

Botanical Society of America
Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, 29 August, 2003, 4:45-5:45 p.m.
MCC 204A

2003 Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions (President Scott Russell): The meeting began at 4:48 PM. Scott Russell, President, welcomed members and then introduced the other officers and editors: Linda Graham, President Elect; Judy Jernstedt, Past President; Jenny Richards, Secretary; Joe Armstrong, Treasurer; Jeff Osborn, Program Director; Karl Niklas, Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Botany*; and Marsh Sundberg, Editor, *Plant Science Bulletin*. He also introduced our new Executive Director, Bill Dahl, Wanda Lovan, Administrative Assistant; and Johanne Strogan, Meetings Manager.

2. Minutes of 2002 Business Meeting (Secretary Jenny Richards): The minutes were distributed in the Fall 2002 mailing and are available on the web at <http://www.botany.org/bsa/membership/council2003/02business.doc> . Karl Niklas moved approval of the 2002 Business Meeting minutes; Judy Jernstedt seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. Officers Reports: Complete reports are available on the web at <http://www.botany.org/bsa/membership/council2003/council.shtml> .

A. President (Scott Russell): Scott reported that it was a busy year. The Society moved the Business Office to St. Louis and hired our new Executive Director and administrative assistant. These changes allowed Johanne Strogan to return to being solely the Meetings Manager; she will continue at Ohio State. We also revamped the website and started e-commerce and membership renewals on-line. Now individuals can log on to their information. We also have a legacy collection of the *American Journal of Botany* on-line for members through JSTOR.

B. Secretary (Jenny Richards): Jenny referred interested people to the reports on the web. As this meeting marked the end of her term, she thanked the Society for allowing her to serve as Secretary and encouraged people to become involved.

C. Treasurer (Joe Armstrong): Joe distributed copies of the budget, as well as telling members that the budget is available in his on-line report. He said that we are in good fiscal shape. Our total endowment funds, as of June 30, were \$1,772,333.09. Along with operating funds, we have total assets of \$2,342,505.15. We should get through the fiscal year until renewals start coming in. This year some things cost more than expected, but others cost less, and these balanced out. The Business Office is functioning well. The proposed budget for 2003-2004 makes us look like a \$1,059,979 operation. Some of this is from adding in and taking out meetings revenues, so the budget really is about the same as last year. The budget should yield about 2 % surplus; we have discretionary expenses, so we can subtract some, if our revenue doesn't equal our expenses. Scott Russell reminded members that our fiscal year begins Oct. 1, so this makes the budget uncertain at this time.

D. Editor, *American Journal of Botany* (Karl Niklas): Karl said that copies of his report were available in the back of the room, as well as on the web. The Journal backlog has been reduced. We are planning a special 90th anniversary issue of AJB to be published in July 2004. It will be one of the normal twelve issues. We will also be signing a contract with Allen Press to put Allen Track on-line; this program will do on-line submission of manuscripts and reviews and have on-line tracking. Bruce Kirchoff asked how far we are from offering free color plates to authors. Karl Niklas said that we can do this for special issues, but he doesn't think it will be possible for unsolicited manuscripts. One color plate is \$1200, so we probably couldn't afford this for 1 plate/author. Bruce Kirchoff said that he had gotten a quote for \$750 from another journal. Karl Niklas replied that this wasn't from us. Bill Dahl said that we are looking for ways to continue improving. On hearing the source of the quote, Karl Niklas said that the quote came from a for-profit journal. Judy Jernstedt reminded people that if we increased the endowment, we could afford to do this.

E. Editor, *Plant Science Bulletin* (Marsh Sundberg): Marsh said that his report was on the web. He emphasized the last line of his report which says that if you have suggestions for articles or contributions, please contact him. He added that if you are in another society or section affiliated with another society that is having a meeting, tell him so that the *Plant Science Bulletin* could announce it.

