

BSA Education Committee Report
Submitted by Gordon E. Uno and the BSA Education Committee

With the much-appreciated assistance of Bill Dahl, the Education Committee was able to:

- 1) introduce the BSA to the Biological Education Network (BEN), a digital library project spearheaded by AAAS, and to help BSA join this national collaboration. The BEN project has provided web development funding to BSA, which allowed the addition of nearly 1,000 botanical links to images (and relevant information) to the BEN digital library. This will provide thousands of students, teachers, and faculty members greater access to quality botanical images and information, as well as to information about the BSA and its activities.
- 2) In regard to the above, The Education Committee will develop a "Peer Review" group and process for all materials moving onto the BSA and/or BEN website. It is hoped that this process will insure high quality materials are available to users.
- 3) The Committee began the process of revising the online "Careers in Botany" information, focusing first on updating the wage and salary information.
- 4) To continue the above work, the Committee is now looking for volunteers to support further updating of career opportunities, scientific information, and photographs used in the online Careers section.
- 5) The Committee helped to get the Bessey Award established as a BSA-wide honor; it had previously been an award presented by the Teaching Section.
- 6) Acting on a request from the President of the National Academy, Dr. Bruce Alberts, we have established a working relationship with Dave Master and the Acme Animation group as a potential means of using scientific animations to reach large number of teachers via a web-based teaching tool. This activity is in its infancy and needs to be cultivated, if it is to be useful and successful.
- 7) The Chair of the BSA Education Committee, Gordon Uno, has been working with several individuals associated with other scientific organizations to promote the activities of the BSA. For instance, he and Susan Musante, (Education Director, AIBS) are developing a grant proposal to bring together select people to write a response to the NRC's Bio2010 report. In addition, he has worked with the Education Director of the American Society of Plant Biologists on an initiative to promote botanical education at the pre-college level. These meetings will continue and any potential projects that result from them will, of course, be brought to the BSA Council for approval before moving forward.