

President's Report - August 2005

Allison Snow, Ohio State University

President of BSA and Chair of the BSA Executive Committee

Most of my efforts as President revolved around staying in touch with Executive Director Bill Dahl and members of the Executive Committee (EC) to help keep the Society moving forward and planning for the future. Each of BSA's standing committees has also contributed to our efforts, of course, and together we have made a lot of progress.

Through email, conference calls, and discussions at our two annuals meeting in April and August, the EC has focused much of our attention on the following topics. Several of these topics are also discussed in Bill Dahl's annual report and those of other BSA committees, which also include updates on BSA finances (very good), long-term planning, and new BSA initiatives.

1) Building the BSA membership and membership services

Looking at the numbers, our mid-year individual membership has held steady at about 2,200 members over the past four years. The EC is constantly evaluating what additional benefits we can provide to members and how we can continue to encourage more people to join BSA. This is especially challenging when so much of what BSA provides is free of charge. All of the information on our website is open to all, and many people have free access to the American Journal of Botany through institutional subscriptions. Therefore, we need to function more on the "National Public Radio" model, in which members choose to support BSA because the society and its publications are an important part of their professional development. We all need to keep working on getting this message out to our colleagues and students. BSA membership dues are very reasonable, at \$50 per year for regular members and \$30 per year for students, and the society would be better off with a larger membership.

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee has been exploring several ways in which we can serve the needs of current BSA members. The BSA website continues to get better all the time, and Bill Dahl has done a great job of keeping members informed of BSA activities, opportunities, and deadlines *via* e-mail newsletters. Likewise, under Marsh Sundberg's leadership, the Plant Science Bulletin continues to provide a lively forum for news and opinion columns. Recently, the EC conducted a survey to find out whether members would like to revise our current sectional structure and the way each BSA section now serves as a format for scheduling presentations at annual meetings. Results from the survey will be discussed in an open meeting at Botany 2005 in Austin. We are also exploring ways to recruit more graduate student members and we have discussed adding a category of "amateur botanist" to help build a broader and larger membership base.

2) Planning future meetings

Attendance at annual meetings has fluctuated a good deal recently, from a low of 424 abstracts presented at Mobile, AL, in 2003, to a high of 723 abstracts at Snowbird, UT, in 2004, with 524 abstracts so far at Botany 2005 in Austin. The Executive Committee has worked closely with the Annual Meeting Program Committee to try to make our annual meetings as exciting and enjoyable as possible. Each year, the EC discusses how the program at future BSA meetings might be structured to maximize the intellectual and professional benefits for members. We also request and receive feedback from our member societies regarding the location, facilities, and programming at annual meetings.

Plans for the Centennial meeting in Chico, CA, in 2006 are coming along well thanks to the Centennial Planning Committee, and we are very pleased to be able to meet with the American Society of Plant Biologists in Chicago in 2007. Each of these meetings will provide great opportunities for a unique and enriched program of professional activities. As President, I have also been in touch with the President of the Canadian Botanical Society regarding a joint meeting

in 2008. The EC has approved a return to Snowbird, UT, in 2009 to take advantage of the popularity of this location among BSA members and member societies.

As of August 2005, Jeff Osborn has completed two terms as Chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee. His energy, organization, and dedication to this job have been remarkable and we all owe him a huge debt of thanks. Karen Renzgalia has been elected to serve as the next Chair of this extremely important committee.

3) Preparing for changes in academic publishing

The EC has kept abreast of current trends in academic publishing, including discussions about open access publishing and its effects on small, non-profit professional societies. Bill Dahl and Treasurer Kent Holsinger are especially knowledgeable about these issues. As President of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), Kent was very involved in this year's AIBS conference on open access publishing. For the time being, the EC feels that the American Journal of Botany has a good strategy for providing good accessibility while maintaining the expectations of our subscribers (the vast majority of our income from subscriptions comes from institutions rather than individuals). Further details about the BSA's position on open access publishing are described in an article by Scott Russell in the August 2005 Plant Science Bulletin. We are confident that the American Journal of Botany will continue to thrive under the competent leadership of Editor-in-Chief Judy Jernstedt.

4) Promoting botany and organismal biology in general

During the past year, the EC continued to promote botany and biology, mainly by supporting AIBS, our umbrella organization, and efforts of the Education Committee and others. Bill Dahl has been especially active in the BSA's new Scientific Inquiry through Plants Initiative (Sci-Pi), an internet-based mentoring program for middle school and high school students. Kent Holsinger, Bill Dahl, and I participated in the 2005 AIBS meeting in Washington, DC. Kent and I are serving on the AIBS Long-term Planning Committee, which is preparing a major "summit" on the relevance of integrative biology to society and science priorities for the future. We are especially interested in promoting evolutionary, ecological, and organismal biology in the face of declining resources and job opportunities for biologists with these types of expertise.

BSA accepted an invitation from Dr. Eugenie Scott, National Center for Science and Education, to sign an amicus curiae brief to explain why anti-evolution warning labels are harmful to science education. The purpose of the amicus curiae brief was to assist the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, in Atlanta, GA, in making a sound decision about disclaimer labels in science textbooks. The brief included:

The central tenets of biological evolution

The nature of science in layman's terms

Explanation of the meanings of "theory" and "fact" as used formally in science

The conclusion that evolution should not be disclaimed or "warned against"

Along these lines, the EC continues to receive appreciative letters about the BSA's 2003

"Statement on Evolution", which was prepared by Joe Armstrong and Judy Jernstedt and is posted on www.botany.org.

5) My other activities as President

Like all BSA presidents, my first job was to deliver the President's Banquet Address at our meeting last August. I summarized my talk in a contribution to the Plant Science Bulletin, which is included at the end of this report. From September through December, I served BSA from afar during a mini-sabbatical in Denmark, and I submitted a Presidential Letter with the Fall Business Report. Throughout the year, I received many BSA communications and inquiries about BSA, including numerous requests for letters of recommendation and support (a total of over 1,200 email captivating messages as of this writing!). I also served on several BSA committees as an ex-officio member:

Financial Advisory Committee

Education Committee

Merit Awards Committee
BSA Centennial Planning Committee

Working with Bill Dahl, the EC, and many other BSA members during the past year has been a very rewarding experience. We are extremely fortunate to have a very competent and resourceful staff at our office in St. Louis, and Bill Dahl's leadership as BSA's Executive Director has been outstanding. I have enjoyed representing the society as President, and I look forward to continuing until the 2005 banquet, when I will turn over this title to President-Elect Chris Haufler and move on to my new role as Past-President.

Respectfully submitted by,
Allison A. Snow
August 3, 2005

Past President's Report

During 2004-5 I had three main responsibilities: chairing the Elections Committee, planning a Plenary Symposium for Botany 2005 in Austin, and chairing the corresponding Members Committee. In addition, I continued to serve as a member of the team that annually reviews the BSA office and Executive Director.

The Elections Committee was able to find two very well qualified candidates for the Presidential ballot, but did not succeed in finding more than one candidate willing to serve as Program Director if elected. Approximately 10 persons were identified as good candidates for Program Director, but only one agreed to run for election. The Elections Committee functioned in a timely manner and all members contributed to the process.

For the Plenary Symposium, I chose the topic Botany in the World's Service. I surveyed the leaders of several societies that typically meet with BSA or might in the future, for speaker recommendations. Five really excellent speakers, representing the ABLs, the ASPT, the AFS, the ASPB, and the PSA agreed to present talks that will provide overviews of their fields' service contributions.

The Corresponding Members committee received two nominations for corresponding members. In addition, with Bill Dahl's help, I surveyed the sections' leadership for suggestions, but none was received. The committee did not find that either of the two nominees was suitable for this distinction. Therefore, no Corresponding Member nominees will be presented for a vote this year.

I prepared a formal procedure document to guide this year's evaluation of the BSA Executive Director.

Submitted by Linda E. Graham, Past President

Secretary's Report

BSA Council meeting
July 1, 1:00 PM, Clift Lodge Superior B

Attendees

Joseph Armstrong (BSA Treasurer)
Martha Cook (Chair, Physiological Section)
Bill Dahl (Executive Director)
Pamela Diggle (Chair, Developmental and Structural Section)
Linda Graham (BSA President)

Harry (Jack) Horner (Chair, Financial Advisory and CPC-xx)
Lee B. Kaas (Historical Section)
Suzanne Koptur (Chair, Ecological Section)
James Lawrey (President, American Bryological Society, substitution for Paula DePriest, Chair, Bryological and Lichenological Section)
Jim Mickle (Chair, Teaching Section)
Nancy Morin (Chair, Conservation Committee and Chair, Pacific Section)
Karl Niklas (Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of Botany)
Jeffrey Osborn (Program Director)
Kathleen Pigg (Secretary/Treasurer, Paleobotanical Section)
Karen Renzala (Secretary, Pteridological Section)
Scott Russell (Past President)
Steve Scheckler (Mosely Award Chair)
Randall Small (Vice-Chair, Genetics Section)
Denise Seliskar (Chair, Physiological Section)
Allison Snow (President-Elect)
David Spooner (Secretary, BSA and recorder for this meeting)

President's report. Linda Graham opened the meeting and reminded the council that one purpose of this meeting was to obtain votes from the council members for BSA business items and initiatives. This also is a good time for the BSA section representatives and committee chairs to get to know each other. The last council meeting minutes were distributed and passed. Linda thanked everyone for great service to the BSA. She thanked BSA Executive Director Bill Dahl and his staff for help in running the BSA. She mentioned that one of her initiatives this year is to stimulate the BSA committees. She initiated a system to evaluate personnel in the BSA office. She wishes to raise visibility of our society; Bill Dahl and Scott Russell are helping her in this initiative. During this year she attended the AAAS meeting and the Council of Society Presidents meetings, she wrote many tenure support letters for BSA members.