F. Executive Director (Bill Dahl): Bill reiterated that his report is on the web. He thanked Johanne Strogan and Wanda Lovan for their help. He said that moving membership renewals to the web had a good effect with respect to donations. Members contributed \$11,000, while the Past Presidents raised over \$13,000. The Executive Committee did lots with respect to development. We are reinvigorating committees with meetings of the Education and Membership committees at the meeting. Bill will continue to develop the web, especially for communication and education. We have added access to JSTOR through the Botanical Society of America website (not the American Journal of Botany website). Bill reported the e-commerce was working well. He asked members to please send comments if they were having difficulties with anything, so the Society can fix it. Bill said that membership was slightly ahead of last

year; institutional subscriptions down because a subscription agent went broke and took 127 clients with them. The Society gave on-line access to the clients and will continue to work with them. Bill had a conference planning meeting with Jeff Osborn and Johanne Strogan to consider strategies for future meetings. He will e-mail members a survey to assess different aspects of the conference. BSA signed on to HINARI, a program that gives certain developing countries access to the *American Journal of Botany* on-line. Bill is interested in providing more services to members, so he asked for ideas. Joe Armstrong said that we appreciated Bill's report.

G. Program Director (Jeff Osborn): Jeff explained that Johanne Strogan coordinates the meeting aspects of the conference, while Jeff does the program aspects. At this conference we had the 2nd Education/Outreach Forum. Bruce Alberts gave a stimulating keynote address; the program was outstanding, as were the several workshops. The Forum was sponsored by the Deep Gene Coordination Network. New initiatives were being discussed for next year. Sunday night began the scientific program with the plenary address by E. O. Wilson. The number of attendees was down from last year. Jeff attributed this to the economy, the war going on when abstracts and registrations were due. He mentioned that there were discussion sessions on the loss of natural history collections, funding for botanical sciences, and advice for students about become professional botanists. This latter was linked to the NSF-funded Undergraduate Mentoring in Environmental Biology program. Jeff said that everyone had the opportunity to give Power Point projections this year and most people used this. He will probably take slide off the registration as a standard option. He reported on future meetings. In 2004 the meeting will be from July 31-Aug 5 in Snowbird, UT, which is a resort setting. Rita Colwell will give the keynote address. The 2005 meeting is Aug. 13-19 in Austin, TX; the late date is because the International Botanical Congress is in late July and the Ecological Society of America is meeting the week before. The year 2006 is the Society's Centennial; we have no location yet, but have invited the mycologist to meet with us. Over the long term, the Society is working on inviting more societies, working with large societies for some joint meetings, making opportunities for interdisciplinary interactions, and getting more exhibitors. Judy Jernstedt asked what the final registration numbers were for the 2003 meeting. Jeff Osborn replied that they were around 550-570.

I. Webmaster (Bill Dahl): Bill reported that our statistics are up with respect to website use. There has been phenomenal growth in terms of development. The foundation was there to build on. He has been concentrating on education, he will continue to develop member services, and he will work with the Education committee on web use. He plans to continue to develop the way that the website looks and is open to ideas about how to make it more accessible;

J. Corresponding Members Committee (Judy Jernstedt): Judy reminded members that copies of her report were available on the web. She said that the Society had 3 vacancies this year. The Corresponding Members are distinguished foreign senior scientists and we have only 50. The Corresponding Member Committee members were Judy Jernstedt, Doug Soltis, and Pat Gensel. The Committee had recommended 3 new members to the Executive Committee and to the Council. They were Rolf Y. Berg from the Botanical Garden, Natural History

Museums and Botanical Gardens, University of Oslo, Norway; Enrico Coen from the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK; and Michael Melkonian from the Botanical Institute, University of Cologne, Germany. Judy noted that all three were truly accomplished botanists: Rolf Berg works on plants systematics, ecology, plant reproductive biology, seed dispersal, myrmecochory, Liliales and Papaverales; he has extensive public service as director of arboreta and museums, and he has trained many students. He was nominated by Don Kaplan.

Enrico Coen is known for his work on snapdragon, *Antirrhinum majus*, as a model of floral evolution and development from a molecular genetic viewpoint. He has studied floral symmetry and floral architecture, publishing in *Nature*, *Science*, *Development*, and *Cell*, as well as the popular press. He was nominated by Pam Diggle.

Michael Milkonian is a world renowned phycologist, studying ultrastructure of algae and protists, as well as molecular classification. He has proposed a new synthesis of algal classification. He was nominated by Robert Anderson.

