



Botanical Society of America 2004 Reports to the Business Meeting

1. President's Report July, 2004

The action plan for my term of office was:

- A) To energize key BSA committees
- B) To foster joint meetings with related societies
- C) To develop a process for evaluation of the BSA Office & Executive Director
- D) To increase BSA's national and international visibility
- E) To supply requested services to BSA members

A. Energizing key BSA committees:

As President-Elect, I responded to Executive Committee (EC) concerns about BSA committees' activity by convening three lunch meetings at the Mobile convention: New BSA Chairs, Membership Committee, and Education Committee. These meetings were well-attended and allowed officers and office staff to help key committees develop and execute new initiatives. I recommend that such meetings be continued at future BSA conferences.

As President, I built on the conference discussion with committee chairs and members by providing each 2003-4 BSA Chair with a written letter of appointment that articulated the committee's main function, listed new members, suggested missions for the year, and offered the assistance of the EC and BSA office in committee activities. I further requested that each committee Chair provide a written mid-year report for use at the April EC meeting, and followed up by email reminder in March, 2004. Several committee Chairs responded with very useful reports. I recommend that BSA Presidents continue to provide Committee Chairs with initial directives and request interim reports. The March reminder will be important.

I served as an active (and on occasion, annoying) member of the FAC and Centennial Celebration Committees and provided advice to the Education and Karling Award Committees on request. I worked with the Education Committee and the Teaching Section to transform the BSA's Bessey Teaching Award from a sectional to a society-wide award, to be presented at the annual meeting, helping to establish a selection committee and process. I am honored to present the first of these awards at the 2004 society banquet.

Recommendation for the future: Continued special attention should be paid to the Education and Membership Committees, but also the Conservation Committee, which could be more active in initiating the preparation of position papers related to societal

issues. The EC has discussed taking similar actions to foster activity of the BSA sections or reorganization of sections, a matter for the future.

B. Fostering joint meetings with related societies:

Immediately after a decision was made about the location of the 2006 BSA Conference (Chico, CA), at the April, 2004 EC meeting, I wrote letters to the presidents of the following societies inviting them to meet with BSA on this special occasion:

Mycological Society of America, Society for the Study of Evolution, International Association of Wood Anatomists, Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Asociacion Latinoamericana de Botanica, Ecological Society of America, American Society of Plant Biologists. Canadian Botanical Association, American Society of Plant Taxonomists, American Fern Society, American Bryological and Lichenological Society, Phycological Society of America. I received responses from the IAWA (yes), ESA (no), ASPB (no), ASPT (yes), AFS (yes), ABLIS (yes), and PSA (no). The ESA and ASPB indicated that their process for making decisions about meeting locations occurs much earlier than ours, so sites for 2006 had long ago been determined.

I arranged for representative of societies that do plan to meet with BSA in 2006 to meet for lunch at Snowbird, where we will plan collaborative activities.

I was surprised not to receive replies from some societies. I recommend that if the BSA seriously wants to meet with ESA or ASPB, that we make decisions about sites further into the future, in collaboration with these groups. It is my opinion that we should make such decisions earlier for our own benefit as well, and that this be a major topic for discussion at future EC meetings.

C. Developing a process for annual evaluation of the BSA Office and Executive Director

Together with the Treasurer and Past President Judy Jernstedt, I planned and executed a first evaluation process, which occurred in November of 2003. We later learned that our process occurred too late to mesh well with MBG salary increase implementations. As a result, in collaboration with Executive Director Bill Dahl and Treasurer Joe Armstrong, I developed a plan to conduct the second evaluation at the Snowbird meeting, thereby saving travel costs that would have been incurred by a separate process. I incorporated an evaluation questionnaire contributed by Jeff Osborn, arranging for the questionnaire to be emailed to all EC members, BSA Committee Chairs, and Editors of AJB and PSB. Options for replying by phone or informal email were also provided. I wrote a summary report of the 2003 process, which is now part of BSA records, and will do the same for 2004. We hope that our process will evolve into an efficient and effective method for stimulating continued excellent performance and providing commensurate rewards to BSA office staff.

There is some EC concern that the evaluation process may need to occur at a different time of the year, and that we will need to refine our methods for obtaining feedback data. This will be a task for future presidents to consider.

D. Increasing visibility of the BSA on a national and international level

I have long been concerned that the BSA take its rightful position of authority in the realm of plant biology on a national and international level, and not cede this position to other societies. This concern was voiced in my election platform statement. As one method for working toward this goal, I have actively represented BSA at two meetings (Feb. 2003, 2004) of the American Society for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the major umbrella scientific society in the world. I ensured that qualified representatives of BSA were considered for election as AAAS Fellows, and suggested several plant-related topics and BSA speakers for future AAAS Symposia and featured presentations. I thank the BSA for providing some of my travel costs to attend these AAAS meetings, and highly recommend that BSA continue to maintain a presence at AAAS and especially the process of recognizing BSA members as AAAS Fellows!

Together with Bill Dahl, I attended the November 2003 meeting of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents in Washington, D.C. Many officers of other scientific societies were also present to hear authoritative presentations on many topics of relevance to society management, journal publication, and political influences on the process of science. I recommend that BSA continue to support travel of officers to CSSP and that future Presidents take an active role in this group. The CSSP gets useful things done and seems to have considerable influence.

I commend past BSA officers and President-Elect Allison Snow for representing BSA to the AIBS. A strong presence of BSA at AIBS, AAAS, and CSSP will help maintain BSA's reputation as a premier society working in the areas of plant research and related educational initiatives.

At the request of the Editor of the Plant Science Bulletin, I provided a written version of my 2003 Banquet speech for publication. At least some members read it, because they responded with interesting emails! The research described in this banquet speech was submitted to and is now published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (July 20, 2004 issue) as a deliberate means of spreading botanical influence. I recommend that future Presidents-Elect consider extending their banquet messages to larger audiences, as a way of increasing BSA visibility.

Finally, identified as BSA President, I helped identify topics and authors and wrote the forward to a special issue of Critical Reviews in Plant Science that is focused on plant invasive species.

E. Serving the membership:

At the request of various members, I wrote ceremonial or congratulatory letters on behalf of the society. I evaluated many more tenure nominations for botanists than I normally receive, likely because of my service as President, but provided these cheerfully, to help foster plant scientists.

Things I didn't do that could have been accomplished:

I wrote only two major letters to members, each detailing ongoing BSA projects and newsworthy issues, and soliciting responses of particular types. I could have contributed more communications, but was not impressed with the level of response to the communications I did make, so am not sure that many members read the missives! I recommend that future Presidents find a communication mode that is personally rewarding, and that provides a clear service to the membership. I did ask Bill Dahl to forward short communications from AIBS and other policy-minded groups to the readership when I felt that these were of wide interest to members.

One of my stated goals has been to foster a closer and collaborative relationship with the American Society of Plant Biologists, but my best efforts have so far been to no avail. I recommend that the BSA watch for the appearance of particularly responsive ASPB leaders who might be open to working with BSA in some limited way as a first step. As a member of both societies, I feel strongly that plant biology would be much, much stronger and influential in the larger scientific and policy arenas if these complementary groups worked together rather than separately. As I fade into the background of Past-President, I will continue to seek ways to accomplish this goal.

Linda Graham

2. Secretaries Report to the BSA Council

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Botanical Society of America, April 3-4, 2004, held at BSA Offices at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis Missouri

Attendees: Joseph E. Armstrong, Treasurer

Bill Dahl, Executive Director

Pamela K. Diggle, Council Representative

Linda E. Graham, President

Wanda Lovan, Administrative Coordinator

Jeffery M. Osborn, Program Director

Scott D. Russell, Immediate Past President

Allison A. Snow, President Elect

Johanne Stogran, Meeting Manager

David M. Spooner, Secretary, recorder for the meeting

Linda Graham called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, April 3

Linda Graham made a motion to approve minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Joseph Armstrong; the motion was unanimously approved.

President's Report (Linda Graham)

- Linda Graham read the President's report. This report indicated that new chairs for each BSA committee were sent a formal letter that provided a committee charge, based on EC discussions, and suggested future directions. In the letters, committee chairs were asked to provide a mid-year report on their committee's activities, for review by the EC at its spring meeting. Chairs were reminded in

March that reports would be appreciated, and several reports were received (appended). All those assigned to new chairs accepted these positions. All new committee members are on the BSA website.

- The Charles Edwin Bessey Award (for teaching) was established and promoted to a society award. A Bessey Award committee was established and a summary statement on award specifics and current nominees are now being evaluated.
- At the request of a BSA member, Linda Graham wrote a letter to nominate Charles Edwin Bessey to the Nebraska Hall of Fame.
- A Chair for the Centennial Committee was established and Jack Horner accepted the Chair assignment. Jack Horner is also the Chair of the BSA Financial Advisory Committee. It is proposed that a committee within the BSA write a history of our society. The BSA archives currently are held at the University of Texas and these are being transferred to the Missouri Office. The Missouri Botanical Garden archivist offered to help us with this transfer and to file the archives there. Linda Graham recommended that we hire someone to go through the archives. Jeff Osborn moved that the sections also be invited to transfer their archives. Joseph Armstrong recommended that we ask the Missouri Botanical Garden archivist what was important to keep.
- Linda communicated with Mycological Society of America officers regarding a possible joint annual meeting.
- There was a recent Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP) meeting in February that discussed all aspects of the society including publications, grants, public policy, and meetings with Congressional Representatives. We pay a \$400/year membership to the CSSP and we must pay more to attend the meetings. CSSP publishes a directory of presidents of these societies. Linda Graham suggested that we continue to attend. CSSP distributes useful information such as retention of society memberships, electronic voting for society business, journal pricing, and other items of interest to the BSA. There are fall (Nov.) and spring (May) meetings. BSA attendance at CSSP meetings puts BSA public policy concerns in white papers that are accessible to legislators, giving BSA policy statements impact. A recommendation was made that the BSA President goes to one of the meetings, and the BSA Executive Director to the other one. Joe Armstrong recommended a separate membership category for other BSA Sections so that we have greater society representation. Linda Graham suggested that we link the BSA and CSS websites. We can purchase science teacher addresses from CSSP and use these for the BSA to invite teachers. Scott Russell suggested that we provide a means in the future that will allow teachers who attend BSA events to earn professional in-service credit.
- While attending the November CSSP meeting, Linda Graham met with leaders of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and National Assoc. Biology Teachers (NABT). NSTA publishes four journals and they accept ads. We could use these to attract teachers to BSA annual meetings. Linda suggested having a

BSA representative attend a NSTA meeting and giving this idea to the BSA Education Committee.