Executive Committee reports

Past President Scott Russell. Scott Russell encouraged everyone to nominate botanists in their institutions for the Young Botanists Award. He has been working on the electronic interface for these nomination letters and these are now available on-line. He organized the plenary symposium entitled Seed Plant Gametophytes: Still the Forgotten Generation? Four speakers will present talks at the symposium (Dr. Mohan B. Singh, University of Melbourne, Australia; Dr. Hugh G. Dickinson, University of Oxford, United Kingdom; Dr. Ueli Grossniklaus, University of Zürich, Switzerland; Dr. William E. Friedman, University of Colorado, Boulder). Scott represented the BSA at Argentina and Chile joint botanical meetings, and also was involved in the INTEL Science and Engineering fair where he served as a special judge with Linda Graham.

President Elect Allison Snow. Allison served in her role as a member of the BSA Executive council. She served as Chair of Committee on Committees, and filled many posts in these committees.

Secretary's report. David Spooner submitted a report of the spring meeting of the BSA Executive Council on April 3-4, 2004. Spooner led an effort to obtain a special BSA Systematics Section award for Christiane Anderson, Editor-in-Chief of Systematic Botany Monographs. \$3,500 was raised from past authors of many of the 68 volumes of this series (Chris Anderson edited all but the first volume) to be used at Chris's discretion for the continued health of the monographic series. An award and this check will be presented to her at Wednesday's Annual BSA Banquet. Spooner printed all correspondence among members of the EC these last six months and has organized it into a binder, with tabs delimiting action items. Last October 31 Bill 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 reported that the BSA is in great shape financially and operated in the black this year. Kent Holsinger is the new BSA treasurer. Total assets this year are \$3,100,000. This is \$700,000 above last year. The endowment is now 2.5 million dollars. Bill Dahl has set up a great bookkeeping system and budget in much better shape this year and it is much easier to plan budgets. There is a \$1,655,000 budget proposed for next fiscal year. He proposed increasing the allocation of funds to active sections to \$1300, and suggested that this was a very cost-effective use of BSA funds. The Executive Committee endorsed this initiative last night.

Program Director’s report. Jeffery Osborn reported that there were 871 pre-registered participants at this year’s meeting and this is expected to grow to climb 900 or so. The on-line abstract submission site is new this year and is running well, and all the abstracts are now – everything on-line. Value added this year because web links are now capable of being viewed and archived on-line. Authors can now upload files to build their abstracts, and there are new browsing options. Jeff solicited ideas from the council for improvements in the site. The Program Chairs can now build their sectional programs entirely on-line. All program information is on the abstract website. There are 730 presentations this year. The program is incredibly robust and there are eight discussion sessions. Future meetings are scheduled for 2005 in Austin Texas where there will be an educational forum, with a focus on K-12 teachers. Linda Graham is heading this K-12 outreach initiative. The 2006 will be in Chico California during July 28-Aug 3. The 2007 site is not yet determined but we are in contact with the American Society of Plant Biologists who we will meet with in 2007 and plans are moving along well. Karen Rinzoglia has obtained a grant to bring in 11 minority attendees for this meeting. Here. The 2008 meeting is planned with the Canadian Botanical Association and we may meet in Halifax or Vancouver. In 2009 we may meet with the Ecological Society of America.

American Journal of Botany Editor’s report. Karl Niklas reported that the American Journal of Botany was doing very well. *American Journal of Botany* has been mentioned in *Science*, *Nature*, and *Science News*. The impact factor for *American Journal of Botany* has increased from 2.263 in 2002 to 2.373 in 2003. The 2003 impact factor ranks *American Journal of Botany* as 19 out of 135 plant science journals. In terms of total citations, the *American Journal of Botany* is ranked 12 out of 136 journals (for comparison: *New Phytol.* = 11, *J. Exp. Bot.* = 13, *Annual Rev. Pl. Biol.* = 15; *Canadian J. Bot.* = 16). *American Journal of Botany* has experienced a large increase in submissions, possibly because of the new on-line submission feature. This is Karl Niklas’s last annual report and he thanks the leadership of society for their help and support during his tenure as Editor of *American Journal of Botany*. He especially thanks Spencer Barrett (book review editor) and Scott Russell, as well as Elizabeth Lawson and Louise Spellman. *American Journal of Botany* has experienced incredible revolutions such as on-line submissions and reviews, and Judy Jernstedt it will introduce more innovations. Beginning December 1 all new manuscripts to go Judy Jernstedt, but Karl will follow up on those in the pipeline on his charge.

Marshall Sundberg Plant Science Bulletin Editor. Marshall Sundberg is not present, but other Council members report that he will stay on another year because a replacement has yet to be found. Linda Graham asks help in identifying an editor for the *Plant Science Bulletin*.

Webmaster’s report. Bill Dahl indicated that he tries to use the website in strict support of BSA’s mission. New initiatives this year include JSOTR allowing us to place all BSA abstracts on our site. Previously these were not searchable from the web. As well, all six years of *Plant Science Bulletin* are now available on the BSA website. A grants and opportunities newsletter is now on the web thanks to support from Truman State University. The web structure is now completed and we need fill for these items. We could also use peer-review of items on the web. There currently are 2000 hits a day to website. These are increasing with increased web content. In the future all the prior *American Journal of Botany* abstracts will be placed on the web. The

Executive Council addressed free access to *American Journal of Botany* on-line. We will put up all abstracts and we will have access control. We will revise the BSA *Careers in Botany* and devote funds for its revision. We are developing an initiative to work with aspiring students to develop ideas and we help them answer their questions and develop their ideas in a real-time web-based interactive system. There also is a young peer-young peer interaction planned for the web. Nancy Morin asked for a collection of web-based syllabi. Scott Russell says that he will bring this up to the Education Committee. This follows an Acme Animation Initiative for aspiring animators (work with Pixel, Dreamworks, etc.).

Business Office /Executive Director's report. Bill Dahl reported that the BSA finances are in good shape. The BSA membership is down 200-300 people. Memberships a responsibility of everyone and Bill encourages us to solicit membership from our students and other colleagues. Institutional subscriptions and on-line memberships are slightly increased.

Reports of Committee Sections and Representatives

Annual Meetings Program Committee. Jeffrey Osborn indicated that there is nothing new to report.

Archive and History Committee. The representative of this committee is present and no report on file. Bill Dahl reported that the archives will go from the University of Texas to the Missouri Botanical Garden soon to be permanently filed there.

Committee on Committees. Allison Snow reported that with considerable help from BSA members her committee chose new committee chairs. Many members moved up the ladder in responsibility and there are many new members. These new members are on the BSA website. The BSA Executive Committee approved these new members. Allison moved that this list be approved. President Graham called for vote and the new committee members were approved unanimously. Allison suggested that this job be done earlier so that committee members and the members of the Committee on Committees can meet at the annual meeting and get to know each other better.

Conservation Committee. Nancy Morin mentioned the importance of the global conservation strategy. Ideally the BSA Conservation Committee would serve as a liaison for regions to suggest contacts to help with conservation issues. The world of plant conservation is very wide and there are many controversial positions. Nancy Morin suggested that despite this complexity we need a BSA position. Linda Graham mentioned the availability of BSA funds to draft a White paper on conservation issues, including a BSA position on the Endangered Species Act. Nancy raised the problem of having committee members who are inactive and asked how we can replace them. Allison Snow took note of this comment and indicated that she would address this problem in next year's appointments to the Conservation Committee. Karl Niklas says there are no bylaws for this committee. Scott Russell mentioned that outside of this council the BSA President has ultimate authority to make replacements. Bill Dahl reminded Nancy and others that the BSA has financial resources that can be granted to address issues of committees.

Chair Education Committee. Gordon Uno mentioned that the digital library is in for a second round of funding. This will be a huge and significant library and it is essential that BSA be a part of this. The Education Committee will screen the images for this library. The Education Committee is also working to revise the BSA publication *Careers in Botany*. Gordon moved that the Bessey Award be moved from the Education Committee to become a BSA-wide award. He mentioned trends of declining students interested in botany careers and the decline in Botany Professorships. He mentioned the initiative Bio 2010 that left out organismal biology and systematics; this endangers BSA subject areas. Gordon is working with others to expand the Bio 2010 away from just a biomedical focus. He also is working with others in ASPB to increase high school curricula in botany. Also interested in expanding botany training from a concentration on just photosynthesis and life cycles.

Election Committee. Scott Russell mentioned that the candidates for President Elect and Treasurer were voted on by the BSA membership. Ed Schneider was elected President Elect and Kent Holsinger as Treasurer. Allison Snow suggested that we have a link to the candidate's personal website. Next year the BSA will move to digital balloting; Bill Dahl is working on this. Nancy Morin asked if we will reach all members this way. Bill Dahl responded that we will mail out ballots to those without web access. The digital balloting was passed with this combination of polling methods.

Endowment Committee. Jack Horner (Chair) reported that the BSA endowment has increased 33% over last year and it now stands at \$2,419,122.64. The average increase per year over the past 10 years has been 15.8%/year. 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.

Membership and Appraisal Committee. Don Hauber indicated that a membership drive poster has just been made. He encouraged BSA members to it take back to their institutions and to post them.

Publications Committee. Andrea Schwarzbach reported that this committee is moving to get a new *Plant Science Bulletin* editor. They also are working on new subject headings for *American Journal of Botany*. Karl Niklas suggested that we can list an "other" and the authors can give their own suggestion and the journal prints this. This is an Executive Council recommendation, not a motion.

Webpage Committee. Bill Dahl indicated that there was nothing new to report.

Corresponding members Committee. Scott Russell mentioned that the BSA corresponding members limited to 50 foreign members. Prof. Hugh G. Dickinson from Oxford University is one of our new members. This is just provided for information at the Council Meeting because corresponding members are voted on at the annual business meeting.

Darbaker Prize Committee. The Darbaker Prize for 2004 is currently under consideration. The Darbaker Committee consists of: Debashish Bhattacharya (chair), Richard McCourt, and Annette Coleman. The award will be announced at the BSA banquet.

Graduate Student Awards Committee. This committee has been changed from Karling Awards Committee. The awardees will be announced at the BSA banquet.

Merit Awards Committee. The awardees will be announced at the BSA banquet.

