Prior to the 1998 BSA Annual Meeting, then-President Nancy Dengler appointed a special ad hoc committee of six members to explore ways for significantly increasing the BSA endowment, especially the Conant Travel Fund and the Karling Graduate Research Fund. An immediate goal was to solicit contributions to the Conant Fund to support attendance at the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis.

A letter from the Committee requesting donations was included in the 1998 fall mailing to approximately 2,700 BSA members (all categories). Thirty-six members responded to this plea, with contributions ranging from $10 to $500, thereby raising $1,480 for the Conant Fund and $1,470 for the Karling Fund. Another $1,281 for the Conant Fund and $116 for the Karling Fund was included with members' renewals at the end of the year.

The challenges for the "development" committee for the coming year(s) include:

(1) Encouraging a greater proportion of BSA members to make these tax-deductible contributions to the Society;

(2) Devising and implementing an effective and sustained endowment campaign; and

(3) Setting a realistic goal and timetable for such a campaign.

Respectfully submitted,
Ad Hoc Committee for the Endowment

Judy Jernstedt, Chair
John Herr
Dan Crawford
Joe Armstrong
Ed Schneider
Kim Hiser

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