- Linda Graham, Judy Jernstedt and Joseph Armstrong evaluated Bill Dahl and staff at the Missouri BSA office, and surveyed the BSA EC and BSA Committee Chairs as well for this evaluation. Linda wrote a summary of the meeting, and salary increases were discussed. Joe Armstrong wrote an evaluation summary letter to Bill Dahl.
- Linda Graham indicated that over the past year she has been contacted for ten tenure evaluations and suggested that this effort may be related to her position as BSA President.
- Scott Russell moved that we accept the President's report; Bill Dahl seconded. The report was accepted.

Past President's report (Scott Russell)

- Abstracts are all in for the Plenary Symposium.
- Nineteen applications are all in for the Young Botanist's Award. Four "Certificates of Recognition" were awarded, fourteen "Certificates of Special Achievement" and one "Honorary Certificate of Recognition." The honorary award was given to a high school student. We have always intended this to be an award to undergraduate baccalaureate degree recipients and candidates and we are therefore rewording the award documents to prevent future applications from high school students.
- Scott suggested that Young Botanist's Award becomes responsibility of the BSA Council Representative.
- BSA may have as many as 50 living corresponding members, who are defined as outstanding botanical scientists living and working outside of the U.S. One corresponding member has passed away in the past year (Professor Alicia Lourteig), creating one opening for 2004. Dossiers for corresponding members are due June 1.
- Scott attended a High Wire Press meeting. Allen Press generates SGML and PDF files and sends a CD to High Wire Press for publication of electronic files for the Journal. We are exploring renegotiating this as HWP now offers SGML distillation from PDF files, which could cut cost of SGML files to a fraction of Allen Press costs. New options in the basic service plan for 2004 will be decided by Bill, Scott and Judy via conference call; options requiring money (if any) will be forwarded to the EC for approval.
- Intel Company invited BSA representatives to serve as botany judges for the 12 Intel Special Awards at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Portland, Oregon, May 10-14, 2004. Scott Russell and Jenny Richards will be going. Jeff Osborn moved to provide BSA memberships for five years to Intel award winners. There are 80 botany participants per year at these ISEF competitions. Seconded by Linda Graham. Jeff Osborn moves that the logistics of the young botanists, and Intel awards, and corresponding members be coordinated

through this office and to have an electronic five year membership in BSA for the Intel botany winners. Approved unanimously.

President Elect's Report (Allison Snow)

- Allison Snow is the incoming Chair of the Committee on Committees. She asked for advice on how to perform her duties for this position. Recommended appointments for committees are still in progress. The EC votes on these recommendations and then the BSA President formally appoints committee members and chairs.
- Allison attended the last American Institute of Biological Science (publishes *Bioscience*) meeting. AIBS represents 275,000 professional society biologists and they are a very effective lobbying organization. They also have a one-day policy meeting and a two-day scientific meeting on specific themes. Bill Dahl has been to past meetings and we have a strong association with them. Bill is exploring meeting with other societies (his report is below).
- Allison sent in her abstract for the President Elect's address. She will talk on "Botany in the News" and discuss how to be effective in a public arena. She asked for examples of our members in the news.

Secretary's Report (David Spooner)

- David Spooner printed all correspondence among members of the EC these last six months and has organized it into a binder, with tabs delimiting the following items:
 - AAAS Financial Advisory Committee report
 - Agenda Items
 - AJB membership
 - AJB accounting sheets
 - Bailey Symposium
 - Bessey Report
 - Botany consultant's documents
 - BSA archives
 - BSA awards documents
 - BSA miscellaneous items
 - BSA Office monthly reports
 - BSA poster
 - BSA Section Evaluations
 - BSA-AABGA collaboration
 - Budget report
 - Centennial Planning Committee report
 - Conservation Committee report
 - Corresponding Member nominations
 - DC Principles
 - Election Committee reports

- Evolution controversy documents
 - False advertisements attributed to the BSA
 - Historical Section report
 - ISU herbarium documents
 - Joint meetings of the BSA and other societies
 - Karling awards
 - President's report
 - Publications Committee report
 - Secretary duties
 - Secretary report
 - Teaching standards
 - Webmaster report
- Spooner initiated a BSA Special Merit Award for Christiane Anderson, Editor-in-Chief of Systematic Botany Monographs. In conjunction with the President of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (Lucinda McDade) and BSA Systematic Botany Section Chair Wayne Elisens, solicitations were sent to all authors of the 68 volumes of Systematic Botany, and all institutional subscribers, requesting: 1) their presence at the BSA Awards Banquet, 2) a contribution to a fund to insuring the continued financial health of Systematic Botany.
 - Last October 31 Dill Dahl sent a letter to BSA members to distribute a Botanical Society of America poster and associated “tear away” information slips in their respective departments. Spooner mailed these fliers to all 32 University of Wisconsin Branch Campuses.

Treasurer’s report (Joseph Armstrong)

- Joseph Armstrong reported that the BSA’s finances were in very good shape and that we had sufficient funds for initiatives.
- The BSA endowment has \$2.1 Million, close to its highest level in the history of the Society. This is up since the last 12 months. Later in the meeting there will be action items on investment.
- Bill Dahl suggested that we build an endowment for possible hard financial times.
- The BSA section allotment is \$1,150.00 per section, or \$400 for low activity levels based on papers or posters. We should consider a modest increase.
- The majority of the funds were used for symposia and special speakers, but some were used for sectional socials.
- We did not pay any federal income tax this year.
- Armstrong reported that we are reviewing our investment portfolio to make sure that we have socially conscious investments.
- The annual budget currently is being put together by Joseph Armstrong and Bill Dahl and the final budget will be voted on at the annual meeting. We currently are

considering a calendar year based fiscal year and this will be brought up at the annual meeting.

- Armstrong is participating in National Public Radio locally; programs currently under development. The National Public Radio cooperator is helping us on a marketing plan. Armstrong will have pilot clips for us for consideration at the Annual Meeting.
- Marsha Sundberg and Armstrong are discussing developing a plant education journal. An on-line publishing model is being considered. Cell Biology published a similar on-line journal called “Cell Biology Education.”
- Armstrong is working on an “ask a botanist question.” David Spooner suggested that we collect membership expertise and place botanical experts contact data on the BSA website. Linda Graham amended the motion that we await a statement by Bill Dahl on how we will use this information and the EC will vote on this via email.

Program Director (Jeffery Osborn) and Meeting Manager (Johanne Stogran)

2004 Meeting

- The 2004 meeting theme will be *Adapting to the peaks*.
- Jeffrey Osborn visited the 2004 meeting site at Snowbird Utah and reported that it will be a great meeting venue.
- Osborn indicated that Rita Caldwell, past Director of NSF, will be the plenary speaker. He asked for suggested topics for Caldwell’s talk. Pamela Diggle asked that Caldwell address the need for a balance of large mega-projects vs. smaller individual projects.
- An *Annals of Botany* representative gave an invited lecture at last year’s BSA meeting.
- The 2003 annual meeting had 14 symposia and colloquia, eight workshops, 14 field trips, and ten local tours. There was a good spectrum of talks.
- A call for recent topics posters will be made in the spring mailing.

2005 meeting (Austin Texas, Aug 5-12)

- Karl Niklas will give the *Annals of Botany* invited lecture this year entitled *Plant allometry: is there a global theory?*
- Eugene Scott will speak on the evolution debate.
- We seek a theme for the meeting, but Jeffrey Osborn questioned the need for a theme at all. The “theme” concept is intended to highlight the meeting location or to be a separate programmatic theme. We need to invite other societies. In addition to the regular participating societies we should invite the Mexican Botanical Society.

- The conference hotel is a bargain because of free meeting space and reduced audiovisual rates and meal costs.
- The 2005 meeting will likely to be smaller than other meetings because of competition from the International Botanical Congress.
- Linda Graham indicated that because of reduced attendance of typical attendees in 2005 that we should focus on teachers to boost attendance. Because of this we need to begin planning right away. She suggested that we contact teachers at the University of Texas in Austin to get some programs set up that attract teachers. Joseph Armstrong suggested that we contact the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for this outreach programming as well.

2006 meeting

Three places are being considered:

- California State University, Chico California, yet this is 90 miles away from the Sacramento airport. Having a guided tour bus ride would make this more attractive.
- Iowa State University, Ames Iowa, where we met eleven years ago, and we could not get the new conference hotel as the venue in 2006.
- University of California at Davis (we met there in 1988).
- Allison Snow made a motion to hold the 2006 meeting at Chico California; Russell seconded. Voted unanimously.
- We are negotiating with Ecology Society of America for a joint meeting in 2007
- We will meet somewhere in Canada in 2008.
- Osborn argued that our joint meetings should be driven by science, not by other factors as costs.