Moseley Award Committee. Steve Scheckler reported that the winner will be announced at the BSA banquet.

Jeannette Siron Pelton Award. Scott Russell announced that the William E. Friedman was to receive this award.

Ad hoc committees

BSA Centennial Award Committee. Jack Horner indicated that there is much work ahead for the next two years. A history of the society will be written. Special symposia are planned. Medallions are being developed. Invitations to other societies will be made.

Cooperation with AABGA (Association with Arboreta and Botanical Gardens) and BSA Collaboration. No report yet, but the Executive Committee is working on this.

Section reports (note some extensive reports are on-line under Botanical Society of America 2004 Reports to the Council)

Bryological and Lichenological Section. Paula DePriest indicated that this section had twice as many attendees as normal.

Developmental and Structural Section. Pamela Diggle indicated that this section sponsored three symposia and funds were used for travel awards to graduate students.

Ecology Section. Suzanne Koptur thanked Scott Russell for making the list server available for section members. The sectional bylaws were changes this year to revise the election of sectional representatives.

Economic Botany Section. David Spooner reported that the Economic Botany Section sponsored a Tuesday luncheon. Three papers and one poster were presented. With the Tropical Biology and Genetics Section a symposium was sponsored on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Genetics Section. Chair Stephen J. Novak is in France on sabbatical. Randall Small reported that 15 posters and two full paper sections were sponsored. An award for best poster was presented.

Historical Section. Lee B. Kass (not in attendance) indicated nothing to report.

Mycological Section. No report given.

Paleobotanical Section. Lisa Boucher indicated that four sessions, a co-sponsored symposium, and one field trip was conducted.

Phycological Section. Martha E. Cook reported that electronic balloting was initiated.

Physiological Section. Denise Seliskar reported that one contributed paper session was sponsored and two awards given out.

Phytochemical Section. No report.

Pteridological Section. Warren Hauk Chair, but Karen Renzaglia reported that a full report was provided on line and there was nothing new to report here.

Systematics Section. Wayne Elisens reported that a full report was provided on line and there was nothing new to report here.

Teaching Section. James L. Mickle Report reported that a full report was forthcoming on-line.

Tropical Biology Section. Susanna Magallón reported that this section developed a symposium on the Convention on Biological Diversity, with funding assistance from the Genetics and Economic Botany Sections.

Mid-continent Section. This Section is vacant, nothing to report.

Northeastern Section. Nancy N. Williams reported that a full report was provided on line and there was nothing new to report here.

Pacific Section. Nancy R. Morin reported that this section is working to get active.

Southeastern Section. James L. Mickle reported that the BSA Southeastern Section normally meets with the Association of Southeastern Biologists. This section will present an award in the form of a plaque, membership to BSA, and \$300 travel award.

Representatives to other sections

AAAS. Linda Graham attended two AAAS meetings. AAAS is an opportunity for us to have a public policy presence. It also is an opportunity for us to get Fellowship recognition to AAAS. Linda participated in the development of plant-focused symposia. She also mentioned that the science writers meet at the AAAS meetings and this is a great way to get plant topics at AAAS meetings.

AIBS. Alison Snow indicated that this is a wonderful organization (they publish *Bioscience*). They are always looking for good topics for *Bioscience*.

CSSP (Council of Scientific Society Presidents). Linda Graham reported that CSSP publishes one-page white papers on controversial scientific topics and of use to legislators.

Old business. None.

New Business.

Joseph Armstrong presented the BSA budget. The budget is approved at the Executive Committee meeting, so at this point this is for information only.

The Financial Advisory Committee asks that we vote to advise the Executive Committee and the BSA Council on strategic planning for the \$25,000 that goes for initiatives. The vote was 8 for 6

against. So the Executive Committee is directed in making a plan to spend these funds by planning a less conservative attitude for long-range planning on society initiatives.

A vote was called for increasing the Section allocations from \$1150 to \$1300/year. This was passed unanimously.

Karl Niklas requested the Executive Committee to consider making the *American Journal of Botany* Editor-in-Chief an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.
Adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

From: Kent Holsinger, Treasurer

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

Assets

As of 30 June 2005, assets in the Society’s investment accounts totaled more than \$2.8M (Table 1), an increase of nearly \$580K from 30 June 2004. Of that increase, approximately \$280K was the result of investment returns (approximate annual rate of return 12.5%). The remainder was the result of a transfer of funds from operational accounts approved by the Executive Committee in late 2004.

Income and expenses

The budget approved for 2004/2005 included budgeted income of \$1.10M and budgeted expenses of \$1.07M *versus* year-to-date totals of \$1.23M and \$0.70M, respectively (Table 2). The Society budgeted investment income *very* conservatively at \$39.5K. The actual income of \$207K is primarily responsible for the difference between budgeted and actual income. Lower than expected employment expenses and publication expenses are primarily responsible for the difference between budgeted and actual expenses.

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

Investment funds balance 30 June 2004	\$2,235,156
Dividends, interest, and appreciation	279,026
Additions	300,000
<u>Investment funds balance 30 June 2005</u>	<u>\$2,814,182</u>

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

	Budgeted 2004/2005	Actual 2004/2005
Income	\$1,096,751	\$1,226,103
Operational income	907,251	894,808
Investment income	39,500	207,266
Botany Conference income	150,000	124,028
Expenses	\$1,069,050	\$ 702,757
Operational expenses	951,755	648,654

Investment expenses	24,000	25,140
Meetings expenses	93,295	28,963*
Balance	27,701	\$ 523,346

*Does not include many expenses associated with Botany 2005 because of timing

Program Director's Report

Council Representative's Report

I attended both the council and executive committee meetings held at the 2004 annual meeting and the executive committee meeting at Missouri Botanical Gardens in April, 2005.

This year I was responsible for the "Young Botanists Award" program and we will give out 25 awards in 2005. I have also taken an active role in organizing a session for the @005 annual meeting that is focused on increasing graduate student participation in the society.

Respectfully submitted, Pamela Diggle

2005 Editor's Report, *American Journal of Botany*

2005 Editor's Report, *Plant Science Bulletin*

Most back issues of Plant Science Bulletin are now available on-line through the BSA web page. This project will soon be completed.

Volume 50

- Four issues, 144 pages, were published on schedule with press runs of 3800 copies.
- Feature articles included:
 - Where is Botany Going? 50(1)
 - Another Opinion: Up with Alphabetically Arranged Herbaria
 - Combining Breadth with Specialization to Build a Strong Botany Department. 50(2)
 - Botany Program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
 - Developing a Curriculum for the Teaching of Botany
 - Botany at Miami University. 50(3)
 - What Works for Me: Undergraduate Perspectives on Professional Development. 50(4)
 - The Widespread Misconception that the Tambalacoque or Calvaria Tree Absolutely Required the Dodo Bird for its Seeds to Germinate.
- Summaries of the Forum Plenary Address, "Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Teach Evolution..." by Eugenie Scott; the Plenary Address, "Organismal Biology in Prime Time" by Rita R. Colwell and the President Elect's address: "Botany in the News: How to Communicate the Fruits of our Research." By Allison A. Snow were published in 50(3).
- 96 books were received for review; 57 reviews were published.

Volume 51

Beginning with this volume, files are being sent electronically to Allen Press. The Society's copyright permission policy for authors has been incorporated into the submission process.

1. Two issues, 72 pages, have been published on schedule. Fall issue is in preparation.

2. Feature articles included:

-The Native Plant Conservation Campaign- The National Advocacy Network for Native Plant Science and Conservation. 51(1)

-Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

-The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). 51(2)

-Reinventing Plant Biology

3. A total of 28 books were received for review, 26 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

Webmaster & Web statistics, Botanical Society of America

To be presented to the Botanical Society of America Council Meeting and the Business Meeting, **Sunday, August 14th**, and **Tuesday, August 16th**, 2005, Austin, Texas

Introduction

One million, one hundred and ninety one thousand, one hundred and four (1,191,104) visitors came to the Botanical Society of America's main website from July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005. This is up 80 percent on the previous year and reflects website statistics across the board.

The BSA website is continuing to develop as a major support tool for the Society in impacting its mission. To support our efforts we have hired a web specialist, Rob Brandt. He has done much of the development work on the BSA conference site and will oversee the integration of all our systems over the coming year.

Rob and Claire Hemingway will drive our educational outreach presence on the web in 2006. This will also take member participation. The potential for reaching people interested in botany and/or plants, in line with our mission, is almost unlimited. The key is having content that keeps people coming back and telling others to visit.

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

We have completed or made substantial progress on all of the projects listed in last year's report. Our accounting systems are now all online. As those attending the Botany 2005 conference can attest, we have made major changes to the conference support systems on the web, and this component will continue to evolve. Our educational outreach is gathering momentum and will be a big part of what we accomplish over the coming year. The Scientific Inquiry through Plants project remains our single largest effort.

Statistics – BSA site

As the "Average Visitor Session per Day" diagram indicates, the trend for people accessing the BSA website continues to grow. Over the past few months we have had roughly 4,000 people a day visiting the site. For the same period last year the number was about 2,000 and 800 people per day in 2003. Our highest rate of visitors per day was achieved in April with an

average of 4,571 (2,330 in 2004). April 2005 was also our busiest month to date with over 137,000 visitors.

For the month of June 2005 the Botanical Society of America's website experienced 1,558,729 successful hits (848,544 in 2004, 423,993 in 2003). The "successful hits" trend for the period February 2000 through June 2005 is highlighted in the diagram to the right. Our record high was achieved in April 2005 with 1,961,056 hits.

In June of 2005 we transferred 20.39 gigabytes of data to visitors (9.73 in 2004, 3.51 in 2003). Our highest month for data transfer was April 2005 at 23.37 gigabytes. With increased content it is important to note that people are also spending longer at our site.

In the 2003 & 2004 reports 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.

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

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

Website statistics can be viewed online in the reports section of the website at:

<http://www.botany.org/newsite/reporting/webstats.php>

Statistics - *American Journal of Botany*

The overall trend for use of the *American Journal of Botany* online remains positive. Access after the introduction of paid online subscriptions continues to grow. We will monitor this closely over the coming months as we continue to add links from the main site directly to AJB articles. We hope to dramatically increase traffic over the next twelve months.

