Education Committee Report 2011-2012
Botanical Society of America

Progress on projects this past year:

• DRD and DECA. The Chairperson is representing BSA on the Advisory Panel for the Digital Resource Discovery (DRD) which is a collaborative effort between the Botanical Society of America, Ecological Society of America and Society of Economic Botany to collaboratively support high quality educational resources in the ecological, evolution and plant sciences. In conjunction with this project the Chairperson is also serving on the Data for the Ecology Classroom Advisory (DECA) Panel which is also part of the DRD project. The DECA project should result in tools that can be incorporated into a PlantingScience ecology activity. The pollination working group is developing a set of database handling tools that will allow users to formulate and test their own hypotheses using a pollen database.

• PlantEd. We have continued work on a system to allow submission, review and posting of educational resources. This system will be integrated with the similar systems being developed as part of the DRD grant. This revised system is called PlantEd and should be fully operational by the 2012 annual meeting. Bill Dahl and Beverly Brown will be presenting a workshop on using the new system at this year’s meeting.

• Bessey Awards for 2012. Participated in review of applications and selection of Bessey Award winners. This year the Bessey Award will be presented to Paul Williams, Les Hickok, and Thomas Warne.

• Bessey Award criteria revised. The Bessey Award Committee revised the criteria for viable candidates. These new criteria are posted as the Bessey Award report. The Committee reviewed the qualifications of past recipients and determined that the individual’s educational innovation should have a national or international impact, i.e. the beyond the home institution of the individual. The Committee suggested to the Teaching Section that their Postelthwaite Award be revived and awarded to individuals whose innovative teaching style has had a positive impact within their home institution, or that a new award be developed for this purpose. This item requires The Board’s approval to be implemented.

• Request for Education budget. After careful consideration, the Education Chair and the Education Director proposed to the BSA Board that a budget be created for educational work within the Society. This improve our ability to spread the word about BSA’s educational resources and projects. This is especially important given the need to publicize the inception of PlantEd and continue developing and publicizing PlantingScience.

• Agenda items for our upcoming meeting include:
  o Develop an action plan for growing the PlantEd database including specific strategies for recruiting reviewers, recruiting contributors, and reviewing existing materials.
  o Select a topic and plan to offer a botany education symposium at the 2013 conference
Discuss the proposal for an Education budget
Discuss the findings of the Thinking Evolutionarily meeting
Discuss the partnership between Understanding Evolution and BSA

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly J. Brown
Chairperson, Education Committee