Executive Director's and Webmaster's report (Bill Dahl, Wanda Lovan, Johanne Stogran)

- Bill Dahl thanked Johanne Stogran and Wanda Lovan for exemplary service.
- BSA is in good financial shape.
- Our main income source is *American Journal of Botany* institutional subscriptions, yet the individual subscriptions are subsidized. The true costs of the print version is \$175. The current institutional rate is \$435. Bill Dahl suggested discussing the pricing policy more for journal and for membership costs.
- Bill Dahl suggested that we increase the regular membership fee from \$50 to \$55, and the family membership fee from \$30 to \$35. The BSA rules state that the EC can increase the subscription fees, but only members voting at the annual general business meeting can increase the membership fees.

- Institutional print subscriptions receive online access to *American Journal of Botany* included in their subscription fee. At present our access rate from these institutions is 40% because they do not activate their subscription. This can be because their agent does not notify them or because they do not pay attention to instructions. The BSA office will begin activating the IP addresses for paid institutional subscribers on our own.
- Joseph Armstrong and Bill Dahl moved \$300,000 be moved out of the current active account and placed into an endowment account. This places us close to \$2.4 million. Seconded by Linda Graham. Unanimously approved.
- BSA Systems and Audit is done by *Quickbook* and this is an integrated BSA office wide system.
- We discussed the efficiency of continuing with Mary Dawson, an accountant in California. All agreed that she was a cost-effective employee.
- Bill Dahl discussed the possibility of funding special projects, such as updating *Careers in Botany* and Web-based educational programs. He indicated that he will schedule lunches at the 2004 Annual meeting to get committee members to discuss these initiatives. He indicated that these should be placed in a PDF format and these could be cheaply distributed via the web. Linda Graham asked the EC members to send Dahl photos to update the *Careers in Botany* booklet.
- Awards update: All of the awards materials have been sent out to the committees for consideration.
- Bill Dahl indicated that we are trying to get the spring mailing out very soon so he requested any information from the EC to be part of this.

Council representatives report (Pamela Diggle)

- Linda Graham asked Pamela Diggle to coordinate scheduling BSA members to attend to the BSA booth.

AAAS Representative's Report (Linda Graham)

- The AAAS effectively influences public policy.
- Linda Graham attended two AAAS meetings, and it was clear via a sign-up sheet that BSA was represented.
- Linda Graham gathered the CV's of the four past presidents of BSA and suggested them as AAAS Fellows. This is important because there is a fellows only breakfast and there is a special lecture and a nice ceremony. She recommended that we continue to do this. Next year's meeting is in Wash DC and Linda will ask a local BSA member who has served as AAAS representative in the past to attend this meeting as her substitute, as a way of conserving BSA funds.

- At the AAAS Biological Sciences Section meeting, Linda Graham suggested BSA members as special speakers for 2005 AAAS symposia. This is important also because there are science writers there and it adds visibility to our society.

Old AAAS Business

- Already covered above under the President's Report.

New Business

Linda Graham and Bill Armstrong and William Dahl developed a new system to evaluate the Executive Director. Linda Graham presented these recommendations to the EC. The recommendation is that the evaluation be done at the annual meeting. The procedure would be that the evaluation committee (the current President, President Elect, Treasurer) solicit comments from committee chairs, other EC members, BSA Council members, the AJB Editor-in-Chief, the AJB office staff and Mary Dawson, and the Plant Science Bulletin Editor. A summary document written by the President would then be deposited in the BSA office and the Missouri Botanical Garden Office. The treasurer would then draft a salary increase letter after the budget is finalized and coordinated with Missouri Botanical Garden administrative and salary procedures. In addition, every three years there would be a more detailed retrospective evaluation for the Executive Director. It was pointed out that the annual meeting is a very busy time and a mid-year meeting would be a better time for the evaluation of the Executive Director. We came to a consensus that this year we evaluate the Executive Director at the annual meeting but that we would later consider a possible mid-year evaluation. Jeffrey Osborn suggested that we come up with a standard evaluation form to send out to members, and he agreed to draft this form and get comments on it by Linda Graham and Joseph Armstrong. Scott Russell moved that Jeffrey Osborn's motion be adopted; Allison Snow seconded. Adopted unanimously.

Adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Reconvened at April 4, 8:30 AM

Committee Reports

American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA)

The American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta is like AIBS in that it is an association of many organizations. We have a lot in common with some of their members but they may see no immediate benefit to meeting with us. They have no meetings per-se and may or may not see an advantage in joint meetings. This possible collaboration has been discussed in the EC for years and has not gone anywhere yet, so this may not ever go anywhere. There is a new Executive Director of AABGA and Bill Dahl will make a contact with him next time he goes to Washington DC (their office is in Delaware). Joseph Armstrong suggested that we may advertise to AABGA members and stimulate regional collaborations. Linda Graham asked for a new co-chair for this contact initiative.

Scott Russell suggested letting the BSA and AABGA Executive Directors meet and see where it goes from there.

Financial Advisory Committee (Jack Horner)

Jack Horner provided a Financial Advisory Committee report that is a formal document to insure that our investments are inspected for undesirable investments. We have a BSA statement on our investment policy and Jack Horner's document just adds to this. This document does not go into specifics into how we will review our investments, but it sets the tone and principle of how we will review our investments. A problem in such a statement is that some conglomerate investments are multi-faceted and it is hard to review them in a detailed way. We decided that this financial report and others will not necessarily be posted on the web but placed in the BSA archives. Linda Graham suggested that we revisit the public availability of reports at the next EC meeting.

BSA Publication Committee (Andrea Schwarzbach)

- The Plant Science Bulletin Editor search is going well but is still in progress. We will discuss this more at the annual EC meeting.
- We need to discuss the need for more topic headings in BSA (as evo-devo, functional plant genomics). The ultimate goal is to diversify the submissions to *American Journal of Botany*. Allison Snow and Joseph Armstrong supported new subject headings. Scott Russell suggested that this is more a publications committee role than an EC role. Linda Graham will communicate this discussion to incoming *American Journal of Botany* Editor-in-Chief Judy Jernstedt and suggest that special issues of the journal or new subject headings may be appropriate. We are concerned about a disciplinary drift in the journal and will try to diversify.
- The American Society of Plant Biologists has an arrangement with private publishers to co-sponsor books in the production stage and to share royalties. The Publications Committee decided to not proceed on this idea.

Conservation Committee (Nancy Morin)

- The Conservation Committee is beginning the development of a website showing useful references and authorities (books, websites, people) for each state on conservation issues. We discussed the solicitation of the payment of an honorarium for a white paper requested on this topic, and expanded the honorarium amount to white papers in general. An amount of \$300-\$500 was suggested. Scott Russell pointed out the utility of a BSA position paper using Joseph Armstrong's evolution position paper and the impact it had in changing legislation in the Texas Legislature. Scott Russell suggested that the conservation committee consider drafting a white paper that may have similar impact. Linda Graham alternatively suggested a meeting be set up with the Conservation Committee at our annual meeting. Bill Dahl indicated that he will help schedule relevant committee meetings at the next EC meeting in Snowbird. Allison Snow suggested that we encourage a limit of five pages because longer papers will not

be effectively read by most people. Linda Graham suggested even one page was a practical effective page limit for some topics. Jeffrey Osborn suggested that white papers undergo some formalized peer review.

Committee Chairs (Allison Snow)

- Allison Snow reviewed the BSA committees and their chairs (Committee on Committees, Financial Advisory Committee, Annual Meeting Program Committee, Archives and History, Conservation, Education, Election, Membership and Appraisal, Publications, Webpage, Corresponding Members, Merit Awards, Darbaker Prize, Esau Award, BSA Graduate Student Awards, Moseley Award, Pelton Award, BSA Centennial Planning, Committee on Exploring collaboration between AABGA and BSA) The EC provided her with advice on members or chairs for these committees.

Theme for 2005 meeting

- Graham suggested “Learning from Plants.”

Future Initiatives

- We discussed a list of high priority future initiatives. We began with a list of past initiatives assembled by Jeffrey Osborn from past EC meetings that focused on Education and Membership. Jeffrey Osborn thinks it is more productive to give this list to the individual committees. Linda Graham countered that this list arose from the committees and it is the EC charge to move with this list. She wishes to make this a major thrust of the Presidential letter sent out in the spring mailing. Jeffrey Osborn suggested that we poll the membership on priorities.
- A suggestion was made to the Public Policy Committee that we better interact with our sister agencies who are involved with public policy.

The first EC meeting at Snowbird will be Saturday night. Adjourned at 11:00 AM.

3. Treasurer’s Report

1. Summary

The 2003-2004 fiscal year through three quarters finds both revenues and expenditures lagging a bit behind projections, but the two will cancel each other such that we can anticipate finishing the year in the black. Costs for the business office in St. Louis have become predictable, and the books have been closed on Ohio State. Although new features continue to develop, major web development costs are behind us. Two little used savings accounts were closed to consolidate banking in St. Louis. Revenue and cost projections have been used to generate a budget proposal for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. The biggest fiscal issue for the coming year will be the transfer of editorial functions for the AJB from Cornell to St. Louis on Jan. 1, 2005, and the hiring of a managing editor.

2. Assets of The Botanical Society of America (as of 16 July 2004)

Total Endowment Funds (stocks, bonds, money market funds) - \$2,419,122.64.

This is \$646,789.60 more than 30 June 2003 (\$1,772,333.04), an increase of 36.5%. This increase was in part growth of principle and in part an influx of excess cash.