We currently have 1,404 (1,476, 1,505 in 2004 & 2003 respectively) members and 1,038 (764, 182 in 2004 & 2003 respectively) 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.

Botany Conference Site - Development s

Over the past year we have worked to establish one of the better abstract submission and display sites on the web. We've moved meeting management to a new level for the BSA and its partner Societies.

BSA Educational Outreach

In early 2006 the BSA's main website will begin to support a range of educational activities. Stop for a moment and consider the potential. For example, a topic in the "Scientific

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

Thank you to Beverly Brown and members of the teaching section who have begun reviewing the old BSA image Collection. They will review the images we have online and make corrections and suggestions for updating the text. We will be seeking specific sectional support for assistance wherever possible.

Thank you also to members who donated images to the site. Over the past year we were able to add over 400 new images.

Functional Developments

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

Summary

In 2005 the BSA staff adopted/created what we call the BSA’s 3M concept, with the three Ms being: Mission, Member Services & Support, and Member Recognition. We trust you’ll find the concepts carrying forward to the BSA websites in that we are: #1 moving forward and delivering on the BSA’s mission; #2 making things easier for you in all aspects of member support and services; and #3 if you are producing work for the Society, be it in the AJB, PSB, images, educational resources... we’ll make sure people find your work if they are looking.

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

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Bill Dahl

Business Manager, Botanical Society of America

Introduction

The following report provides an overview of the activities of the Botanical Society of America’s business office over the past twelve months. Let me begin by thanking and acknowledging the Executive Committee for their support and direction. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Society, and myself, I also thank and acknowledge the Society’s staff, Rob Brandt, Beth Hazen, Claire Hemingway, Wanda Lovan, and Johanne Storgan for their effort and dedication to the Botanical Society of America. What an exciting year! Once again, as a team, we were able to improve our ability to support BSA members, meetings and our mission.

Thank You

A special thank you to those members who donated to our endowment and to the BSA sectional/awards funds. Contributions totaled over \$5,000. Over the coming year we will be working to establish a series of opportunities for members to provide legacy contributions. It is felt many may wish to provide continued support for what

Profit and Loss Comparison (YTD)			
	2005	2004	2003
Operations			
Income	\$ 894,807.99	\$ 858,510.60	\$ 783,628.47
Expenditure	\$ 648,654.29	\$ 484,506.69	\$ 460,811.79
Balance	\$ 246,153.70	\$ 374,003.91	\$ 322,816.68
Conference			
Income	\$ 124,028.28	\$ 182,689.43	\$ 130,967.59
Expenditure	\$ 28,963.00	\$ 31,855.77	\$ 13,956.20
Balance	\$ 95,065.28	\$ 150,833.66	\$ 117,011.39
Investments			
Income	\$ 207,266.45	\$ 251,912.22	\$ 290,697.55
Expenditure	\$ 25,139.63	\$ 20,805.95	\$ -
Balance	\$ 182,126.82	\$ 231,106.27	\$ 290,697.55
Current Position			
Income	\$ 1,226,102.72	\$ 1,293,112.25	\$ 1,205,293.61
Expenditure	\$ 702,756.92	\$ 537,168.41	\$ 474,767.99
Balance	\$ 523,345.80	\$ 755,943.84	\$ 730,525.62
Account Balance Comparison			
BSA Cash	\$ 73,262.30	\$ 14,775.56	13
BSA MM	\$ 431,810.64	\$ 439,316.34	
Meeting	\$ 36,101.08	\$ 67,815.36	
Smith Barney	\$ 2,901,661.04	\$ 2,384,899.07	
Total	\$ 3,442,835.06	\$ 2,906,806.33	

can be viewed as personal contributions for future awards and activities in one's area of expertise.

Financial Report

As of 7-16-05, the Botanical Society of America's total cash position in the St. Louis and Columbus accounts was \$541,174.02 (\$522,207.26 in 2004). This was comprised of \$73,262.30 in St. Louis checking, \$431,810.64 in the Money Market Account and \$36,101.08 in the Columbus conference account.

Income from operations for the year to date is \$894,807.99 (\$858,510.60 in 2004, up 4.2%) with expenditure of \$648,654.29 (\$471,770.54 in 2004, up 33.9%). Based on anticipated expenditure and income projections, we will produce a surplus for the 2004/2005 financial-year of approximately \$140,000. We will hold enough reserve to make it into the beginning of the November membership and subscription renewal period. For further information, please see the Treasurer's report.

Membership & Institutional Subscription Activity

Membership & Institutional Subscription Activity

	Print Subscriptions			Online Only			Total		Total	
	USA	Other	Total	USA	Other	Total				
Memberships										
Jul-02	612	329	941		987	314	1,301		2,242	
Jul-03	597	344	941	0%	1,096	348	1,444	11%	2,385	6%
Jul-04	551	324	875	-7%	968	347	1,315	-9%	2,190	-8%
Jul-05	547	268	815	-7%	1,099	325	1,424	8%	2,239	2%
Institutional Subscriptions										
Jul-02	1,309	380	1,689		9	3	12		1,701	
Jul-03	1,217	344	1,561	-8%	23	14	37	68%	1,598	-6%
Jul-04	1,212	342	1,554	0%	34	17	51	27%	1,605	0%
Jul-05	1,182	300	1,482	-5%	44	44	88	42%	1,570	-2%
Total										
Jun-02	1,921	709	2,630		996	317	1,313		3,943	
Jun-03	1,814	688	2,502	-5%	1,119	362	1,481	11%	3,983	1%
Jun-04	1,763	666	2,429	-3%	1,002	364	1,366	-8%	3,795	-5%
Jun-05	1,729	568	2,297	-6%	1,143	369	1,512	10%	3,809	0%

Membership numbers are up 2.2% on 2004 levels. Members ordering print subscription to the *American Journal of Botany* are down 6.8%. Institutional subscriptions are down by 2.2%, with print only subscriptions showing a 5.4% drop.

Professional, emeritus and life members need to encourage students to join the BSA. I'd like to suggest our student numbers, at less than 17%, are too low. It is important that we continue to bring in the leaders of the future. Member benefits have never been better.

I'd like to suggest we create a two new membership classes, one for associate members and one for amateur botanists.

The associate member class will be designed as a "sponsor type" membership. Our members may provide "associate status membership" to associates in countries in which they are doing research work. This will include full access to the online AJB features.

Membership Profile by Type

Corresponding	50	2.2%
Life	48	2.1%
Emeritus	136	6.1%
Emeritus Family	13	0.6%
Professional	1439	64.3%
Professional Family	181	8.1%
Student	364	16.3%
Student Family	6	0.3%
K-12 Teacher	2	0.1%

The amateur class will be designed to further our mission in regards to botanical education and the dissemination of scientific information. It will be designed to support the large number of amateur botanical groups around the world. This will be a non-voting, non-publishing member class, with the main benefit being online access to the journal and journal archives.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended we form a new member class, the amateur botanist. This will be a non-voting, non-publishing membership with online access to the *American Journal of Botany* (including the journal archives). Registration will be through the online process only. Cost = \$20

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended we form a new member class, the associate member. This will be a non-voting, non-publishing membership with online access to the *American Journal of Botany* (including the journal archives). Registration will be through the online process only. Cost will be \$10 and must come through a current member.

American Journal of Botany

The *AJB* continues to thrive in a challenging and ever-changing environment. As noted above, the journal continues to face a declining print subscription base, down 14.5% over the past four years (5.7% last year). We are also watching an evolving debate around “open access” and various economic models designed to provide free access to printed materials. Our best response to changing conditions is a strong and well-supported publication. We need members to support and publish their best science in the *AJB*.

We are keeping trends in mind when making pricing and print run decisions. We have increased the base institutional subscription prices for the *AJB* from \$415 to \$440 in the 2006 year. I feel we should also increase our print rate to members by \$5 for students/emeritus and \$10 for professional members. These prices remain well below 50% of cost.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended we increase *AJB* member subscriptions by \$5 for students/emeritus and \$10 for professional members. This will reflect consistency in our policy for subscriptions to members and institutions alike.

The journal is the major asset and income earner for the BSA. Our future is very much pinned to its strength and the quality of scientific papers it attracts. Improving its ranking, and thus the need for libraries to carry an institutional subscription, is critical to the society as a whole.

Making our process cost effective and simple for authors are as important. In this respect, the *AJB* also presents itself as a venue for us to offer some of our most important membership benefits. At present, our base policy offers members the ability to publish eight free pages per year. Beyond this, we charge \$135 per page plus all incidental costs. We also charge \$365 for each color plate. Staff feels this policy needs be updated in an effort to encourage and increase a member’s desire and ability to publish in the *AJB*. We also feel it will increase the value of publishing as a member benefit. Our ultimate goal is to make publishing in the *AJB*, rather than other journals, the first option for all BSA members.

We would like to suggest, beginning January 1, 2006, we establish a new policy that encourages long-term BSA membership and increases the desire to publish in the *AJB*.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended we set new criteria for our “free page” policy in an effort to provide an incentive for long-term membership and increase our member’s desire/ability to publish in the *AJB*. I suggest we move to 20 free pages per year for members of more than 10 consecutive years, 16 free pages for members of 5-9 years and 12 free pages per year for members of 1-4 years.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended we set new criteria for our “color charge” policy in an effort to provide incentive for long-term membership and encourage more color in the journal. I suggest we move to free color plates for members of more than 10 years, \$100 per color plate (maximum charge of \$250) for members of 5-9 years and \$150 per color plate (maximum charge of \$300) for members of 1-4 years.

BSA Conference Planning

I’m pleased to report the redesign of the Conference abstract submission program has gone extremely well. You’ll find it much easier to submit abstracts. We have added new features to the website, the ability to create your own meeting itinerary, add live web-links to abstracts and upload presentation documents/files. We also offer poster presenters space to hold PDF files of their presentations. Botany 2006 (Chico) is beginning to take shape. For more details, please see the Centennial Planning Committee report.

