Annual Report of the Teaching Section – 2013

Section Leadership:
The teaching Section is looking forward to a great meeting in New Orleans this July. At the 2012 Columbus, Ohio meeting Carina Anttila-Suarez was elected Chair, Madhav Nepal was elected Vice Chair and Bruce Cahoon will continue as Treasurer.

2013 Conference:
This year at the New Orleans Convention Center the Teaching Section will be hosting one contributed papers session starting from 8:00-10:45 am at the Riverside Hilton in room Marlborough A, an evening poster session and the section has partially sponsoring two symposia. The section business meeting will be scheduled to follow the contributed paper session at 10:45 am on Monday July 29th in Marlborough A with a catered lunch served at 11 am. In 2012 the section had self catered the Subway lunch and we have been advised by the Society we must use the convention center or hosting hotel services to avoid breaking the contract formed by the facility and the Society.

Symposium Support:
At the 2012 meeting the section member’s voted to use $1000 to offer support to a symposium. The section solicited symposium requests for support through an email sent to all members of the Society. Two submissions tied for the support and the executive committee of the Teaching Section chose to support both by splitting the funds. Five hundred dollars was offered to Marshall Sundberg and Rachel Meyer, the organizers of a symposium titled “Broadening Participation - Recruiting and Retaining Outstanding Scientists in the Botanical Science” and the Evolution symposium title “Yes, Bobby, evolution is real”.

A total of 16 papers were submitted for the Monday July 29th morning contributed paper session. Six of the papers were subsequently included in the Evolution symposium after the introduction paper by the organizers, with nine papers in the regular section. The “Broadening Participation - Recruiting and Retaining Outstanding Scientists in the Botanical Science” scheduled seven presenting authors. The poster session will proceed with 11 posters in a range of diverse topics on Monday evening (4/29) from 5:30-7:00 pm in Grand Salon A.

Budget:
The Teaching Section funds stand at $10,507.14 before the 2013 New Orleans expenses are met. At this year’s meeting the Chair hopes to discuss the possibility of the section awarding a graduate student support to next year’s meeting. In addition a discussion on formalizing future the procedure to solicit select symposia to support.