Report of the President – July 2014

This has been a wonderful and exciting year for the Botanical Society of America and it has been my pleasure to serve the society as its President. Below, I summarize the various activities associated with the office of the president and then other activities and issues that have emerged over the year.

Responsibilities as President of the BSA:

• I attended the second Legacy Society dinner at New York Botanical Garden on October 18, 2013. I welcomed all of the guests on behalf of the society and introduced the evening’s host, Director of NYBG and longtime BSA member, Dennis Stevenson.

• In December 2013, in collaboration with Incoming President Tom Ranker, I met individually (via skype) with all of the BSA staff members. The goal of these meetings is to be sure we know exactly what everyone does, what their successes have been and what problems they face. Our conclusion was that we have a truly wonderful staff who are working hard every day to support and develop the BSA. One of the great rewards of this last year has been to work with them.

• Provided performance evaluation for Executive Director, Bill Dahl.

• Attended, with Past-President Toby Kellogg, President Elect Tom Ranker, and Executive Director Bill Dahl, an AIBS meeting on “Topics in Biology Leadership”. The meeting was held on December 6, 2013 in Washington DC. Historically, the three “presidents” have attended the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP). Toby and I attended CSSP in 2012 and did not find that society to be particularly useful. The focus of the AIBS meeting on Leadership was only moderately enlightening. I recommend that we re-visit whether these December meetings are a good investment of time and funding.

• Chaired the annual Spring Board Meeting held February 28 to March 1, 2014 at the Business Office in St. Louis. Major items of discussion included:
  o Search for new Plant Sciences Bulletin Editor (subsequently completed successfully with the selection of Mackenzie Taylor)
  o Changes to Botany conference format
  o Corporate sponsorship of meetings and corporate donations to BSA. Should we refuse donations from corporations with questionable ethics? I asked the BSA public policy committee to investigate policies of other societies and to make a recommendation. This will be discussed at the upcoming Board meeting
  o Need for a new Strategic Plan (more about this below).

• Participated, ex-officio, on several committees including the Investment Committee, Pelton Award committee, Merit Award committee, Darbaker Prize committee.

• Implemented the newly developed “Emerging Leaders” Award. This award was developed by the BSA Board to enhance early career development. 2014 saw the first competition and selection of an awardee, Stacey Smith of the University of Colorado.

• Reviewed changes to Highwire Press contract.

• After consultation with the BSA Board of Directors, wrote letters in support of
  o Plant Conservation Alliance
  o Funding for Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew
  o Brooklyn Botanic Garden Science Program
  o National Center for Science Education
  o Foundation of Rood and Agricultural Research (Farm Bill)
  o Frontiers in Research, Science, and Technology Act of 2014 (reauthorization of NSF)

Other major areas of involvement have been education, publications, and information technology:
• Our education efforts saw major changes in leadership this year. Education Director Claire Hemmingway took a position with the National Science Foundation and Catrina Adams was appointed Acting Director. Catrina led the effort on a resubmission of a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to support PlantingScience. We should know the outcome of that proposal soon. In the mean time, Planting Science activities have scaled back to a level feasible with existing staff and IT capabilities. The future of this program should be a primary item of consideration at upcoming Board meetings.

• I have been deeply involved in discussions about publications. I am in awe of how well the American Journal of Botany has done in this rapidly changing time of on-line publishing and open access. The Centennial Issues, with their “Then and Now” feature articles are a terrific beginning for the next century of journal success. I thank Judy Jernstedt for her expert leadership. APPS, our newly launched on-line Journal is being able led by Teresa McCulley and Beth Prada. Marshall Sundberg will be stepping down from his editorship of the Plant Sciences Bulletin. I thank him for his great work on this beloved publication.

• Information Technology has made great progress this year with the implementation of Civi-CRM nearly complete. I am hopeful that Botany.org will begin renovation soon.