Upcoming Botany Conferences:

2007 Joint meeting with American Society of Plant Biologists, ABLs, AFS, and ASPT in Chicago

2008 Joint meeting with the Canadian Botanical Association-L'Association Botanique du Canada, ABLs, AFS, and ASPT in Vancouver

2009 Joint meeting with the Mycological Association of America, ABLs, AFS, and ASPT in Snowbird

BSA Office Developments & Functions

Building the BSA staff team has been the key development and improvement for 2005. The *American Journal of Botany* management and production is now run through St. Louis. Beth Hazen, Production Editor, runs the production and copy editing out of her home in New York; Claire Hemingway manages the overall workflow out of the St. Louis office and will shortly be joined by Amy McPherson. Amy will assume Claire’s role, and Claire will move to a dual role largely focusing on educational initiatives. Rob Brandt has also joined the team to run our information technology function. Rob did most of the work on our abstract submission site. Over the coming year, he will use his expertise to synchronize all our systems and make things much simpler for all.

With the new staff group, we will begin to focus on how we move forward on our mission. In many instances, I feel this will develop by supporting appropriate activities and projects at the committee/section level.

RECOMMENDATION: Beginning in budget 2006/7, money will be allocated to committees in an effort to accomplish specific mission-related tasks. A staff member will operate as an ex-officio member of each committee that has been allocated funds to support project development and completion.

Web Developments

For a detailed report, please see the Webmaster’s report. In short, the BSA websites have had another good year in terms of access. The number of visitors to the main BSA website is up 80% on last year. More importantly we are developing tools such as “Scientific Inquiry through Plants” that will drive expansion in a mission-related way.

Scientific Inquiry through Plants

Scientific Inquiry through Plants is an innovative forum allowing students to discover biological core concepts through hands-on inquiry projects and online mentorship from plant scientists.

The "Scientific Inquiry through Plants" project continues to gather steam. It will be a major feature during the educational forum and presented again in the Teaching Section papers for the scientific meeting. Please take some time to understand the concept as it holds tremendous potential for outreach in relation to our mission. Go to http://www.botany.org/scientific_inquiry/
Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee is in the process of establishing a set of botanical resources (webpages) for each State. This project will expand internationally over time. Go to <http://www.botany.org/newsite/conservation/>
Teaching Section

Special thanks to the Teaching Section as its members begin the process of reviewing the BSA's online image collection. This is a tough task, and we really would like to get the sections involved in both reviewing/altering image comments and donating further images.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended we continue to develop and expand the "Scientific Inquiry through Plants" project.

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.

American Society of Plant Biologists

We have continued to develop relations with ASPB. You'll have noted the 2007 joint meeting in Chicago. We are also re-opening discussions regarding joint educational outreach possibilities. I attended their educational committee meeting in Seattle and am excited about the possibilities of collaboration. In return, Dr. Lawrence Griffing, ASPB Education Committee Chair, will attend our meeting in Austin.

Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP)

Ed Schneider and I attended the CSSP meeting in Washington DC in November of 2004.

Ecological Society of America

In conjunction with the CSSP, meeting Ed and I met with ESA Executive Director Katherine S. McCarter. We discussed the possibility of holding a joint meeting in 2010 or beyond. No decision has been reached.

On behalf of the BSA staff, we wish you a great Botany 2005 and a rewarding 2006.

Bill Dahl, Executive Director

Annual Meetings Program Committee Report

2005 Report of the Archives and History Committee:

The Archives of the Botanical Society were transferred this past year from storage at the New York Botanical Garden to a new home in the Executive Offices of the Society at the Missouri Botanical Garden. They arrived in cardboard file boxes and have been refiled into more permanent filing cabinets by Bill Dahl, Executive Director of the Society and Wanda Lovan, Administrative Officer. Organization of the files was retained according to the year of submission. During this academic year the archives, which are preserved in part to be available for historical research, were accessed by Betty Smocovitis, University of Florida Historian of Science. Betty is using them as a primary source of information, both for hard data on membership, finances, meetings, etc., and for information on the times and personal interactions among the members influential in the development of the Society. Her research will appear as a history of the Society, in celebration of our coming centennial anniversary.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Graham

Conservation Committee Report

Annual Report of the BSA Education Committee

Members of the BSA Education Committee have been involved in three major projects/activities over the last year. One of the most promising results of these is the increased level of interactions between the Teaching Section and the Education Committee of BSA. Members of the Teaching Section and of the Education Committee are working together on projects such as the review of teaching slides/images. This review is being coordinated by the Teaching Section, with assistance from the Education Committee. The two groups are also working on the Psi- π project (now SIP), with individuals serving as online mentors for students conducting research in middle schools, high schools, and colleges. These same individuals serve as reviewers of contributions that have been posted online by students engaged in the Psi- π activities. Bill Dahl has been a key person in the development of SIP.

Bill Dahl recently met with the ASPB Executive Director and several members of the ASPB Education Committee in hopes of reinvigorating interactions with that organization, especially those dealing with plant biology education. Gordon Uno had initiated discussions with the ASPB Education Director, however, that individual left the ASPB last year, and discussions stalled. The initial contacts were intended to bring together the expertise of BSA and ASPB members and to develop a set of educational materials for pre-college students, focusing on the high school level. The new goal is to work with the ASPB on a few major educational projects, targeting both pre-college and college-level classrooms, teachers, and students. One of the projects is SIP, and the other is the development of new and the revision of existing pre-college classroom materials on plants. A timeline will be outlined that leads to a unveiling of coordinated activities at the convention at which both ASPB and BSA meet in 2007.

Election Committee Report, 2005

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

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 Jeffrey M. Osborn and Christopher H. Haufler, and for Program Director, Karen S. Renzaglia. Ballots were counted on 1 July 2005, and candidates were notified of the results as soon as practicable thereafter. Christopher H. Haufler and Karen S. Renzaglia 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, Linda Graham, Chair, Election Committee, Steven Manchester, Patricia Gensel, Steve Weller, David Spooner, Secretary, *ex officio*

BSA Financial Advisory Committee [Greg Anderson (member), Russell Chapman (member), Jack Horner (chair), Bill Dahl (ex off), Allison Snow (ex off), and Kent Holsinger (ex off)].

Re: **Annual Report of FAC activities for 2004-2005**

Since the previous 2003-2004 Annual Report, the FAC has:

- continued to monitor the BSA Endowment Fund (EF) invested with Smith Barney (SB)
- had two conference calls with Smith Barney regarding EF and strategies for investment
- made decisions on how monies from the BSA Office are invested in EF
- recommended a portion of EF to be used by EC/Council during 2005-2006

As of June 30, 2005 the EF value was \$2,814,182. As of June 30, 2004 the EF value was \$2,235,156, an increase of \$579,026. The EF is divided among three accounts that contain stocks, bonds, and money market money. The accounts are:

1. Stocks + (money market funds)	\$2,022,069
2. Stocks + (money market funds)	\$ 399,880
3. Bonds + (money market funds)	<u>\$ 392,233</u>
	Total \$2,814,182*

***As of the date of this report (7/29/05, 4:30 pm CDT) the EF total is at \$2,934,296.**

Throughout the past year, the FAC has communicated via emails and phone calls.

The FAC has carried out two conference calls with the SB financial consultants during the year. These calls were related to various questions initiated by the FAC regarding investment strategies and returns, monitoring of investments in only socially responsible companies, and management fees. These calls and questions have provided information to both FAC and SB to insure that the EF is well balanced, invested in socially responsible ways, and is generating optimum income during the present and in the near-future world economy.

The FAC believes the EF is well positioned to make money, is well managed by SB, and will continue to grow and provide financial benefits to the BSA in the future.

The FAC strongly encourages the EC/Council/Business Office to consider ways of increasing the Endowment Fund to 5.0 million by the Centennial Meeting in August 2006;

The FAC has scheduled a meeting in Austin, TX on Monday, August 15, 2005 at noon (location and room yet to be determined by meeting time).

Recommendation: The FAC recommends that \$25,000 be provided from the EF to the EC and Council to be used for 'special initiatives' during 2005-2006 (per FAC Guideline 4);

The chair or any member of the FAC will be willing to answer questions about the EF that the EC/Council may have.

Submitted by, Jack Horner, BSA FAC Chair

MEMBERSHIP AND APPRAISAL COMMITTEE REPORT, 2005

The Membership and Appraisal Committee this year distributed the new posters and bookmarks designed by our former chair and the committee. There was a very favorable response to these excellently designed and very colorful posters with illustrations from former AJB covers.

The committee discussed how to increase membership for the coming year. Most of us believe that attracting new student members is the key to increasing our membership over time. The committee chair sent a memo to all of the section chairs to ask what specifically they do for students. Some sections have student awards which are all posted on-line, but other sections provide money for students to attend meetings, banquet tickets and other items. We received very few responses from section chairs, but believe that some of this information should be added to the BSA website in the future to attract student attention.

The BSA is holding a discussion session for students at the Austin meetings for brainstorming about how students can become more actively involved in BSA. Our committee feels that this is a step in the right direction.

Please refer to Bill Dahl's report on the status of the BSA for membership numbers. See several recommendations therein detailing potential ways to increase the membership. Several improvements to the website have added involving outreach to teachers (Botany 2005 Education

Forum) and items of interest to students (Dave Spooner's "What an adventure, this is my career" story), and the job postings continue to be important. The idea to attract noon-professional members seems to be a good one. We are unsure of the amount of \$20 as being a fair price when students pay \$30. It will be interesting to see how many potential members this would involve.

We still have one position vacant on the committee and attempts are being made to fill this position for the coming year.

Ruth Stockey

Publications Committee Report, 2005

It has been a quiet year for the publications committee. The new editor of American Journal of Botany seems to be off to a good start and Judy has not mentioned any concerns that the committee should address. Likewise, Plant Science Bulletin is going well and the editor did not have anything of concern for the committee.