Operating Funds

Treasurer's checking	\$15,768.45
Treasurer's savings	\$52,561.91
Petty cash	\$250.00
Business Office checking	\$100,920.26 ¹
Business Office MM	\$439,316.34
Botany2004	\$60,588.29
Huntingdon	\$7,227.07 ²
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Total	\$676,632.32

Cash reserves are sufficient for operations through November, 2004.

¹Includes \$67,000 transferred from an old money market to the endowment.

²Former business office account now closed & funds consolidated.

Total Assets as of 16 July, 2004

Total Endowment Funds =	\$2,419,122.64
<u>Total Operating Funds =</u>	<u>\$676,632.32</u>
Total Assets	= \$3,095,754.96

Total assets of the Botanical Society of America of just over \$3 million dollars represents a new record, an increase of \$753,249.81 over last year's assets (\$2,342,505.15), which were under reported by about \$100,000 in funds in stray accounts. BSA has never been worth more.

3. 2003-2004 Fiscal Highlights

Revenues – Membership revenue, \$140,379, is \$15,621 below budget, but institutional subscriptions, rebounding from last year's debacle, brought in \$648,145, \$31,778 above budget. The only other revenue losses were associated with Botany2003.

Expenses – Over all, budgeted expenses appear on target, and no serious over budget expenses are anticipated, and in several budget areas, some surplus should remain. In light of the society's positive fiscal condition, BSA purchased a \$5000 membership at the Missouri Botanical Garden, to bolster the negotiated contribution.

4. Business Office/Executive Director

Bill Dahl and I have worked together profitably, and largely because of his efforts, our current fiscal status is better known and understood, and the proposed 2004-2005 budget includes less guess work than in any recent year. Wanda Lovan has been a great help in tracking down numerous problems and pieces of information to assist me. Read that as keeping me out of trouble, and I promise I won't loss any more credit card receipts. From a fiscal perspective, the Society is functioning smoothly and efficiently, which this officer greatly appreciates.

5. Overview of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

The proposed budget reflects projections based upon revenue trends, pricing strategies for institutional memberships, and realistic estimates of known and anticipated costs. Increases and decreases in various items more or less cancelled each other out, and we propose an expenditure budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year of \$1,051,561, \$8,418 down on last year's budget. Given recent revenue and spending history, an upcoming membership drive, the proposed budget is quite reasonable.

6. Allocation of Funds to Sections

The current strategy of giving funds to sections based upon activity at the annual meeting has resulted in more symposia, more meeting programs, and increased collaborations among sections. The BSA Council will be asked to consider a modest increase in the sectional allocation for the next fiscal year, from \$1,150 to \$1,300, an increase of \$150 to active sections. Based on current programs, this would only increase this budget item by \$1,350. This is a cheap means of enhancing the scientific content of our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph E. Armstrong, Treasurer
19 July 2004

4. *The American Journal of Botany*

August 15th 2003 – July 15th 2004 Annual Report

1. Publication statistics:	03 – 04	02 – 03	01–02	00–01	99–00	98–99	97–98	96–97	95–96
Manuscripts received	449	351	356	347	325	301	325	323	325
Total pages	1,688¹	1,944	2,189	2,184	1,804	1,820	1,802	1,728	1,618
Publications	204²	215	232	224	189	181	212	181	176
2. Current manuscripts:	03 – 04	02 – 03	01–02	00–01	99–00	98–99	97–98	96–97	95–96
Accepted or at <i>Allen Press</i>	149	166	116	147	166	113	105	92	95
Out for review	40	<u>67</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>46</u>
	189	233	226	192	213	186	173	134	141
3. Production statistics:	03 – 04	02 – 03	01–02	00–01	99–00	98–99	97–98	96–97	95–96
Time to first editorial decision									
excluding split reviews	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
including split reviews	2.2³	2.3	2.1	3.5	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.0	6.0

Time to publication 4.1⁴ 4.8 4.5 7.4 8.3 7.7 7.5 6.0 6.0¹

On average, ~141 pages per issue; 17 papers et al. per issue; 8.3 pages per paper (decline in average length of publications, i.e., 9.0 pages in 2002 – 2003).

² Decline in pages reflects, in part, the electronic publication of supplemental materials.

² 192 research articles + 6 brief communications + 2 special papers = 200 + 4 book reviews = 204 manuscripts.

³ Decline in publications reflects decreased solicitation of Invited Papers (to help reduce backlog).

³ ~17% of all manuscripts received a ‘split decision’; 55% of these are rejected (an increase compared to 02 – 03).

⁴ Receipt of final manuscript to appearance in print. Time from submission to appearance in print is ~ 11.5 months (an increase from 9 months in 2002 – 2003).

4. Highlights: The backlog stands at 149 manuscripts. This increase is the result of the pressure to copy-edit special issue proofs. As a result, Special Papers and book reviews are not being solicited. *AJB* mentioned in *Science*, *Nature*, and *Science News*. ISI *AJB* impact factor increased from 2.263 in 2002 to 2.373 in 2003. The 2003 impact factor ranks the *AJB* as 19 out of 135 plant science journals. In terms of total citations, the *AJB* is ranked 12 out of 136 journals (for comparison: *New Phytol.* = 11, *J. Exp. Bot.* = 13, *Annual Rev. Plt. Biol.* = 15; *Canadian J. Bot.* = 16).

5. *AJB*-timeline: (1995) KJN assumes editorship; by-laws changed to construct an editorial board; computer tracking of manuscript submissions and production schedule. (1996) Cover changed to increase image size; computerized reviewer database established. (1997) Expanded size of *AJB* issues; M&M font-size changed to gain extra pages. (1998) Electronic version of the *AJB*; TOC ‘In this Issue’ feature; and book reviews. (1999) Cover changed a second time to increase image size. (2000) Paper-gauge changed to gain one signature free of charge; *BSA* mission statement and “*The Journal for All Plant Biologists*” printed above TOC. (2001) “Letters to the editor” for the e-*AJB*. (2003) AllenTrack online manuscript/review submission; Judy Jernstedt appointed next Editor-in-Chief. (2004) Standardize copyright policy/forms; special “Tree of Life” issue for *AJB* 90th anniversary; manuscripts received after Dec. 1st, 2004 sent to new Editor-in-Chief.

Respectfully submitted,
Karl J. Niklas
Editor-in-Chief, *AJB*
(kjn2 @ cornell.edu)

5. 2004 Editor’s Report, *Plant Science Bulletin* Volume 49

1. Four issues, 160 pages, were published on schedule with press runs of 4000 copies.
2. Feature articles included:
 - no feature in 49(1)
 - Walter and Bessie Bellingrath 49(2)
 - Misconceptions about Helmsont’s Willow Experiment
 - Blooming Prints.
 - The Botanical Legacy of Lewis and Clark: The Most Famous Collection You Never Heard Of.
 - An Opinion: Down with Alphabetically Arranged Herbaria.
3. Summaries of the Forum Plenary Address , “Science Education and the National Science Education Standards by Bruce Alberts. And the Plenary Address, “The All Species Initiative and the Future of Life” by E.O. Wilson were published along with the

President Elect's address: "Organismal Biology as an Essential Link between Molecular Biology and Earth Systems Studies." By Linda Graham.

4. 116 books were received for review; 66 reviews were published.

Volume 50

1. Two issues, 68 pages, have been published on schedule. Fall issue is in preparation.
2. Feature articles included:
 - Where is Botany Going?
 - Combining Breadth with Specialization to Build a Strong Botany Department
 - Botany Program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
 - Developing a Curriculum for Teaching of Botany
3. A total of 48 books were received for review, 29 reviews were published.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Marsh Sundberg, Editor,
Plant Science Bulletin

6. Business Manager, Botanical Society of America To be presented to the Botanical Society of America Council Meeting

1. 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 and I need also acknowledge Johanne Stogran and Wanda Lovan. On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Society, I thank them for their effort and dedication to the Botanical Society of America. Well done! We've accomplished a great deal during the past year.

2. Thank You

A special thank you to those members who donated to our endowment and to the BSA sectional/awards funds. Contributions totaled over \$7,000. Over the coming year we will be working the establishment of a series of opportunities for members to provide legacy contributions. It is felt many may wish to provide continued support for what can be viewed as personal contributions for future awards and activities in ones area of expertise.

3. Financial Report

As of 7-16-04 the Botanical Society of America's total cash position in the St. Louis and Columbus accounts was \$522,207.26. This was comprised of \$14,775.56 in St. Louis checking, \$439,316.34 in the Money Market Account, \$250.00 in Petty Cash and \$67,815.36 in the Columbus conference account.

Profit & Loss Summary (YTD)	2004	2003
Operations		
Income	\$851,904.89	\$783,628.47
Expenditure	\$471,770.54	\$460,811.79
Surplus(Loss)	\$380,134.35	\$322,816.68
Botany Conference		
* Income	\$70,325.96	\$130,967.59
Expenditure	\$35,371.50	\$13,956.20
Surplus(Loss)	\$34,954.46	\$117,011.39
Investments		
Net Income	\$230,687.41	\$290,697.55
Current Position	\$645,776.22	\$730,525.62

Income from operations for the year to date was \$851,904.89 with expenditure of \$471,770.54. Comparison with the same YTD period for 2003 is provided in the diagram to the right. Based on anticipated expenditure and income projections, we will produce a surplus for the 2003/2004 financial year. We will also hold enough reserve to make it into the beginning of the November membership and subscription renewal period. For further information please see the Treasures report.

4. Membership & Institutional Subscription Activity

Membership numbers are down based on the same period in 2003. The lower number is largely due to the non-renewal of longer-term members. This may be in part due to the fact that we didn't send out an individualized membership renewal form for 2004. We will be doing so in early September for the 2005-year (including forms to non-renewing members for 2002 & 2003).

