

Past President's Report 2007

During 2006-07 I had three main responsibilities: chairing the Elections Committee, planning the Plenary Symposium for Botany 2007 in Chicago, and chairing the Corresponding Members Committee. In addition, I served as a member Executive Committee as well as a member of the team that annually reviews the BSA Executive Director's performance. I also participated as a member of the newly formed Development Committee and now acting as the Chair of that committee

The Elections Committee identified excellent two candidates for President and two for Secretary, as charged. **Karl Niklas**, Cornell University will be the new President-elect, and **Laura Galloway**, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, will be the incoming Treasurer.

For the Plenary Symposium, I chose the topic "Saving the Biodiversity of Plants". Speakers were chosen from nominations that I solicited from sister societies and conservation organizations and represent global leaders in the plant conservation arena. The final slate includes five prominent researchers who will describe how their field has evolved and where it is headed.

The Corresponding Members Committee was directed by a vote of the members in 2006, to increase the number of corresponding members above the historic cap of fifty (50), recommending as many as five new individuals had up to five be added. We were saddened to learn that **Joji Ashida** (Japan) and **Roberst Hegnauer** (Netherlands) both passed, thus as many as seven positions could be considered in 2007. Although the electronic call for nominations for BSA Corresponding Membership (January 1 - April 1, 2007), unfortunately did not result in any nominations, the committee unanimously recommends four new nominees. They are: **Dr. Stephen Hopper**, the new Director of KEW from Perth Australia. **Dr. Brian Huntley**, past Director of Kirstenbosch Garden, Cape Town, South Africa, and who now is senior conservation advisor to the government; **Dr. Paula Rudall**, of the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanical Gardens KEW, and **Dr. Bao-rong Lu**, Professor in botany and genetic resources, Chairman of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology of Fudan University, Deputy Director of the Institute of Biodiversity Science, Fudan University, and Chairman of Academic Committee of the Ministry of Education Key Laboratory for Biodiversity Science and Ecological Engineering. Each of these four individuals are senior and distinguished botanists and the committee believes will represent excellent additions to our Corresponding Members group.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Schneider, Past-President and Chair of the Corresponding Members Committee