, BSA, and the BSA Genetics and Teaching sections
Evolution of Plant Chemical Diversity: Renaissance of comparative biochemistry	J. Chris Pires and Stacey Smith	ASPT, IAPT, BSA, and the BSA Ecology, Genetics, Systematics, and Tropical Biology sections
Phylogeny and evolution of angiosperms in the era of next generation sequencing	Hong Ma, Doug Soltis, Pam Soltis, and Jim Leebens-Mack	CBA/ABC, BSA, and the BSA Genetics and Teaching sections
Colloquia		
Botanical foundations for perennial agriculture: Evolution and ecology of perennial herbaceous plants	Sterling Herron, Claudia Ciotir, and Allison Miller	BSA Economic Botany, Genetics, and Tropical Biology sections
Plants at the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary	Nathan A Jud and Alejandra Gandolfo	BSA Paleobotany section
Evolution, ecology, development, and genomics of carnivorous plants - Part II	Tanya Renner, Tom Givnish, and Rob Naczi	
A synthesis of new paleontological and phylogenomic perspectives on gymnosperm evolution	Nathalie Nagalingum and Gordon Burleigh	BSA Development and Structure and Genetics sections
Biology of Isoetales, a colloquium in honor of Dr. W. Carl Taylor	Alejandra Vasco, James E. Watkins, and Robbin C. Moran	AFS and BSA Development and Structure, Paleobotany, and Pteridology sections
100 years of Baileyian Trends – Wood Evolution, Function and Future	Cynthia Jones, Elizabeth Wheeler, and Pieter Baas	BSA Physiology section

Ericaceae: Systematics, Ecology and Evolution	Caroline Puente-Lelievre, Valerie Soza, and Benjamin C. M. Potter,	BSA Genetics and Systematics sections
The flora of Madagascar: uncovering mechanisms for diversification	Margaret Hanes	BSA Systematics section
Applications of Plant Genomics	Caroline Puente-Lelievre and Sara Handy	BSA Economic Botany and Genetics sections
Evolutionary History, Biogeography, and Floral Morphometrics of <i>Salvia</i> (Lamiaceae)	Bryan T Drew, Ken Sytsma and Ricardo Kriebel	BSA Development and Structure, Genetics, and Tropical Biology sections
Revolutionizing systematics: Herbaria in the Genomics Age	Michael R McKain and Laura Lagomarsino	BSA Genetics and Historical sections
Fossil plants at the intersection of evo-devo and phylogeny: celebrating the contributions of Gar W. Rothwell to biodiversity and evolution	Alexandru Mihail Tomescu	BSA Historical and Paleobotany sections
Pacific Biogeography	Benjamin Potter, Marc Appelhans, and Warren Wagner	BSA Systematics and Tropical Biology sections

Workshops

1. Machine learning with R for botanists
2. Using digitized herbarium data in research: Applications for ecology, phylogenetics, and biogeography
3. Introduction to next generation sequencing
4. RevBayes tutorial: an introduction to Bayesian inference in phylogenetics
5. SimRiver: Environmental modeling software for the science classroom
6. PlantingScience mentor workshop
7. Job search transparency: Learning the unwritten rules to land your dream job
8. Using the Cornell University plant anatomy collection (CUPAC) and the Cornell University paleobotanical slide collection (CUPC-slide collection) for teaching and research
9. Tips for success: Applying to graduate school
10. The elevator speech: Crafting an effective pitch that highlights your research and illustrated the broader impacts
11. PUI plant network professional development power hour
12. Transcriptome analysis for non-model plants: phylogenomics and more
13. Using our science to inform public policy
14. Leveraging digital specimen data and derivatives for herbarium curation and collections management

Discussion Sessions

National Science Foundation Information Session for faculty and other professionals