Membership Profile by Joining Dates			
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Gain/(Loss)</u>
Pre- 1985	734	583	(151)
1986-89	168	145	(23)
1990-94	332	269	(63)
1995-99	458	365	(93)
2000-	801	828	27

Active support for new member development is an important function for the Society. We will have membership posters available at meeting. Please become involved!

Membership & Subscriptions

Members	<i>Print Subscriptions</i>			<i>Online Only</i>			Total
	USA	Other	Total	USA	Other	Total	
Jun-02	612	329	941	987	314	1,301	2,242
Jun-03	584	342	926	1,055	329	1,384	2,310
Jun-04	551	324	875	968	347	1,315	2,190
Clients							
Jun-02	1,309	380	1,689	9	3	12	1,701
Jun-03	1,217	344	1,561	23	14	37	1,598
Jun-04	1,225	349	1,574	34	19	53	1,627
Total							
Jun-02	1,921	709	2,630	996	317	1,313	3,943
Jun-03	1,801	686	2,487	1,078	343	1,421	3,908
Jun-04	1,776	673	2,449	1,002	366	1,368	3,817

I'm pleased to report that we are currently up on our overall institutional subscription numbers in comparison to the same

time in 2003. Although it is early to say we have halted the annual decline in institutional subscriptions, it is nice to see this trend arrested.

We have increased the base institutional subscription prices for the AJB from \$365 to \$415 in the 2005 year.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is suggested we increase AJB subscription prices form members from \$55 to \$60. This will reflect consistency in our policy for subscriptions to members and institutions alike.

5. BSA Conference Planning

Some of you may have experienced difficulties with the abstract submission process for Botany 2004. Please accept my apology for the inconvenience. We had a bug that didn't create a problem until the system received over ~350 abstracts. It produced the same troubles in 2003 but, due to the overall smaller size of the meeting, it wasn't as noticeable. I can assure you it won't be an issue in 2005. In the end you will be pleased with the results of the modifications to the abstract submission process.

Botany 2005 (Austin) is beginning to take shape and the Centennial Planning Committee for 2006 (Chico State) is meeting here at Snowbird. Planning for the next few years is progressing well. We are in discussions with ASPB in regards the possibility of some type of joint meeting in 2007 and ESA for 2009 or 2010. We are tentatively scheduled to meet with the Canadians in Halifax in 2008.

6. American Journal of Botany – New Editor in Chief & operations moving to St. Louis

The BSA business office offers a special note of thanks to Dr. Karl Niklas and the editorial staff, Elizabeth Lawson, Caroline Spellman, Beth Hazen, Ellen Cotter, Karen Anderson, for their many years of service and dedication to the publishing of *American Journal of Botany*. We have enjoyed working with you all over the past few years.

Dr. Judy Jenstedt was nominated and approved as the next Editor in Chief of the *American Journal of Botany*. As part of the transition from Karl and the editorial office based at Cornell University, Judy is establishing her operational base in the BSA business office in St. Louis.

7. BSA Office Developments & Functions

We have had changes in the locations of both the BSA office in St. Louis and the Conference office in Columbus. Here in St. Louis we've moved across the street, from 4474 Castleman Avenue to 4475 Castleman Avenue. Johanne moved out of Hall at Ohio State University and now runs the conference operations from her home.

Over the past year in a project led by Wanda, we have worked to streamline many of the BSA office functions with the main changes being in our database, financial systems and the integration of the two. The goals for the project were to:

- move the role of the BSA accountant to one of oversight only;
- reduce the requirement for duplicate reporting due to outdated membership systems and;
- provide up-to-date information for reporting purposes.

In May we completed the second-to-last step in the project with Mary Dawson, our accountant visiting St. Louis to perform a systems audit and to work with Wanda on finalizing the move of the BSA QuickBooks based financial system online. Together, and with the help of Johanne, the systems are now totally online. The final step will come with some minor updates to the BSA database that eliminate the need for a number of Excel reports monitoring various membership, sales and contribution activities. This is a major accomplishment and provides the Society with up-to-date and easily accessible financial information at all times.

8. Web Developments

Please see the Webmasters report. There have been many web-based developments for the BSA over the past year. They include:

- a. BSA Financial systems – online
- b. Botany Conference website development – Johanne Stogran
- c. Botany Conference Abstract submission development
- d. The Conservation Committee's Ecology & Conservation pages
- e. AJB – Abstracts online
- f. PSB – Past issues online
- g. BSA Online Image Collection development & links from the AAAS Biological Education Network (BEN)

Over the coming year membership involvement in building web-based content for the site will be important if we are to consolidate our position as a place to find meaningful botanical and plant science related information and projects. The BSA website is developing as a major component in the Society's effort at moving forward on its mission. Membership involvement is critical.

9. Relationships & Collaboration

Over the past year the BSA has continued to develop its role in the wider community. As such we have moved on several projects that fit well with our mission and take serious botany to the wider world. Several of the efforts are listed below.

- h. **Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP)**
Linda Graham and I attended the CSSP meeting in Washington DC in the November of 2003. This group is becoming a good source of information in relation to the political happenings in the capital.
- i. **Scholarly Journal Archives (JSTOR)**
In April I presented at the JSTOR publishers meeting in New York. We have been working with JSTOR to establish the entire run of *American Journal of Botany* abstracts online on the BSA website. This project should be completed by late August 2004. I presented this as one of the speaking components at the meeting. Other organizations were very interested in this approach. It ensures all information is searchable, providing a benefit for members who publish in the society journals.
- j. **Ecological Society of America**
In conjunction with the CSSP meeting I spent time meeting with ESA Executive Director. Katherine S. McCarter. We discussed the possibility

of holding a joint meeting in 2009 or 2010. We will resume discussions later in the year including Program Directors and Meeting Managers.

k. Acme Animation

Picking up on the challenge lodged by Dr. Bruce Alberts to the BSA, we have continued to develop a relationship with Dave Master and the Acme Animation group. We will be providing a joint presentation at Botany 2004 Educational Forum on possible BSA involvement in Sci-π. Sci-π is the scientific version of the successful Acme Animation online mechanism for effectively working with thousands of potential young animators using very limited professional animator time.

l. CoFarm, USGA, NAST, NBTA and others

We are also involved or becoming involved with a number of other organizations. The relationships range support information gathering, specific initiatives and future avenues for mission development.

On behalf of the BSA staff we wish you a great Botany 2004 and a rewarding 2005.
Sincerely, Bill Dahl, Executive Director

7. Annual Report – 2003-2004

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Presented at the Botanical Society of America Council Meeting
August 1, 2004 • Snowbird, Utah

GENERAL PLANNING FOR BOTANY 2004

I worked closely with the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran, and BSA Executive Director, Bill Dahl, on an array of planning issues.

PLANNING VISIT FOR BOTANY 2004

In early Fall 2003, I attended a planning visit at the site of the Botany 2004 conference in Snowbird, Utah. The meeting was very useful for planning Society functions, viewing potential meeting sites, and for meeting with the BSA Local Representative, John Sperry, as well as with the program chairs and local representatives from other participating societies. We visited the Snowbird Conference Center and a variety of local sites. The site visit was coordinated by the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran.

COORDINATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FOR BOTANY 2004

COMMUNICATION WITH PROGRAM CHAIRS AND SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZERS. The BSA Program Director coordinates the scientific program with the help of the sectional/participating society Program Chairs. The symposium organizers plan the sequence of presentations within their own symposia and then forward the symposia programs to the sponsoring sections for scheduling. To coordinate these activities, the sectional/society Program Chairs and the symposium organizers were sent several mailings that provided detailed instructions and a timeline for preparation and submission of their programs.

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA. The “Call for Symposia” for Botany 2004 was distributed in the BSA-wide Spring 2003 mailing and posted on the Botany 2004 web site. The deadlines for

submissions were early-July and mid-September, 2003. Proposals were submitted on-line using the electronic submission form. Symposium proposals were forwarded to sectional officials for approval of sponsorship.

CALLS FOR PRESENTATIONS . The ‘Calls’ for various presentations for Botany 2004 were distributed in the BSA-wide Fall 2003 mailing and posted on the Botany 2004 web site. The ‘Calls’ were also sent to the Program Chairs of participating societies for their use. The deadline for submissions of abstracts was April 1, 2004, and this was extended until mid-April.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS. The electronic submission process worked very well again in 2004. In part because of the Society’s transition to a new Business Office and a new Executive Director, the new abstract site that was developed in 2003 was further enhanced. I worked closely with the BSA Executive Director, and a web programmer to develop the site. The site includes all of the functionality that we have previously had, as well as some new features (e.g., all relevant program information is now included with each abstract, program details are available to be browsed by relevant categories). In particular, the sectional Program Chairs were able to create their programs completely on the web site. Additional enhancements are planned for the future.

ABSTRACT VOLUME. The abstracts for Botany 2004 will be printed in a separate volume and included with the registration materials along with the final Program, which will be distributed on-site at the conference. This will be the fourth year that the Abstracts have published in this way, and not as a supplement to the *American Journal of Botany*. Moving the abstracts out of the *AJB* is one reason that the deadline was able to be pushed back. I worked closely with BSA Meetings Manager, Johanne Stogran, on the design and layout work for the volume, as well as the proofing. There will be 681 abstracts published in the volume; however, these do not represent all conference presentations (see ‘Summary Information’ below).

FINAL PROGRAM. The deadline for submission of sectional/participating society programs was late April 2003 (extended to mid-May). The Program Chairs deserve much credit for organizing and submitting their programs. The sectional/society programs, as well as all BSA-wide and conference-wide functions were organized into a comprehensive, conference-wide format. Session information was then submitted to the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran, for room assignments. I then worked with Johanne on the design, layout, and proofing for the final Program.

