We are in the midst of a critical transition in terms of personnel and program.

Unanticipated personnel changes include Phil Gibson replacing Beverly Brown as Chair of the Education Committee and Marsh Sundberg replacing Susan Singer as At-large Director of Education. Claire Hemingway, Education Director, has been critical in getting Marsh and Phil up-to-speed through an extended conference call and several e-mail communications.

An unanticipated program change is that we were unsuccessful in pursuit of renewed NSF funding for PlantingScience. Maintenance of this program has suddenly become an urgent concern of the Education Committee and Marsh and Phil agreed during our conference call that it should have the highest priority of the Committee and the Society.

Education Committee
We were pleased that the board approved a budget of $10,000 to support BSA Educational Activities. The long-anticipated PlantEd should be on-line soon and Phil has been working at soliciting editors and reviewers. We have made a prior commitment to the US Science and Engineering Festival and have done some preliminary brainstorming about possible activities. This will be further discussed at the Committee Meeting in New Orleans. A number of additional projects have been suggested, as mentioned in the Education Committee report. Most would require financial support. It thus becomes essential that we reach a consensus on educational priorities for the Society. The exception is the planned forthcoming issue of *CBE-Life Science Education* focusing on Plant Biology. We have also signed on as supporting the Life Discovery Partners grant submitted by the ESA although we felt that several aspects of the proposal would have benefitted from additional discussion and the opportunity for us to provide formative input.

PlantingScience
As noted in Claire’s report, the extension period of the current grant is wrapping up with several products that will directly benefit current participants in the program and/or provide useful documentation to support the efficacy of the program in future grant submissions. During the past two years, limitations of the web platform severely restricted program operation and made further expansion impossible. It is ironic that a concern some of us had during the development and piloting stages of this program, identifying adequate numbers of good science mentors, turned out to be a strength and the aspect we were most confident of, an automated web platform, turned out to be so difficult. How to support PlantingScience through the next year will be a discussion topic of the Education Committee.

Teaching Section
The Teaching Section continues to provide a varied program at the annual meeting, including workshops symposia, papers and posters. Last year the Education Committee suggested that the Teaching Section look into reviving the Postlethwait Award and/or develop a new award to recognize innovative teaching in a home institution. The original award was to recognize outstanding contributions to the activities of the Teaching Section. I have located a copy of the original description for this award and will bring it to the Business Meeting to pursue this discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall D. Sundberg
Director At-large for Education