Careers in natural botanical products

National Science Foundation Information Session for Students

Plants Go Global has answers for Botany education

How to Publish Your Research: Tips for Junior Researchers

Ticketed Events

Sunday

All Society Opening Mixer

Monday

Cornell Botanists and Friends Breakfast
Michigan Consortium of Botanists Brown Bag Breakfast
American Fern Society Luncheon
Student Involvement in Botany Luncheon
California Botanists Brown Bag Luncheon
Paleobotanical Section Banquet
Planting Science Reception
Student Social and Networking Event

Tuesday

University of Connecticut Alumni and Friends Breakfast
Brown Bag Breakfast for students of Charlie Heiser and Herbert Baker and the botanical descendants of those students
Enhancing Scientist Diversity in Plant Biology Luncheon – With presentation by Bryan Dewsbury
Kaplan Memorial Lecture Fund Cocktail Reception
LGBT & Allies Happy Hour
Ohio State University Reception
American Society of Plant Taxonomists Banquet – with presentation by incoming President Mark Fishbein

Wednesday

University of Wisconsin Alumni and Friends Breakfast
Miami University of Ohio Breakfast
Legacy Society Reception
Celebrate! All Society Reception

Featured Speakers (non-ticketed events)

Sunday

- Walter Judd, Plenary Speaker – book signing to follow

Monday

- Benjamin Blackman, Emerging Leader Award Lecture
- Neelima Sinha, Pelton Award Lecture

Tuesday

- Elizabeth Kellogg, Kaplan Lecture
- Bryan Dewsbury, Enhancing Scientist Diversity lecture
- George Weiblen, Regional Botany Lecture

Wednesday

- Jeffrey Karron, Annals of Botany Lecture – (Elena Conti needed to cancel due to illness – she will present next year)
- Andi Wolfe, Address of BSA President-Elect

Other Events – Not ticketed

Undergraduate Reception

2018 new policies and procedures

In 2018 we are not meeting with the American Bryological and Lichenological Society. We are meeting with the Canadian Botanical Association/L'Association Botanique du Canada. ABLS will be back with the conference in 2019, but CBA/ABC will not.

For 2018, we did not make significant changes in the structure of the program. We continued to refine the set of topics for abstract submission but otherwise the program and submission guidelines remained the same.

Changes in European law and growing concerns over forms of abuse led to two important new initiatives this year:

1. The conference for the first time has a Code of Conduct, laying ground rules for acceptable behavior at the Botany conference. The code was emailed to all conference attendees and is in the program book. The conference has also enlisted Dr. Sherry Marts, of S*Marts Consulting, to act as an impartial evaluator in the case of a reported infringement of the Code. If she determines there has been an infraction, a Code of Conduct Committee, consisting of one representative of each participating society, will determine appropriate action.
2. In April 2016, the EU Parliament approved the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, with the goal of strengthening and unifying data protection for all individuals within the European Union. The GDPR gives citizens and residents control of their personal data. The GDPR applies to all organizations that process and hold the personal data of individuals residing in the European Union, including organizations outside of the EU. This includes scholarly and scientific societies with members, potential members, or authors who reside in the EU. (Like the Botanical Society of America) Organizations are required to:
 - a. Report data breaches to authorities within 72 hours of discovery of the breach
 - b. Make consent unambiguous, informed and specific
 - c. Designate someone responsible for data compliance within the organization

If organizations fail to comply they risk fines of up to 20 million Euros or 4% of global annual turnover.

This issue has been a major one for the Society and the conference to deal with over the last 4 months as both the conference and the membership databases maintain the data of thousands of our members, some with ties to the EU. As far as the conference is concerned, we will have to handle the abstracts, registrations and personal data of our attendees and presenters from the EU in a very specific way. Our Conference Manager has emailed all EU attendees to ensure that they have proactively consented to continuing to receive communications from the meeting.

2019

The 2019 conference is in Tucson Arizona. We will be reaching out to Mexican botanical societies to see if, at this late date, there is a possibility for joint events of some kind.

2020

Contracts have been signed. Botany2010 will be in Anchorage, Alaska