THE PROGRAM FOR BOTANY 2004

All BSA disciplinary Sections have some function(s) scheduled at Botany 2004 except for the Mycological and Phycological Section. However, the Phycological Section did receive a limited number of abstracts and it was decided that these be transferred to other Sections. Detailed schedules for the sectional programs are presented in the final Program, and summary information for the number of presentations and sessions for the entire conference is presented below.

Total number of presentations	730
Forum	13
Scientific Meeting	717
Talks	540
Contributed papers	404
Symposium presentations.....	131
Special lectures and addresses.....	5

Posters.....	170
Regular submissions.....	140
Recent Topics.....	30
Discussion Sessions.....	7

THE FORUM PROGRAM FOR BOTANY 2004

This year's FORUM begins on Friday evening, July 30, with early registration and an informal welcoming reception. The main FORUM program occurs on Saturday, July 31, with a Keynote Address by Dr. Eugenie Scott, Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education, titled "Just when you thought it was safe to teach evolution..," and 12 one-hour sessions, including one on funding opportunities available at the National Science Foundation (NSF). The individual sessions are grouped within six topical themes, or 'threads,' that span the FORUM program, and these have been scheduled such that those from the same thematic thread don't overlap at the same time slot. A range of topics will be addressed in interactive panel and roundtable discussions, breakout groups, as well as informational sessions.

On Sunday, August 1, the FORUM is formally linked to the annual scientific meeting via workshops and field trips, for which attendees register separately. Seven hands-on workshops are available as two-hour, half-day, and full-day events. One workshop is sponsored by the Deep Gene Research Coordination Network and Green Tree of Life NSF-funded grants and is free to registrants.

Although the principal focus of the FORUM is undergraduate education and related outreach, K-12 teachers have been encouraged and have the opportunity to participate, and several hands-on workshops are targeted for K-12 educators.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

2005 – AUSTIN, TEXAS. Botany 2005 will be held in Austin, TX from August 12 to 17, 2005. The Hilton Austin Hotel will be primary conference site. 2005 is also the year of the next International Botanical Congress (IBC), which will be held July 17-23 in Vienna, Austria, and this may affect our annual meeting registration nos. In addition to the BSA, other societies participating in the conference will include: the American Byrological and Lichenological Society (ABLS), the American Fern Society (AFS), and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT). The theme for the conference is "Learning from Plants" and a logo has already been designed.

Calls. The "Call for Symposia," "Call for Workshops," and "Call for Field Trips" for the 2005 Annual Meeting were distributed in the BSA-wide Spring 2004 mailing and posted on the Botany 2004 web site. Copies of these "Calls" were also sent to the Program Chairs of participating societies. Deadlines for submissions of on-line proposals are as follows: Symposia (July 15, 2004 for the Paleobotanical and Systematics Sections, and September 15, 2004 for all other Sections); Workshops and Field Trips: (October 15, 2004). The "Calls" for various presentations will be distributed in the BSA-wide Fall 2004 mailing, as well as posted on the web site.

2006 – CHICO, CALIFORNIA. Botany 2006 will be held in Chico, CA from July 28 to August 3, 2006 at Chico State University. This is the BSA's Centennial year, and there will likely be special programming included in the conference to celebrate the Society's 100 years, and the BSA has invited a number of other affiliated and 'offspring' societies to meet with us. Besides the regular Program Committee, the BSA has established an ad hoc Centennial Planning Committee, chaired by Jack Horner.

2007 – Site not yet determined, but we may have a parallel or joint meeting with the American Society of Plant Biologists. We will be meeting with ASPB representatives in the early fall.

LONG-TERM CONFERENCE PLANNING

I continue to help the BSA Meeting Manager and BSA Executive Director on long-term planning for future conferences. Among the society's goals are to deeply involve our partner societies in planning, to provide expanded programmatic opportunities for members, to be responsive to members and attendees in site selection, and to keep conference costs as economical as possible, especially for students. Many new and exciting initiatives are planned for the future, and more information will be forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey M. Osborn

8. Webmaster, Botanical Society of America To be presented to the Botanical Society of America Council Meeting

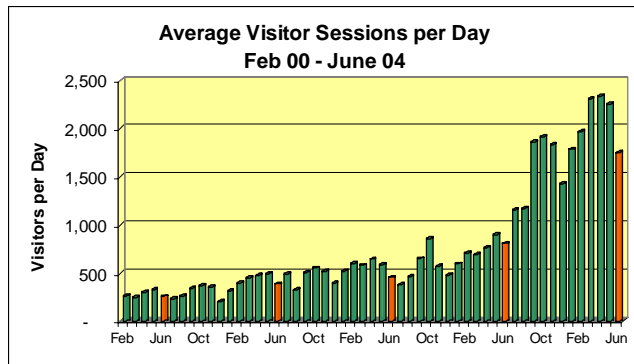
2. Introduction

It has been a busy twelve months in the development department for the BSA's Webmaster. I'm pleased to say the progress goes well beyond the visual changes you experience when visiting the main BSA or Botany Conference websites. Wanda Lovan and Johanne Storgan have each taken on and completed projects that significantly improve our position in supporting members and institutional subscribers to the *American Journal of Botany*. We have made significant progress in placing our accounting system online, developing our database and with the continued development of the Botany Conference website and abstract submission process. We picked up a suggestion from the Education Committee and worked with the American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) Biological Education Network (BEN) collaborative in revamping our Online Image Collection and placing links to all images on BEN website.

The website statistics for the main BSA site indicate we are meeting the goals we set last year and that we are attracting more people to the wonders of botany. I feel we are just getting started. We have strengthened the foundation and we now need to build the house so to speak. This will take member participation. The potential for reaching people interested in botany and plants, in line with our mission, is almost unlimited. The key is having the content that keeps people coming back and telling others to visit.

3. Statistics – BSA site

As the "Average Visitor Session per Day" diagram indicates, the trend for people accessing the BSA website is good. Over the past few months we have had roughly 2,000 people a day logging onto the site. For the same period of last year the number was about 800 people per day. Our highest

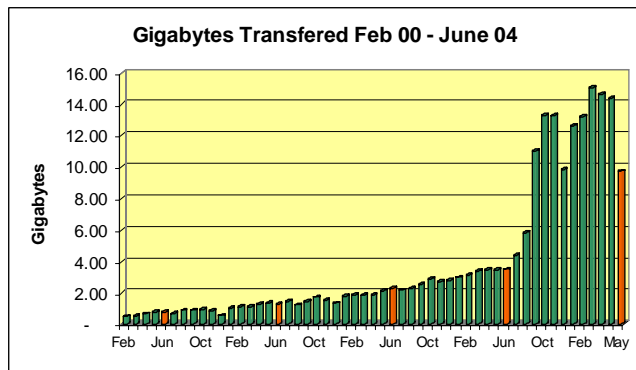
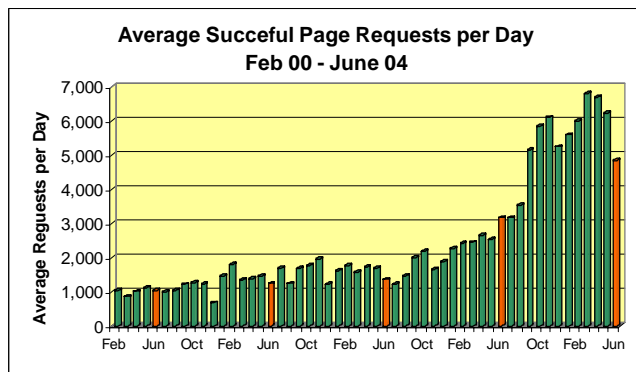
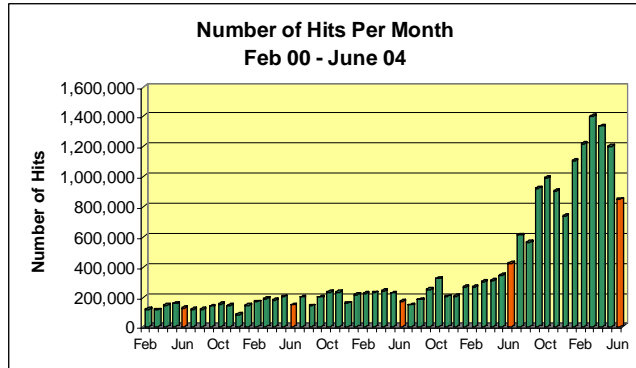


rate of visitors per day was achieved in April with an average of 2,330. March 2004 was our busiest month to date with over 71,000 visitors.

In the 2003 report I pointed 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:

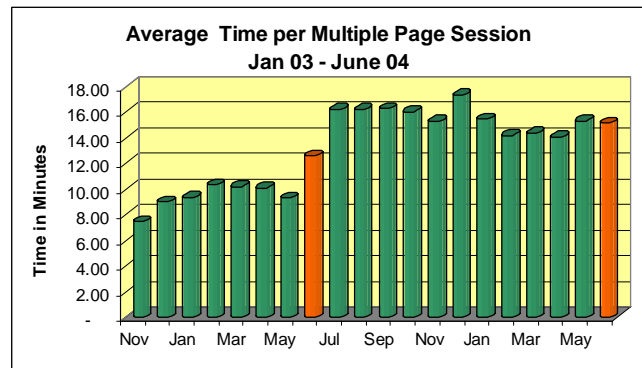
- more people are coming to the site;
- people who visit are exploring more pages and;
- they are staying longer.

For the month of June 2004 the Botanical Society of America's website experienced 848,544 (423,993 in 2003) successful hits. The "successful hits" trend for the period February 2000 through June 2004 is highlighted in the diagram on the to the right. Our record high was achieved in March 2004 with 1,404,411 hits.