One of my goals for this year has been the initiation of a Strategic Planning Session to be held in association with the Botany 2014 meeting. I see this as a pressing issue for many reasons, the most critical of which are: 1) the previous strategic plan was developed over five years ago, and most of the initiative set out in that plan have been implemented and we need fresh ideas and directions; and 2) the financial model for our society is changing very rapidly and stability of the BSA will require thoughtful input from a diverse array of members. To this end, Toby Kellogg and I put together a list of participants that includes members from all career stages and areas of expertise, past and present board members, and to ensure fresh perspectives, many members who had never served on the Board. The Strategic Planning Session will be held on Thursday, July 31, at the conference hotel.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Diggle

Addendum: As I look back over my calendar and contemplate my year as Prez, I will also note that in the past year I have:

Moved from Boston MA back to Boulder CO
Retired
Packed up my lab (20 plus years worth of stuff to sort through!!)
Moved from Boulder CO to Storrs CT
Started a new job in EEB at UConn (yipeee!!!!!!!)
Got tenure (again)
Bought a house in Boston and moved from rented flat
Bought a house in Storrs and moved from rented bungalow

(just had to share…)
The Botanical Society of America is in solid financial condition. Income and expenses for the past year have been quite close to the budgeted amounts. The Consolidated Financial Summary is included below for reference. There have been no unanticipated or one-time expenses this year. One staff member left and there have been no new staff hires. Expenses year-to-date are also below those from last year at this time so our overall position is good.

The largest share of income continues to be from the *American Journal of Botany*. Overall subscription numbers declined about 3% last year, in line with an ongoing trend of 3-5% annual declines, but revenue was up due to subscription price increases. Efforts are underway, particularly in foreign markets, to reverse the declining subscription trend. Leadership is continuing to explore alternative models for sustainability of the journal and the society, particularly given the trend towards open access. *Primer Notes and Protocols* was successfully spun off into an independent open-access journal (*Applications in Plant Sciences, APPS*) under the auspices of BioOne. Income is down slightly from its inaugural year (2013) and the journal is on track to break even next year.

The Conference and Education initiatives, in the form of grants, also contribute to income on the current balance sheet. Both of these activities are revenue neutral; however they help support the Society’s mission and its staff. At present, we do not have any large funded initiatives, however we have reapplied to NSF for the Plants grant and will find out about that later this year.

As you know we hired a Development officer two years ago and this has been an important step for the Society and one that is beginning to produce dividends. Our YTD income, funds raised by the Development officer, is already above the total for last year. The expenditures in this category are stable, since they are mainly the salary of the Development officer. As of spring 2014, we had already gone from 90 to about 190 new donators and 6 new Legacy members.

**Assets**

This past year the BSA investment fund grew by 17.7%, a $730,713 gain (Table 1). This follows a good previous year as well. Due to our rising asset levels, we negotiated a lower annual fee from our management firm, and a further reduction will be incurred once we reach the $5 million mark. The investment committee recommended a slight reduction in the fixed income portion of our portfolio to our manager. Please see the report from the Investment Committee for further information on the investment accounts. In addition the Society has, as of 7 July, 2014 approximately $86,000 in cash, $150,000 in money market funds, and $268,000 in the conference account, for total financial assets of nearly $5,363,000 (Table 2).

**Table 1.** Investment fund balances for the Botanical Society of America for past three years

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<td>30 June 2014</td>
<td>$4,859,277</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 June 2013</td>
<td>$4,128,564</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 June 2012</td>
<td>$3,787,307</td>
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</table>
**Income and expenses**
The budget approved for 2013-2014 included total budgeted operational income of $1.56M and budgeted expenses of $1.58M. We are in a good position to meet or exceed both income and expenditure targets at year-to-date (YTD) for the fiscal year ending 30 September, 2014. Our YTD income is already 1% above budget (Table 2). Our expenditures are well below budget but are right on target for what will be spent on staff and journal expenses for the last quarter.

**The 2014-2015 Budget**
No major changes in income and expenses are expected relative to last year’s performance. Total income is projected at $1.63M for the FY2015 budget, which is slightly higher than the $1.56M in budgeted for FY2014. Expenses are budgeted at $1.70M, in contrast to last year’s budget of $1.58M. *A JB* institutional subscription rates will increase by 5.1 % above the current base price of $715. Membership rates will not increase. Expenses for personnel, administration, and rent have increased but the St. Louis office continues to be run with increasing efficiency and that represents a source of savings.

