

## **Education Committee Report**

Submitted by Gordon Uno

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

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

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

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