In June of 2004 we transferred 9.73 gigabytes of data to visitors (3.51 in 2003). Our highest month for data transfer was March 2004 at 15.1 gigabytes. With increased content it is also important to note that people are also spending longer at our site.

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 magazine, 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>

4. Statistics & Development – Botany Conference Site

In 2004 we adopted the format of the main BSA website for the development of the Botany Conference website. Johanne has done a fantastic job at keeping the site up-to-date with information presented in a manner that makes navigation and ease of use simple and fast. Your comments on the site will be appreciated. June site access over the last four years is listed below.

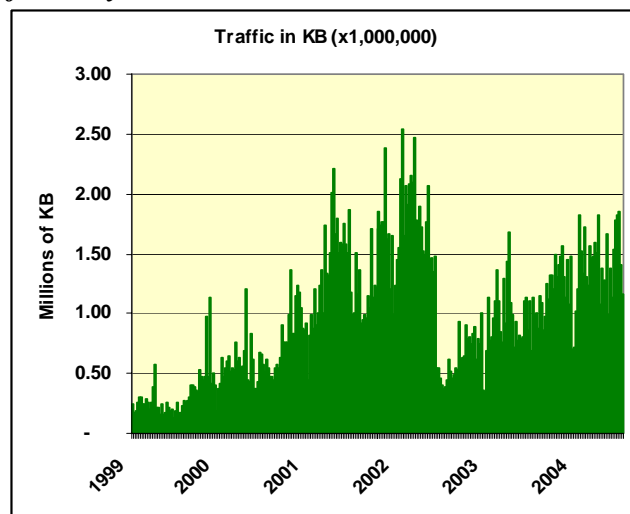
a. Conference site activity:

	June 2001	June 2002	June 2003	June 2004
Visitors	3,967	7,046	1,752	8,886

We have established the Botany 2005 website at: www.2005.botanyconference.org

5. 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 main site directly to AJB articles. We hope to dramatically increase traffic over the next twelve months.



We currently have 1,476 (1,505 in 2003) members and 764 (182 in 2003) institutions 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.

6. BSA Online Teaching Images

After Botany 2003 conference the Education committee suggested we explore becoming involved as a partner in a new AAAS project called the Biological Education Network (BEN). Involvement in BEN fit well with our mission and it was agreed our best possible contribution at this stage of our development would be updating and providing access to the BSA Online Image Collection. The major component in this work was organizing our information in a manner that was consistent with the BEN metadata and database standards. We updated our collection format and created the required information to meet the BEN standards and placed nearly 1,000 images on the BEN site in February. To do the work we were provided a \$5,000 development sub-contract. We have submitted a proposal to AAAS for funding of \$37,000 over the next four years for further developments.

Over the coming year we will work with the Education Committee to establish a “Peer Review” process for all future items moving onto the BSA and/or BEN sites. It is critical we are accurate in our portrayal of botany and the plant sciences as our contributions make the BSA the single largest supplier of resources to the BEN site,

You can view the updated BSA Online Image Collection at: <http://www.botany.org/plantimages/ajbindex.php> and the BEN site at: <http://www.bioscienet.org/portal/>.

7. Functional Developments

Over the past year we have also developed the web as a center for our 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.

a. BSA –Email

In 2003 we added a choice for members in terms of how they wanted to receive co-correspondences from the BSA. Roughly 18% of the membership chose email as the preferred option. Over the coming year we will monitor and test the effectiveness of this format as a means of communication.

b. Financial System

Wanda has done an excellent job in working with our accountant Mary Dawson in a two-step process in moving our entire QuickBooks financial system online. They evaluated our current position and suggested improvements to ensure future compliance with the accounting standards. It is a pleasure to report our systems are online and that totally “up-to-date reports are available at any time for the Executive Committee.

c. Database upgrade

The BSA membership & institutional subscriber database has been upgraded in conjunction with the developments of the financial system. This has

reduced our need to produce a number of time/detail intense reports in an effort to meet our accounting standards.

d. Online Abstract Management Process

We have also continued the development of the abstract submission process for the BSA conferences. This is designed to make the experience easier for conference attendees and streamline the overall conference management process.

1. Abstract Editing

In 2005 abstracts will be able to be edited by submitters up to a specific cut-off date. At present BSA staff spend a great deal of time working with submitters to “touch-up” abstracts.

2. Abstract Management

This year we moved to an online management system for sectional chairs. We will continue to fine-tune this aspect of the program as a part of the post Botany 2004 wrap-up.

3. Conference Management

Further development of the program for use in 2005 will include a single interface for the overall site administration and management.

4. Conference Documentation

This year the software allowed us to download the abstracts and program details in a manner that greatly simplified the process of producing the documents required for Botany 2004. Future development for 2005 will produce all required documentation directly as reports. In a few simple steps we’ll be able to format the entire document.

8. Added Features

Over the past twelve months we added a few more benefits for members of the Society and those seeking botanical information. Our goal for these items was to ensure members materials are searchable on the BSA website and the web in general. Specific developments include:

a. *American Journal of Botany* – Abstracts Online

<http://www.botany.org/ajb/>

b. *Plant Science Bulletin* – Online

<http://www.botany.org/PlantScienceBulletin/>

c. BSA Conservation Committee’s Ecology & Conservation Page(s)

<http://www.botany.org/newsite/conservation/>

9. Future Concepts

Developments will continue on the conference site as well as the main BSA site. We are currently working with JSTOR to retrieve all of our past meeting abstracts in an HTML format for easy access and search engine access. We also hope to have the revised version of *Careers in Botany* up sometime soon as well as additions to the popular “Carnivorous Plant” pages. We will continue work with the Conservation Committee to expand the Ecology & Conservation pages.

10. Summary

We have continued developments on the main BSA website based on three concepts, moving forward with our mission, providing increased benefits for members and supporting the functional components of the Society. I believe we've made significant progress in all three areas. More importantly, we have the foundation to make significant inroads towards our mission. If we take the time to understand how, as a Society, we want to respond to the opportunities for development and develop the content, teachers, student and the general public will come to find it. Our products will be used.

I look forward to your contributions and, wherever possible, your involvement over the coming year.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Bill Dahl

9. Young Botanist Awards Committee. The call for nominations of graduating seniors for BSA Young Botanist Awards went out in the Fall Mailing and in e-mail reminders that followed. Criteria for selection include outstanding academic performance, involvement in research, leadership, and interest in and potential for a career in plant biology, as evidenced in two letters of recommendation from faculty mentors, meeting minimum GPA requirements and from vitae or résumés. Twenty-one students were nominated, from 16 different institutions in the U.S. Dossiers were read and ranked by committee members (Wayne Elisens, Gordon Uno and myself). The top 16 students were awarded the Certificate of Special Achievement, and 4 additional students received Certificates of Recognition. Notification was sent to nominators electronically through the BSA Office, followed by letters and certificates to the students or primary nominators from the BSA headquarters in St. Louis. When requested, local news services were also notified, for release to local newspapers or inclusion in commencement programs. The *Plant Science Bulletin* has printed the names and affiliations of the awardees. Next year we are making it a goal that nominations will be submitted largely electronically and the award will become a principal responsibility of the Council Representative.

Following are awards, awardees and their respective home academic institutions.

A. Certificate of Special Achievement

Name	Institution
Tiffany Bone	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Matthew R. Brown	California State University, Chico
Christina Coleman	Auburn University
Jason Cunningham	Eastern Illinois University
Monica (Nickki) Guillot	Drake University
Patrick Hudson	Truman State University
Emily Kluger	Muhlenberg College
Diana Lofflin	Willamette University
Jolene M. Miesner	Truman State University
Abigail J. Moore	University of Utah

Anderson Shepard	Colorado College
Claire Steiner	Miami University
Matthew Valente	Auburn University
Laura B. Vary	Vassar College
Karen C. Walsh	University of Wisconsin
Sarah Elizabeth Youngstrom	University of Missouri-Columbia

B. Certificate of Recognition

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Sarah Alsup	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Michele M. Gregorich	Chatham College
Rikki L. Hrenko	Miami University
Eric Lees	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

10. Corresponding Member Committee Report, 2004

Corresponding Members are distinguished senior scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the plant sciences and who live and work outside the U.S. The number is limited to fifty living corresponding members at any one time.

One vacancy for Corresponding Member occurred in 2003-2004, with the death of Prof. Alicia Lourteig (an obituary in *Adansonia* is posted at <http://www.mnhn.fr/publication/adanson/a03n2a0.pdf>). A call for nominations went out to chairs of disciplinary sections and to the membership in the spring with a 1 June 2004 deadline. The committee considered the assembled credentials and unanimously recommends to the Council and the membership the following distinguished botanist for election as Corresponding Member.

Professor Hugh G. Dickinson - University of Oxford, Department of Plant Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom

In the basic biology of sexual plant reproduction, few have made the contributions of Professor Hugh G. Dickinson. Professor Dickinson's contributions have centered on the biology of pollen and its interaction with the gynoecium. His current position is Sherardian Professor of Botany, Keeper of the Botanic Garden, and Professorial Fellow of Magdalen College at University of Oxford. He received his degrees from the University of Birmingham (from baccalaureate to Ph.D. with Professor John Heslop-Harrison), and a later D.Sc. He did postdoctoral work at University College, London and the University of Wisconsin with Professor Heslop-Harrison. From 1972 to 1991, he worked at University of Reading progressing through the ranks from Lecturer to Head. He moved to his current position at Oxford University in 1991, where he has maintained an active and well funded program.