Perhaps the topic of open access publication is appropriate for this report. Patrick Herendeen attended several events focused on open access this year and has written up a report for BSA and ASPT on a session sponsored by AIBS in May. That report is included here. Open access is a subject that society publishers like BSA and ASPT will need to monitor closely.

Open Access – AIBS Meeting 8-9 May 2005 Report written jointly for BSA and ASPT

AIBS organized a discussion on open access ("OA") during the council meeting on Sunday afternoon, 8 May, and a full day session on Monday, 9 May, that included a broader audience and speaker panel.

The individual presentations will be made available on the AIBS web site in the near future.

The session was informative, although there was a certain amount of repetition from the AAAS sessions on open access and the Allen Press Emerging Trends symposium on open access. I already prepared a detailed report on the AAAS session. Rather than provide details on each talk in this program I provide an overall summary. One thing that is important to remember is that "open access" publishing does not mean "free" publishing. There are real costs involved in publication, even electronic publication, and someone must pay these costs. There is a wide variety of approaches being taken to OA. The concept behind some implementations of OA is that payment shifts from consumers (i.e., library subscribers) to producers (authors), the so-called "pure" open access. PLoS (Public Library of Science) is the most prominent example of this model of open access. But there are other approaches that are being explored. There is a great deal of experimentation going on, and a considerable amount of time in these sessions was devoted to exploring various options and examples. There is no one answer that will fit all fields and publishers.

The open access movement developed as a response to the problem of rapidly escalating journal prices, primarily due to a few commercial publishers, with the initial focus on medical literature and publicly funded research. While the goal of broader dissemination of scholarly literature is laudable, the "author pays" approach to financing publication will not work for all disciplines. One of the speakers noted that in most cases federal funding subsidizes research, it does not pay for it completely. Likewise federal funding subsidizes many other services, products, and activities. The argument that scientific literature should be free to users because federal funding paid for the research is a flawed argument.

Mary Waltham (publishing consultant) provided good background information on Open Access, concepts, definitions, etc. Open Access ("OA") today means a diversity of things to different groups so it is important to be clear on meaning. One of the more interesting talks was by Carl Bergstrom on the economics of publishing and open access. He presented very interesting graphics illustrating the differences in cost and quality in society published vs. corporate journals.

“Pure” Open Access. The core principal of open access is making the literature widely available on the internet and free to the user. Differences emerge in the timing of free access and how to cover the costs of publication. What has been described as “pure” open access is a system in which the literature is freely available immediately upon publication. PLoS is the most prominent example of pure OA. To pay the costs involved in publishing the author of a paper that is accepted for publication is expected to pay a fee for publication of the paper. These fees may be around \$1,000 – \$2,000. PLoS is just getting started and it will take some time before we know whether this business model will be viable. At present PLoS is subsidized by a major grant. Because the fee is paid when a manuscript is accepted, one concern is that financial constraints could influence manuscript acceptance decisions.

Open Access After Embargo Period. An alternative that some publishers have adopted is to make the publication freely available after some “embargo period” during which subscribers must pay for access. This model has been adopted by some publishers so that institutional subscriptions are not endangered and the cost of publication continues to be paid by the consumer. The idea is that the embargo period approach may provide moderation in journal prices because if the price is too high libraries will decide to wait out the embargo period. One significant concern is determining the appropriate embargo period because one that is too short may endanger subscriptions. Different fields of science have very different patterns of literature usage. The “citation half life” in taxonomy or plant anatomy is much longer than it is in evo-devo, for example, and this can influence how long readers may be willing to wait for free content. In the examples I have seen recently embargo periods seem to range from six months to two years.

Per Article OA. Some publishers are experimenting with “per article open access” through a fee paid by the author. Under this approach an author pays a fee to the publisher and in return the article is made freely available online to anyone. The fees that have been established for such a service range from quite modest (several hundred) to several thousand. An author may decide whether he/she wishes to make the article freely available. In this way individual articles are OA but the journal as a whole is not. The Entomological Society of America charges 75% of the price an author would pay for 100 reprints (currently 61% of authors participate). So long as not too many articles are OA this should not endanger subscriptions. Determining what is “too many” can be difficult. Some publishers have established a sliding scale for fees such that the price goes up as more authors elect to participate. Several of the commercial publishers have adopted per article OA arrangements.

Author Archiving.

Another issue discussed by Mary and others was “author archiving” or “self archiving” of articles. In this case authors post e-copy of their papers on personal or institutional web sites, or in the case of the recent NIH initiative, archiving by a major institution. In the case of Systematic Botany authors have the right to use their publications as they wish, so they are free to participate in author archiving. Some publishers impose an embargo period on this form of OA (e.g., Entomological Society of America allows author archiving after 24 months). Most people do not seem to think that author archiving poses a significant challenge to subscriptions, in part because the individual articles are dispersed.

Economic Considerations

Professional societies are advised to diversify our income base so that we are not so dependant on library subscriptions. However, this is easier said than done! Income comes from memberships, institutional subscriptions, page charges, advertising, royalty fees, annual meeting, reprint sales, and several other minor categories. Some societies make significant income from their annual meeting, but these are usually much larger groups and registration fees are considerably higher than what the botanical community has supported. The annual botany meeting is priced as low as possible to encourage maximum attendance. Pricing higher to increase income is counter to the philosophy the participating societies have adopted.

Advertising in a small niche market such as botany will never generate great amounts of income. Thus it seems to me that the only real scope we have for generating greater income to reduce the reliance on library subscriptions is society membership. Charging higher membership rates does not seem to be viable, so that leaves enlarging the membership.

How can we bring in more people to join BSA and ASPT? Some societies have created a “Members Only” section on their web site where restricted access materials are posted that are thought to have the potential to attract members to the society. For example, the members only area could include job announcements, the society’s newsletter, review articles, book reviews, opinion pieces, news & views, etc. In addition, some societies place “preprint” articles in the members only area. These are the author’s final revised manuscripts that have been accepted for publication (note- this is what NIH is requesting authors submit to PubMed Central to meet its open access goal). The preprints would be available to members only until they are published, at which time they would be removed from the members only area and would be subject to whatever access policy is adopted for the online journal (e.g., 12 month embargo for OA). The idea is that increasing the benefits of membership in this way would encourage people to join the society and therefore reduce the dependence on institutional subscriptions. However, posting author’s final manuscripts on a members only site would be counter to the goals of open access. The philosophy at present is that making these resources freely available rather than restricting access to them will attract people to the society. Although a members only area is counter to the way we have done things, perhaps it is worth thinking about. Other ideas to enhance membership and reduce reliance on institutional subscriptions need to be explored. When this problem is solved we will be in a better position to take a more aggressive approach to open access.

I believe we do not need to feel too much guilt and pressure to act on open access before a well thought out strategy is developed. Our journal prices are quite reasonable. I would favor efforts to enhance distribution of the journals to developing countries as having greater immediate priority than open access in general. It seems to be that some sort of embargo approach is the most sensible for us to explore. Clearly the PLoS “pure” model is not practical for BSA and ASPT in the foreseeable future.

Patrick Herendeen

Webpage Committee – See Webmaster report above.

Corresponding Members Committee – See Past President report above.

Esau Committee Report Prepared by Larry Hufford 5 August 2005

At Botany 2004, the Esau Committee (Dennis Stevenson, chair; Cindi Jones, and Larry Hufford) evaluated several student talks and selected the presentation by Athena McKown of the University of Toronto to receive the Esau Award.

The Esau Committee for Botany 2005 consists of L. Hufford (Chair), Cindi Jones, and Uwe Hacke. The committee will evaluate seven student presentations;

Merit Award Committee Report

Richard Olmstead, Edith Taylor, Allison Snow (ex officio), and Lynn Bohs (Chair)

One nomination was received this year for the BSA Merit Award: Dr. Scott Russell of the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Russell’s research centers around the morphological, physiological, and developmental aspects of double fertilization in plants, and in particular the structure and behavior of sperm cells during reproduction. In addition to his nomination letter, four letters were received supporting his candidacy. The BSA Honors Committee reviewed these documents and unanimously voted to honor Dr. Russell with the BSA Merit Award.

During their deliberations, the Honors Committee members were split on the criteria for the Merit Award. Although all committee members agreed that scientific research

accomplishments were the main criteria for the award, there was some debate about the role of service to the BSA in the Merit Awards. The criterion stated in the call for nominations is simply stated as “outstanding contributions to botanical science.” The BSA Council or President might want to consider clarifying the award criteria to the Merit Award Committee in the future before they begin their deliberations.

The Merit Award Committee would also like to encourage more BSA members to submit nominations for this award. We were disappointed to have only received one nomination and know that there are many distinguished botanists who would be worthy candidates for this award. It reflects well on our society and discipline to honor accomplished botanists in our midst. We would like to see more nominations for this award in the future, on a par with the several recipients per year that the BSA had in the past.

Report of MOSELEY AWARD COMMITTEE

(3 appointed members; 3 year terms) [Frank Ewers](#) (2005), Chair, Kevin Boyce (2006), Patricia Gensel (2007)

The Maynard F. Moseley Award was established to honor a career of dedicated teaching, scholarship, and service to the furtherance of the botanical sciences. The award is presented to the student who is the sole or senior author of a paper, orally presented in the sessions of the Developmental and Structural Section or Paleobotanical Section of the annual BSA conference that best advances our understanding of plant anatomy and/or morphology of vascular plants within an evolutionary context.

Athena McKown won the Moseley Award in 2004 for her presentation “Evolution of Kranz anatomy in the genus *Flaveria* (Asteraceae).” Her co-authors were Jean-Marc Moncalvo and Nancy Dengler.

In part to accommodate the different student award committees, for 2005 the Developmental and Structural Section followed the practice of the Paleobotanical Section, which is to put all of the student presentations into a single session. This makes it more convenient for the award committee members to see most, or all of the student talks, which is more fair to the students. However, in addition to the student sessions, this year there will also be two graduate student presentors within a symposium co-sponsored by the Developmental and Structural Section, who will also receive consideration for the Moseley Award.