The Corresponding Members Committee recommended all three candidates. Karl Niklas moved that we vote on approval of corresponding members at this point in the meeting. Scott Russell said that, if there was no objection, we would go ahead. Acceptance of the Corresponding Members Committee's recommendation was moved and seconded. The motion was approved. Judy Jernstedt reminded the future Executive Committee that they needed to remember to notify the new corresponding members.

K. Elections Committee (Judy Jernstedt): Judy announced that the President Elect was Allison Snow, and the new Secretary was David Spooner. Judy Jernstedt thanked the Elections Committee. Scott Russell added that Pam Diggle was elected the new Council Representative.

L. Young Botanists Awards (Judy Jernstedt): Judy said that the Committee received 43 nominations of graduating seniors from 29 institutions in the US and Mexico. Twenty-six were awarded Certificates of Special Achievement; 17 received Certificates of Recognition. She thanked to those mentors who nominated students. Doug Soltis asked whether we were getting any closer to monetary awards for these. Judy Jernstedt replied that until we increased the endowment, we couldn't afford anything meaningful, but this was a good idea.

M. Financial Advisory Committee (Jack Horner): Jack said that the FAC consisted of Greg Anderson, Russell Chapman, and himself, with *ex officio* members Joe Armstrong, Scott Russell, and Bill Dahl. He reported that we had \$1.77 million in the endowment and that last week it went over \$1.8 million, which was its top before the downturn of the economy in 2000. He said that although the last 3 years the Society has had a downturn, we had been averaging 10.6 % growth. The FAC recommended \$15,000 for special initiatives to the Executive Committee and the Council, and that they had accepted this recommendation.

4. Old Business (Scott Russell): Scott said that there was no old business.

5. New Business

A. Corresponding members (Judy Jernstedt): Scott reminded us we already approved new Corresponding Members during the Past President's report.

B. Membership Dues for 2004 (Scott Russell): Scott reported that the Executive Committee proposed and the Council recommended that the Society increase dues for professional members from \$45 to \$50. All other individual memberships remained unchanged. He noted that the increase reflects costs of our new electronic efforts. Judy Jernstedt moved approval of the increase; Jack Horner seconded the motion. Judy Skog asked what the increase does with respect to family memberships. Scott Russell responded that this would go up \$5; Karl Niklas called the question. The motion was approved.

C. Budget 2004 fiscal year (Bill Dahl / Joe Armstrong): Joe Armstrong noted that it was difficult to estimate expenses. They were projected based on costs this year. We have had shifts in expenses with more expenses for web services, while printing fewer AJBs saves money. These changes have balanced out. Membership income exceeded projections this year and should be even better next year. We anticipate getting back institutional subscribers lost with the subscription agent collapse. We also have a new pricing structure for institutions. Joe said he had been modest about our projected revenue and also modest about expenditures. The proposed app. \$800,000 budget was similar to last year's. In the budget he had lines that didn't match up to last year's expenses because he was shifting budget categories. He said that a "0" meant that he had moved that line item someplace else. By next year, the budget should be organized more clearly. Jim Mickel moved approval of the budget. Jack Horner seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

6. Acknowledgments (Scott Russell): Scott said that everyone in the room deserved some acknowledgement for sharing the work and benefits of the Society. He especially thanked Judy Jernstedt, Linda Graham, Jeff Osborn, Joe Armstrong, Jenny Richards, Bill Dahl and Jim Mickel. He also thanked Pat Gensel who was involved with the search for the Executive Director. He expressed gratitude to Karl Niklas and the *American Journal of Botany* office people, as well as to Marsh Sundberg for his work on the *Plant Science Bulletin*. Special appreciation went to staff in the Business Office (Bill Dahl and Wanda Lovan) and the Meetings Office (Johanne Strogan). Scott added that he was thankful to have had the opportunity to serve, and he hopes he left the place better. He announced that immediately after this business meeting, the Society was having a New and Prospective Members social. David Kramer voiced thanks to Scott Russell for his leadership of our organization.

7. Adjournment: Judy Jernstedt moved adjournment; David Lee seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Richards
Past Secretary,
Botanical Society of America

Aug. 6, 2003