Professor Dickinson's early work included some of the first ultrastructural investigations of pollen sporocyte meiosis, the early events of incompatibility, stigma types and competition strategies. He presented novel and creative ideas on cytoplasmic restructuring during meiosis, which are as dramatic as events in the nucleus. He pursued pioneering studies on self-incompatibility that revealed the sites of action, localization,

biochemistry and control of molecules involved with sporophytic self-incompatibility, including some of the most elegant single pollen grain experiments done illustrating the speed and control of action of self-incompatibility in the grasses. He has also examined the effect of parent-of-origin questions regarding the genetic construction of the endosperm using novel experimental methods, addressing the questions of epigenetic modification and paternal silencing. His current interests include male germ-line development and meiosis in *Arabidopsis thaliana* and parent-of-origin imprinting of endosperm genes in maize and *Arabidopsis*.

According to ISI's Science Citation Index, his work has been cited over 3,800 times in the open literature, which is quite a remarkable achievement. He is currently one the speakers at this year's plenary symposium, and I am hoping that he will participate with us at future meetings as a corresponding member.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott D. Russell, Chair
Judy Jernstedt
Pat Gensel

11. Election Committee Report, 2004

The call for nominations for the two vacating BSA offices, President-Elect and Treasurer, went out with the Fall Mailing. The deadline for nominations from the membership was 31 January 2004. Fifteen nominations were made by the membership, with some individuals nominated more than once or for more than one office.

The Election Committee discussed all nominees by e-mail, and included for further consideration only those individuals who were current paid BSA members. An additional consideration was the ability of potential officers to commit to three years of attendance at annual meetings in their entirety and spring Executive Committee meetings. Ballots were sent to the membership with the Spring Mailing and were also available online.

The candidates for President-Elect were Russell L. Chapman and Edward L. Schneider, and for Treasurer, Joseph E. Armstrong and Kent E. Holsinger. Ballots were counted on 15 July 2004, and candidates were notified of the results as soon as practicable thereafter. Ed Schneider and Kent Holsinger were elected. The Committee thanks all candidates for their willingness to appear on the ballot and for their very significant contributions to the Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Russell, Chair, Election Committee, Steven Manchester, Richard Olmstead, Patricia Gensel, David Spooner, Secretary, *ex officio*

12. 2003-2004 Financial Advisory Committee Report

To: **Executive Committee and Council** of Botanical Society of America
David Spooner, **Secretary** of Botanical Society of America
(dspooner@facstaff.wisc.edu), and Linda Graham, **President** of Botanical Society of America (lkgraham@facstaff.wisc.edu)

From: **2003-2004 Financial Advisory Committee:** Greg Anderson (2004; ander@uconnvm.uconn.edu), Russell Chapman (2004; Chapman@lsu.edu), Jack Horner (Chair, 2004; hth@iastate.edu), Joe Armstrong (Treasurer, ex officio, 2004; jearmstr@ilstu.edu), William Dahl (Business Manager, ex officio; wdahl@BOTANY.ORG), and Linda Graham (President, ex officio, 2004; lkgraham@facstaff.wisc.edu)

Re: **2004Annual Report of the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC)**

The FAC will be meeting on Sunday morning, August 1, 2004 from 8:00-10:00 am in the Cliff Lodge Board Room (see program for room location). A continental breakfast will be provided.

The FAC has the responsibility for managing the BSA Endowment Fund. The BSA assets are invested through Smith Barney citigroup (SBc) under a management group (managed funds). All of these funds are divided among the following accounts (as of June 30, 2004):

Managed money funds –

Account # 1-

Cash balance	\$ 167.71	
Money fund	\$ 69,266.16	
Accrued dividends.	\$ 17.45	
Common stocks & options .	<u>\$1,732,780.65</u>	
		\$1,802,214.52

Account # 2-

Money fund	\$ 7,781.43	
Accrued dividends.	\$ 1.95	
Accrued interest.	\$ 3,028.95	
Corporate bonds.	\$ 141,580.70	
Government bonds.	<u>\$ 87,497.00</u>	
		\$ 239,890.00

Account # 3-

Money fund.	\$ 10,582.93	
Accrued dividends	\$ 2.61	
Common stocks & options .	<u>\$ 302,465.87</u>	
		<u>\$ 313,051.41</u>

Endowment Fund as of 06/30/04 \$2,355,155.93

- On December 09, 2003 the FAC had a conference call with the SBc representatives in Des Moines, Iowa. Many issues were covered regarding the investment of funds within the Endowment. The FAC approved dissolving the unmanaged fund category and including it with a portion of the managed funds to increase the return over the return being made with the unmanaged fund. Changing this arrangement did not reduce access to any portion of the managed funds for unusual or emergency purposes.

- The FAC instituted a guideline in the BSA/SBc Portfolio ‘Statement of Investment Policy Objectives & Guidelines’ that requires SBc to invest the endowment funds in only ‘socially responsible’ investment vehicles (General Investment Principles, # 3, page 5). This item reads {“The Fund shall be monitored on an ongoing basis for securities that may be considered “socially irresponsible”. The Board [FAC] of BSA will be notified of any securities that meet this description to determine if exclusion from the portfolio is necessary.} This issue has not been a problem in all 10.5 years BSA has invested with SBc but the formal inclusion of this guideline insures the BSA membership/Society that its Endowment investments are only in socially responsible companies.
- \$300,000 were transferred from the BSA Business Office and the BSA Treasurer’s Office in April 2004, and invested in the endowment fund. The invested portion of the endowment fund increased by an additional \$287,208.21 during 2003-2004, for a total increase of \$587,208.21.
- The present BSA Endowment fund (\$2,355,156) is 33.2% greater than June 30, 2003 (\$1,767,948). The fund has grown 166.3% since its inception 10.5 years ago (12/93; \$884,317). This represents, with this year’s increase, an average increase of 15.8% per year.

Recommendation 1: The FAC recommends that **\$25,000** be used from the Endowment Fund for the ‘special initiatives’ during the 2004-2005 fiscal year, as determined by the Executive Committee and Council per Guideline 4 (see Guidelines below).

Rationale for Recommendation 1: In the two previous years, the amount recommended by the FAC was tempered by the downturn in economic conditions. During the past year these conditions have improved enough to increase the <2% allocations from the past two years to 4.26% for this year.

Recommendation 2: The FAC recommends that the Executive Committee and Council establish long-term goals for use of the money provided by the FAC each year.

Rationale for Recommendation 2: In the previous seven years that the FAC has provided money to the EC and Council, it has generally gone unspent, and has reverted to the Endowment Fund. Even though these monies have not been large annually, they will increase in the future to the point where financial support of long-term goals by the EC/Council could greatly benefit the BSA.

The Endowment Fund Guidelines and Interest Earnings for Special and Section Accounts are presented to clarify decisions related to the operating procedures of the FAC and the determinations by the BSA Treasurer of how 1) the annual amount for BSA initiatives is determined; and 2) the annual interest percentages for the special and section accounts are determined.

The Endowment Fund Guidelines -They were approved in August, 1997 and amended three times; in August, 1998, August 1999 and August 2001:

1. Purpose of Endowment Fund: The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to increase the monetary assets of the Society in order to provide income to fund major initiatives, travel grants, scholarships, and other activities that enhance the effectiveness of the Society to fulfill its Mission (see Bylaws). The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) is responsible to and empowered by the Executive Committee and the Council to manage the Endowment Fund. The FAC makes no recommendations for use of the Endowment Fund.

2. Contributions to Endowment Fund: All monetary gifts, stocks, and bonds designated "Endowment Fund" shall be immediately deposited in either the Endowment Money Market Fund or in the Endowment Fund directly, and then invested in a timely fashion by the FAC. Other gifts, such as property, shall be individually handled by appropriate legal procedures to integrate it into the Endowment Fund.

3. Solicitation of Membership to Contribute to Endowment Fund: Solicitation shall be carried out in two ways: first, the membership will be provided 'purpose and giving' information in each issue of the PSB and on the annual membership dues form; second, a more select portion of the membership that includes long-time (≥ 20 years) members, and members whose ages are 50 years and older, will be individually solicited once every other year (odd-numbered).

4. Use of Endowment Fund Income: The value of the BSA Endowment Fund (all non-restricted, non-sectional funds) will be averaged over the previous twelve (12) quarters, in July of each year. The 'usable income' available for use during the next fiscal year will be 2% of the previous 12 quarters averaged total value, and this amount will be reported at the BSA annual Council Meeting. The FAC will annually evaluate the % used to generate income such that if growth goals are being met, or if growth is too slow, the % 'usable income' will be adjusted accordingly. Any 'usable income' unallocated or unused by the end of the fiscal year (June 30) shall revert to the Endowment Fund principle. As a means of checks and balances, the % allocated for annual use shall be determined by the FAC in keeping with its charge to increase the value of the Endowment Fund at a rate exceeding inflation. Use of the Endowment Fund 'usable income' shall be determined by the Council (see Guideline 5. of Endowment Fund Guidelines).

5. Approval of use of Endowment Fund: Any member, committee, section, or ruling body of the Society may submit a request to use the Endowment Fund for purposes outlined in 1. The request(s) must be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Council. The Council at its regular meeting in August, or at a special called meeting, or by e-mail vote in unusual circumstances, will act on the recommendation(s). Approval of any recommendation(s) by the latter three ways will be determined by a majority (51%) of all eligible council members. If the recommendation(s) is/are approved, the Treasurer of the Society will be empowered to distribute the money according to the approved recommendation(s). If an individual member of either the Executive Committee or the Council submits a recommendation, that member is excused from voting on the recommendation.

Summary of How Interest Earnings for Section Accounts and Special Funds are Determined (adopted in 1999 and amended in 2001):

Section and special accounts receive an interest rate equal to the endowment interest rate.