
A Summary of the Ecological Section’s Activities in 2007-2008

1. Business meeting conducted in Chicago, IL at Botany 2007. Topics at this meeting included:
   a. Introduction and recognition of the students receiving travel and presentation awards
   b. Symposium sponsorships and ideas for the 2008 Botany meeting
   c. Increasing dues for nonstudent members of the section to $4 from $2.
   d. Nominated candidates for Ecological Section Chair with the election held electronically in the fall of 2007.

2. Students receiving travel awards for the 2007 meeting in Chicago were:
   - **John Geiger**, Florida International University, Advisor: Dr. Suzanne Koptur for his presentation entitled: "Experimental seed and seedling performance of the endangered vine *Ipomoea microdactyla* Griseb. (Convolvulaceae)." ($400)
   - **Daniel Hewins**, Rider University, Advisor: Dr. Laura A. Hyatt for his presentation entitled: "Jack of All Trades: Biological Invasion Facilitated By Use of Multiple forms of Nitrogen". ($300)
   - **Cassandra Boadway**, Grand Valley State University, Advisor: Dr. Gary Greer for her presentation entitled: "Growth and Nodulation in *Trifolium repens* and *Glycine max* in Response to *Ailanthus altissima* Extracts". ($300)

3. Students receiving awards for their presentation at the Botany 2007 meeting were:
   - **Best Student Oral Presentation**
     - **Teresa M. Woods**, from the Kansas State University, for the paper “Multiple reproductive modes contribute to fitness homeostasis of the invasive *Lespedeza cuneata* (Fabaceae)” Co-authors were David C. Hartnett and Carolyn J. Ferguson. ($150)
   - **Best Student Poster**
     - **Mauricio Diazgranados**, of Saint Louis University for the poster “Testing the conservatism of the ecological niche of the *Espeletia* complex” ($150)

4. Our section sponsored or co-sponsored 4 symposia at Botany 2007
   a. The Evolution and Maintenance of Mixed Mating Systems; Organizers: Diane Byers and Johanne Brunet; $600 support
   c. Evolution in a Glaciated Landscape: Contribution of Endemism to Great Lakes Biodiversity; Organizers: J. A. Peirson and Anton A. Reznicek
   d. Symposium: The functional significance of leaf shape variation - towards a consensus from gene to community. Organizer: Adrienne B. Nicotra. (Name only support)

5. Our section co-sponsored a workshop at Botany 2007
6. At Botany 2007 we had 8 Sessions including 34 posters and 38 papers

7. At the Botany 2008 meeting, the Ecological Section will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring 3 symposia.
   a. Pollination to Population Structure - How Understanding Reproductive Biology Can Inform Conservation of Rare Plants. Organizers: Vivian Negrón-Ortiz and Amy Faivre ($400 support)

8. Our section has 80 presentations that will be given in multiple paper and poster sessions.

9. We will be giving 4 student travel awards for Botany 2008. The awardees are:
   **Katie Becklin**, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO - Advisor, Dr. Candace Galen  "The good, the bad, and the costly: Effects of shading and drought on the costs and benefits of mycorrhizae." ($50)

   **Jocelyn Campbell**, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC - Advisor, Dr. Cindy Prescott  "Expanding the realized niche for cyanolichens in wet-temperate forests of interior British Columbia." ($150)

   **Andrew Simpson**, California State University, Chico, CA - Advisor, Dr. Kristina A. Schierenbeck - Botany 2008 presentation: "Multiple causal factors influence propagule size gradients in *Arctostaphylos* (Ericaceae)." ($300)

   **Meghan Skaer**, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA - Advisor, Dr. Hall Cushman - Botany 2008 presentation: "Evaluating the Effects of Cattle Grazing on a Coastal Prairie in Central California." ($300).

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Byers July 17, 2008