BSA Centennial Planning Committee (CPC)

[[Greg Anderson](#), [Carol Baskin](#), [Pat Gensel](#), [Linda Graham](#), [Kent Holsinger](#), [Lee Kass](#), [Karl Niklas](#), [Bill Dahl](#), [Judy Jernstedt](#), [Ed Schneider](#), [Betty Smocovitis](#), [Allison Snow](#), [Jeff Osborn](#), and [Johanne Stogran](#), johanne@botany.org]

Re: **Annual Report of Centennial Planning Committee (CPC) activities for 2004-2005**

The CPC has been meeting throughout the year via email and has made progress in the planning of the Centennial meeting, July 29-August 2, 2006 at Chico State University, Chico, CA. The CPC will be meeting immediately before the Council meeting in Austin, so an-up-to-date summary will be provided. The items for planning the Centennial are listed below.

Items for planning:

1. Determine centennial theme title - [completed](#)
2. Complete medallion and tack pin design(s) - [completed](#)
3. BSA Centennial history – [in progress](#)
4. CD and video history – [to be done](#)
5. Format of meeting – [in progress](#)
6. Banquet program – [to be done](#)
7. Continuous advertisement via PSB and BSA web site – [in progress](#)

8. Funding for meeting (speakers, special events, etc.) – to be done
9. Invitations for affiliated societies representatives, corresponding members, etc. – to be done
10. Special recognitions; first time to use Merit Award Medallion – to be done
11. Develop displays/exhibits for exhibit area and banquet – to be done
12. Develop budget for 2005- 2006 – in progress
13. Special Endowment fund drive for Centennial (i.e., \$50 or more = free medallion) – to be done
14. Special cover for 2006 Program; possibly July 2006 AJB cover – to be done

The CPC will be happy to answer any questions that the EC and Council may have about the planning.

Submitted by Jack Horner (BSA CPC Chair)

Bryological and Lichenological Section

The Bryological and Lichenological (B&L) Section met with the American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS) for Botany 2004 at Snowbird, Utah. The B&L Section co-sponsored with ABLS two symposia, (“The biology of rarity” and “Sexual dimorphism in bryophytes”), four paper sessions and a poster session during meeting. ABLS President-elect Nancy Slack and Local representative Larry St. Clair coordinated the sessions. The Section also co-sponsored two field trips, a pre-conference moss field trip led by Clayton Newberry and a post-conference lichen trip organized by Larry St. Clair. The Section also co-sponsored a breakfast social and a mixer.

At Botany 2004, the A. J. Sharp Award for the outstanding paper presented by a student was given to Erin Martin for her presentation (co-authored by Bruce McCune and Linda Geiser), “Variation in the occurrence of rare epiphytic lichens of the western Oregon Cascades.” Honorable mention went to Sylvia Pressel for her paper (co-authored by Jeffrey Duckett), “Protonemal diversity: new insights into moss systematics,” and Lyn Baldwin for her paper (co-authored by Gary Bradfield), “Remnant patch size influences bryophyte richness and abundance in British Columbia temperate rainforests: implications for management.” The winner receives a stipend of \$500 from the B&L Section and a free membership and subscription to *The Bryologist* from ABLS. The runnerups receive a free membership to ABLS for a year.

In addition, awards for the outstanding papers published in *The Bryologist* in 2003 were presented at the meeting. The Tuckerman Award, given for the outstanding paper on lichenology, was awarded to James Lawrey and Paul Diederich for “Lichenicolous fungi: interactions, evolution, and biodiversity.” Honorable mention went to Bernard Goffinet, Jolanta Miadlikowska, and Trevor Goward for “Phylogenetic inferences based on nrDNA sequences support five morphospecies with the *Peltigera didactyla* complex (lichenized Ascomycota).” The Sullivant Award, given for the outstanding paper in bryology, was awarded to Merritt R. Turetsky for “The role of bryophytes in carbon and nitrogen cycling.” Honorable mention went to Viivi Virtanen for “Phylogeny of the Bartramiaceae (Bryopsida) based on *rbcL*, *rps4*, and *trnL-trnF* sequence data. The winners of the Tuckerman and Sullivan Awards receive a cash award of \$500.

In 2005 the B&L Section will meet with ABLS at the BSA Botany 2005 conference in Austin, and a number co-sponsored activities are planned: the annual ABLS (and B&L Section) Breakfast, the A. J. Sharp student award competition for best paper, the ABLS and B&L Section mixer, and a one-day pre-conference field trip to local bryological and lichenological collecting sites. The Section will sponsor a full-day symposium, “Desiccation tolerance in bryophytes and lichens,” and a half-day symposium, “Finding funding for research and inventory assessments for bryophytes and lichens.” The Section will provide some support for travel expenses associated with the symposia.

In 2006, the B&L Section will again meet with ABLs at the BSA meeting in Chico, CA. However, in 2007 and 2008, ABLs is planning to meet separately from BSA. This means the B&L Section will have to work alone to arrange paper sessions and other activities at these BSA meetings. The Section will arrange to name Local Representatives for the 2007 and 2008 meetings at the appropriate time.

Respectfully submitted, James Lawrey August 8, 2005

Developmental and Structural Section Report Prepared by Larry Hufford

Members of the section voted at Botany 2004 to sponsor the symposium Biology of Dryland Plants at Botany 2005, and the section has committed funds to support the symposium.

The section leadership discussed allocation of monies for student awards and needs at the Botany 2005. We were pleased to work with Bill Cheadle and receive a substantial contribution to the Cheadle fund for student awards for travel to Botany 2005.

We solicited student proposals for travel awards to Botany 2005 to be derived from Cheadle funds and Developmental and Structural section funds. We received nine applications for travel awards. The executive group of the section served as the committee to review Cheadle Award applications as well as for Developmental and Structural section travel awards. The committee recommended the following four recipients for Cheadle Awards:

Cassandra Rogers, an undergraduate at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, who is working with Dr. Karen Renzaglia. She will present a paper at Botany 2005 entitled “Sperm cell architecture in two liverworts.”

Erin Bissell, a PhD student at the University of Colorado, Boulder, who is working with Dr. Pamela Diggle. She will present a paper at Botany 2005 entitled “Floral morphology in *Nicotiana*: Are character correlations lost in space and time?”

Anna Jacobsen, a graduate student at Michigan State University, who is working with Dr. Frank Ewers. She will present a paper at Botany 2005 entitled “Convergence of xylem structure and function: California chaparral and South African fynbos.”

Erika Edwards, a graduate student at Yale University, who is working with Dr. Michael Donoghue. She will present a paper at Botany 2005 entitled “*Pereskia* water relations reflect deep ecophysiological conservatism in Cactaceae.”

The students to receive Developmental and Structural section travel awards at Botany 2005 are **Kevin Kocot**, **Jill Preston**, **Jennifer Winther**, **Heather Sanders**, and **Patrick Hudson**.

The section will have a mixer and business meeting on 15 August 2005 at Botany 2005.

Ecological Section Report—2005

At the Botany 2004 meetings in Snowbird, our section awarded checks and banquet tickets to students recognized for their paper and poster presentations. Sally Chess of San Francisco State University (with coauthors Robert A. Rugoso and Gretchen LeBuhn) won the Best Student Paper Award for her talk “Evidence for pollinator-mediated selection in *Linanthus dichotomus*”. Hester Bell (with coauthors E. Friar and J.T. Columbus) won the Best Student Poster Award for “Population genetics of *Swallenia alexandrae* (Poaceae), the Eureka Valley dune grass”. Thanks to those who judged for these awards including Joe Colosi, Margaret Devall, Tom Givnish, Katherine Preston, and Carl Weekley. Our business meeting was attended by 26 people.

For the upcoming Botany 2005 meetings in Austin, our section has 36 papers and 24 posters scheduled. We also are supporting three symposia including “Biology of Dryland Plants” with \$1000, “Connecting People to Plants—Botanical Messages that Make a Difference” with \$2000, and “The Cross Timbers: Botany, History, and Current Issues” with \$950.

Respectfully submitted, Janice Coons Chair, BSA Ecological Section

Economic Botany Section Report

The Economic Botany Section presented five papers and one poster at the 2005 annual meeting. We met at our luncheon and annual sectional meeting to discuss future symposium initiatives, and discussed the possibility of participating in BSA Sci-Pi. We co-sponsored the BSA Symposium: Biology of Dryland Plants.

2005 Genetics Section Report to the BSA Council

Carrie A. Wu received the 2004 Margaret A. Menzel Memorial Award at the BSA banquet in Snowbird, UT for her paper entitled "The spatial genetic structure of cytoplasmic and nuclear markers in a natural *Ipomopsis* (Polemoniaceae) hybrid zone." The paper was co-authored with Diane R. Campbell. The award recognizes the best presentation in the contributed paper session of the Genetic Section and includes a certificate, \$200.00, and a ticket to the BSA banquet.

Deborah Alongi Johnson received the 2004 Genetics Section Poster Award for her work entitled "Sugar transporter gene family discovery in the fern *Ceratopteris richardii*." Co-authors on the poster included Michael A. Thomas and Jeffrey P. Hill. The award included a certificate, \$100.00, and a ticket to the BSA banquet.

Because the Genetics Section has not awarded a Graduate Student Research Award in the last couple of years we announced two calls for proposals this past spring: one for a PhD student, and one for a MS student. The proposal submitted by Nicole Hardiman, PhD candidate at the University of Cincinnati, entitled "Intra-specific hybridization as a mechanism of invasiveness in *Pyrus calleryana*" was funded. Amy Stillman, Boise State University, will receive the MS student award (her proposal was entitled "Chromosome counts in *Lepidium papilliferum*, a rare endemic of southwestern Idaho"). Both students will receive \$500.00 for their work, and up to \$500 for reimbursement related to attending and presenting their research at a BSA meeting in the next two years.

At the Botany 2005 meeting in Austin, TX, there will be two Genetics Section contributed paper sessions with a total of 29 oral presentations. Additionally, 15 poster presentations will be given in the Genetics Section.

The Genetic section is one of the co-sponsors of a symposium at the Botany 2005 meeting entitled "Comparative Chloroplast Genomics." This is an all-day symposium that will include 11 speakers.

