Annual Report of the Ecological Section – 2013
A Summary of the Ecological Section’s Activities in 2012-2013

1. Business Meeting conducted during Botany 2012 meeting, in Columbus OH. Topics at this meeting included:
   
a. Call for and discussion of ideas for Symposia for Botany 2013 meeting: Section members were reminded that symposia proposals for Botany 2013 would be due to the Executive Committee by August 30, 2012. To help formalize the process and to ensure the Executive Committee has similar information from those proposing symposia, a more formal proposal would be requested from applicants including names and contact information for organizers, an indication of Section membership, symposium title and abstract, presenter names (and whether or not confirmed), tentative titles, and a short statement indicating the appeal of the symposium to Ecological Section members.

b. Student Awards:
   1) Student travel award winners for Botany 2012 were recognized: Roxaneh Khorsand Rosa (Florida International University) and George Meindl (University of Pittsburgh). The judges were thanked.
   2) Student presentation and poster awards for Botany 2011 were announced: Best Graduate Student Poster: Steven Callen (St. Louis University); Best Graduate Student Presentation: John Stanton-Geddes (University of Minnesota, co-author Dr. Adrienne Nicotra; Best Undergraduate Presentation: Brandi Cannon (Sam Houston State University). The judges were thanked.

c. Elections held for Secretary/Program Chair (2 year term) and Vice Chair (3 year term):
   Chris Meloche stepped down as Secretary/Program Chair after the first year of his term, so an election was held for a Secretary/Program Chair for a 2 year term. Tracy Hawkins (USFS Mississippi) was nominated and later elected to this position. Phil Gibson’s term as Vice Chair ended at the meeting, so an election was held for Vice Chair. Brenda Molano-Flores (University of Illinois) was nominated and later elected.

d. Fund Raising: Discussion focused on fund raising for student awards. The idea of holding a silent auction at Botany 2013 was raised. Eric Morgan agreed to chair the silent auction. Also, it was suggested that the Section Dues be raised to $10 per person. The Section members present elected to make this change.

e. Student Involvement: Students involvement has continued to increase in the Section. As a result, the Section continues to look for ways to support students. Judges for student presentation and posters were thanked.

f. Announcements and Information:
   i. The Corresponding Member is awarded to outstanding people in their field that live and work outside of the US. Section members were encouraged to nominate potential corresponding members, as well as to nominate BSA members for other Society awards.
   ii. The BSA office will be working more closely with Sections to help ensure financial stability.
iii. BSA 2013 will be held in New Orleans, LA.

2. Student Awards for Botany 2012
   a. Student Travel Awards ($400 each)
      a. **Roxaneh Khorsand Rosa**, Florida International University, Miami FL—“Floral biology and pollination of an agroforestry palm, *Mauritia flexuosa*: why field observations are not enough!”. Co-authors: Suzanne Koptur, Reinaldo Imbrozio Barbosa.
   b. Student Presentation Awards
      i. **Best Graduate Student Poster**: Jennifer Murphy, John Carroll University - Advisor, Dr. Rebecca Drenovsky, for the paper “Early life history traits in globally invasive and non-invasive *Rosa* congeners” Co-authors: Lindsay Bernhard, Maria Loya, Rachael Glover and Rebecca Drenovsky ($200)
      ii. **Best Graduate Student Talk**: Roxaneh Khorsand Rosa (co-winner), Florida International University - Advisor, Dr. Suzanne Koptur, for the paper “Floral biology and pollination of an agroforestry palm, *Mauritia flexuosa*: why field observations are not enough!” Co-authors: Suzanne Koptur and Reinaldo Imbrozio Barbosa ($100)
      iii. **Best Graduate Student Talk**: Daniel Park (co-winner), University of California, Davis - Advisor, Dr. Daniel Potter, for the paper “Weed Profiling: A Molecular Phylogenetic Approach to Darwin's Naturalization Hypothesis” Co-author: Daniel Potter ($100)
      iv. **Best Undergraduate Presentation**: Megan Ward (co-winner), SUNY Plattsburgh - Advisor, Dr. Chris Martine, for the paper “Establishment of new regional herbarium leads to more than 100 new flora atlas records for New York State” Co-author: Chris Martine ($50)
      v. **Best Undergraduate Presentation**: Jenna Annis and Jennifer O’Brien (co-winners), Eastern Illinois University - Advisor, Dr. Janice Coons, for the paper “Breaking Seed Dormancy of *Penstemon tubiflorus*” Co-authors: Janice Coons and Nancy Coutant ($25 each)

3. Sponsored symposia:
   a. At Botany 2012 we sponsored or co-sponsored five symposia and two colloquia.
      i. “Rhizosphere interactions: The root microbiome”. Organizer: Darlene Southworth
      iii. “Transplantation and relocation of species at risk: learning from the past to plan for the future”. Organizer: Liette Vasseur.
      iv. “Water transport in plants at multiple scales: A physiological, ecological, and evolutionary appraisal”. Organizer: Peter J. Melcher (sponsored in name only)
v. “Building a high resolution, specimen-based picture of life: Possibilities and challenges”. Organizers: Austin R. Mast, Pamela Soltis (sponsored in name only)

vi. “Orchid Biology: Darwin’s contrivances 150 years later”. Colloquium organizers: Rafael Arevalo, Kathryn Theiss (sponsored in name only)

vii. “Phenology and conservation implications”. Colloquium organizers: Kellen Calinger, Jake Weltzin, Dan Herms (sponsored in name only)

b. For Botany 2013 we are sponsoring or co-sponsoring three symposia:


6. At Botany 2013 there are 65 posters or presentations in the Ecological Section sessions, 24 posters or presentations in the Pollination Biology sessions, 26 posters or presentations in the Conservation Biology sessions, and 13 posters or presentations in the Symbioses: Plant, Microbe, and Animal Interactions sessions.

7. The student travel awards to attend Botany 2013 at $500 each were given to:

   i. Melissa Ha: Pollinator-mediated interactions between Clarkia unguiculata and its neighbors are context-dependent. Advisor: Lynn Adler

   ii. Robert Harbert: Climate niche, invasiveness, and allopolyploidy: The case of perennial Glycine (Leguminosae). Advisor: Kevin Nixon

Respectfully Submitted, Rebecca E. Drenovsky, 3 July 2013