At the end of the Botany 2005 Genetics Section Business Meeting Stephen Novak will step down as Chair of the section. Randall Small will become Chair and Council Representative, and Vance Baird will become Vice Chair. This past spring we began the process of nominating/recruiting a person to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Genetics Section. This process led to the nomination of Theresa Culley, Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. She has agreed to serve in this capacity, and will assume her duties at the end of section's business meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen J. Novak

Historical Section Report for 2003-2004

Background:

In 1992, as Chair of the Historical Section of the BSA, I reported that the section would discuss supporting a symposium to be held at Cornell University in conjunction with their centennial celebration of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell in 2004. The Symposium titled "The Legacy of Liberty Hyde Bailey" had been originally proposed for Botany 2001, but was postponed for lack of funding and because some speakers could not make the event. The CALS Centennial Committee had asked me to inquire if the BSA Historical Section might be willing to sponsor the L. H. Bailey symposium at Cornell in

the fall of 2004. Larry Davenport, Vice Chair of the Historical Section, presided at our Business Meeting in 2003, and informed me by email that members discussed and supported the idea of the L. H. Bailey Symposium at Cornell in 2004.

Current:

I reorganized the symposium and it was held as part of the Agricultural History Symposium (Session B Liberty Hyde Bailey's Legacy of Scientific Outreach I & II; see website, <http://ahssym.mannlib.cornell.edu/program.html>) which took place on September 10-11, 2004, at Cornell University in conjunction with their CALS Centennial. The Bailey Symposium was held on Sept 10, 2004. The section Historical sanctioned \$500 for this symposium and this support was authorized by the Executive Council of the BSA. The section awarded to Professor Sally Kohlstead, U of MN, a \$500 travel allotment toward her expenses to present a talk at the Legacy of Liberty Hyde Bailey Sessions/Agricultural History Symposium at Cornell on September 10, 2005. This left us \$300 in our budget. On Oct 1, 2004 the section again received a \$400 allotment giving us a balance of \$300.

Larry Davenport and I were also re-elected Chair and Vice Chair of our Section. I invited Carol Kelloff to be Secretary/Treasurer of our section and she generously accepted. I have not yet received her report and hoped that she will send it to you by the August 1, deadline date. In the 2002-2003 report, I requested an increase in our allotment, from \$400 to \$700, which was apparently rejected because on Oct 1, 2004, the section again only received a \$400 allotment.

Therefore, I again request an increase in funding, from \$400 to \$700, part of which I suggest be used to support the archival research of Dr. Betty Smocovitis for her project on writing a history of the Botanical Society of America in honor of its coming Centennial. Betty and I hope to propose a special centennial symposium for Botany 2006.

Although I was never notified of such, it seems that I am no longer associated with the Archives and History Committee and I suspect this is due to the information I included in last years report, which stated that "I have no funds to attend meetings and would need a co-chair who can attend."

I am a member of the BSA Centennial Committee, as representative of our section. Harry Horner asked me to offer Betty Smocovitis any assistance that I could towards her project on the History of the BSA for the Centennial. Betty has asked met to look for L.H. Bailey photos in the Cornell University Archives, which I agreed to do.

We received 2 of the 4 abstracts that were promised for the Historical Section for Botany 2005, and Jeff Osborn suggested moving them to another session, as was done for Botany 2004. There seemed to be a miscommunication and the Historical Section session for Botany 2005 was scheduled with only 2 papers. This is unfortunate because as experience has shown there may be few people attending that session.

I did not attend Botany 2004 and I have no report in my files about what happened at the BSA Historical Section Annual Business Meeting. While I was out of town, Larry Davenport, our Vice Chair/ co-Program Chair, suggested canceling this year's Historical Section Annual Business Meeting because none of the officer from our section will be present to represent us at Botany 2005. Larry suggested that business could be done via email and this is OK with me, although we probably should amend our by-laws if in future we cannot hold a business meeting. The officer so the Historical Section are planning to attend the Centennial in 2006 and to hold an Annual Business meeting at that event.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee B. Kass

Annual Report of the Paleobotanical Section, 2005

Annual Report of the Phycological Section, 2005

The Phycological section of BSA did not receive any requests for, and consequently did not fund any symposia in 2005. We used our general funds to institute a travel award to support a student attending the BSA meeting in Austin in 2005. The recipient is Kevin Kocot of Illinois State University. Next year we plan to give another travel award, to be based on student essays on the excitement and importance of phycology. If they turn out well, we might post some of the essays on the BSA website.

We have scheduled a business meeting in Austin where we plan to discuss ideas for section input into the BSA website in the areas mentioned at last year's council meeting: (Careers in Botany, authoritative information on phycology) as well as a history of phycology for the centennial meeting and ideas for promoting phycology within the society. A letter is being sent to all members of the section requesting input from those who are not at the meeting.

There were no nominations for the Darbaker Prize for 2005, hence no prize will be awarded. The Darbaker Committee consisted of: Richard McCourt (chair), Annette Coleman, and Martha Cook.

Respectfully submitted, Martha E. Cook, Chairperson Phycological Section

Physiological Section Report for 2005

The Physiological Section met in Snowbird, Utah in August 2004 with contributed paper and poster sessions. The paper session was chaired by Henri Maurice of the University of Southern Indiana. The annual Section business meeting was convened by Denise Seliskar at a luncheon following the contributed paper session. At the business meeting the slate of nominees for new Section officers was presented. This slate had been selected after a call for nominations via e-mail in March to all Section members by Section Chairman Denise Seliskar. Additional nominations were called for from the floor, but no new nominations were suggested. The attendees proceeded to unanimously elect the nominees: Chairman - Anitra Thorhaug from Yale University; Program Chairman – Christy Carter from the U.S. Salinity Lab in California; and Treasurer - Peter Straub from Richard Stockton College in New Jersey. Peter was re-elected for a second term as Treasurer and will provide continuity from the previous term.

Following the business meeting, the Physiological Section Award Committee (Denise Seliskar, Henri Maurice, and Anitra Thorhaug) met to determine student prizes for presentations in the contributed paper session. Daniel M. Johnson, Wake Forest University, received the Sections Li-Cor Prize for his presentation entitled "Chlorophyll fluorescence in cotyledons and primary needles of a high-altitude conifer". His co-authors were Thomas C. Vogelmann and William K. Smith. Katherine McCulloh, University of Utah, received the Section prize for her presentation entitled "Do plants comply with Murray's law?". Her co-author was John S. Sperry. The award committee also judged student posters, but none were awarded prizes. Katherine received her prize at the BSA banquet and Daniel's prize will be mailed to him from the Society Treasurer, Joe Armstrong, since Daniel could not attend the banquet.

The Section will meet next in Austin, Texas in 2005 for contributed paper and poster sessions. A symposium on dry-land plants is also being planned.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PTERIDOLOGICAL SECTION

Presented at the Botanical Society of America Council Meeting

At the Botany 2004 meetings in Snowbird, UT, the Pteridological Section of the BSA had 14 contributed papers, four contributed posters, and a symposium entitled "The power of two: Marrying phylogeny and biogeography to reconstruct the evolutionary history of pteridophytes" in which six presentations were made.

The Edgar T. Wherry Award, for best paper presented as part of the contributed papers sessions, was given to Harald Schneider, Tom Ranker, Russell Stephen, Ray Cranfill, Jennifer Geiger, Ruth Aguraiuja, Ken Wood, Michael Grundman, and Johannes Vogel for their

presentation entitled, "Origin of the endemic fern genus *Diellia* (Aspleniaceae) coincides with the renewal of Hawaiian terrestrial life in the early Miocene."

Two well-attended field trips were sponsored: one entitled "Pteridophytes of the central Wasatch Mountains, Utah" led by Michael D. Windham, and a second entitled "An afternoon among the ferns of Albion Basin, Utah" also led by Michael D. Windham.

The Pteridological section contributed \$400 to the publication of the Annual Review of Pteridological Research, Volume 17 (2003).

Increased funding from BSA has allowed the Pteridological section to initiate an application process for our new student travel award program, which grants \$250 to qualified students who present and/or attend Pteridological section contributed paper sessions, symposia, and field trips. The first awards were made for the Botany 2005 meetings in Austin, TX, and three awards were given:

- 1) Mr. Chad Husby, Florida International University, Miami, FL. "Biomechanics of *Equisetum giganteum* L. in the Atacama Desert and northwestern Argentina" and "Ecophysiology of *Equisetum giganteum* L. in the Atacama Desert, northern Chile"
- 2) Mr. James E. Watkins, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. "The stress physiology of tropical fern gametophytes"
- 3) Mr. Shane Shaw, Miami University, Oxford, OH. "Natural history of the Puerto Rican soral cryptic Lepidopteran"

We continue to seek ways of effectively publicizing the travel awards.

Submitted by President: Warren D. Hauk

Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Renzaglia

Pteridological Section, Botanical Society of America

BSA Systematics Section Wayne J. Elisens, chair; Andrea D. Wolfe, Secretary-Treasurer
The BSA Systematics Section supported two symposia associated with the Botany 2005 conference during the 2005 fiscal year.

Financial Support of two symposia. The Systematics section supported two symposia for the Botany 2005 conference:

- 1) \$ 500 for "*Comparative Chloroplast Genomics.*" Organizers: Robert Jansen and Linda Raubeson.
- 2) \$ 500 for "*Patterns and Mechanisms of Evolution of Island Plants.*" Organizer: Kaius Helenurm.

Other activities included discussions on how BSA Systematics section funds could be dispersed to further support conference programming, student participation at meetings, and other development initiatives.

Respectfully submitted, Wayne J. Elisens

Southeastern

This year we initiated the first award from the SE section of BSA for the best botany paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists. The recipient is Ms Sarah John, a master's student at East Carolina University who won the cash award of \$100. Additional benefits include payment of registration of costs for the BSA meeting and \$350 towards travel. I have not heard from Ms Johnson so assume she is not attending the Austin meeting.

We plan to present the award again next year.

Tropical Botany

Northeastern

Pacific