**Table 2: 2013-14 Income & Expenditures.** See next page.
## Table 2: 2013-14 Income & Expenditures.

### Profit & Loss Statement

October 1, 2013 thru July 7, 2014

### BSA Consolidated Financial Summary

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<td>Income</td>
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<td>Income</td>
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<td>($55,870)</td>
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<td>Income</td>
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<td>$89,525</td>
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<td>Income</td>
<td>$1,588,563</td>
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<td>1%</td>
<td>$1,633,308</td>
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<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$1,588,563</td>
<td>$1,555,853</td>
<td>$13,100</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>$1,633,308</td>
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<td>$1,673,668</td>
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### Current Account balances - July 7, 2014

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<td>St. Louis Cash</td>
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<td>Conference Account</td>
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<td>Smith Barney portfolio</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>$82,151</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>$4,886,244</td>
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Program Director's Report
David Spooner, and Johanne Stogran, BSA Conference Director
BSA Council Meeting Botany 2014, The Boise Centre, Payette Room, Boise, Idaho

Participating societies

Submitted Abstracts (as of July 9, 2014)
Contributed Papers – 474
Posters – 268
Special Presentations – 7
Symposia and Colloquia – 111
Workshops – 19
Discussion Sessions – 1
Total………………………..880

Plenary speaker
Charles C. Mann (born 1955) is an American journalist and author, specializing in scientific topics. His
1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus won the National Academies Communication
Award for best book of the year. He is the coauthor of four books, and contributing editor for Science,
Atlantic Monthly, and "Wired".
• 1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus (Alfred A. Knopf, 2005)
• 1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created
See his talk on You Tube at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bghLhJ-c8os

Field trips

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<th>Day</th>
<th>FT #</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, July 26</td>
<td>FT #1</td>
<td>Charlie's Garden</td>
<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FT #2</td>
<td>Leslie Gulch</td>
<td>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FT #3</td>
<td>Garden Valley</td>
<td>8:00 AM – 8:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FT #4</td>
<td>Bear Valley Rafting</td>
<td>8:00 AM –12:00 PM</td>
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<td>FT #4A</td>
<td>Ferns and Lycophytes of the Payette Lake area, Valley County, Idaho</td>
<td>8:00 AM –5:00 PM</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 27</td>
<td>FT #5</td>
<td>Bear Valley Rafting</td>
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<tr>
<td>FT #</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Time</td>
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<td>FT #6</td>
<td>Silver City</td>
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<td>FT #7</td>
<td>Peaceful Belly Organic Farm Tour</td>
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<td>FT #8</td>
<td>Idaho Botanical Garden Field Trip</td>
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<td>FT #9</td>
<td>The College of Idaho Biological Collections Open House</td>
<td>1:30 PM – 5:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Thursday, July 31</strong></td>
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<td>FT #10</td>
<td>Wineries Tour</td>
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<td>FT #11</td>
<td>Snowbank Mountain and Blue Lake</td>
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<td>Shafer Butte</td>
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<td>FT #13</td>
<td>Fossil floras associated with the Middle Miocene Columbia River Basalts of Northern Idaho</td>
<td>July 31 - August, 2</td>
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<td>FT #14</td>
<td>Magic Valley Agricultural Tour – From Seed to Table</td>
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**Symposia and Colloquia**

**Monday Morning**
- Phylogenetic Comparative Methods and Approaches in Plant Science
  Organized by John Schenk, Sponsored by American Society of Plant Taxonomists

**Monday Afternoon**
- The evolution and ecology of aquatic bryophytes
  Organized by Brent Mishler, and Jonathan Shaw, Sponsored by America Lichenological and Lichenological Society; International Association of Plant Taxonomists
- The Evolution of Pollen Performance
  Organized by Joseph Williams and Susan Mazer, Sponsored by Botanical Society of America Developmental & Structural and Ecology Sections
- Empirical Approaches to Phylogenetic Comparative Methods in Plant Science, Organized by John Schenk

**Tuesday Morning**
- Practical Considerations for the Botanical Authentication and Quality Control of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
  Organized by James E. Simon, and Nick Crider, Sponsored by Botanical Society of America
- Digitized natural history collections records in traditional research, collaborative research, and big data research
Organized by Corinna Gries, and Pamela S. Soltis, Sponsored by American Society of Plant Taxonomists; Botanical Society of America - Systematics Section; America Bryological and Lichenological Society

- Annonaceae evolution: integrating molecules, biogeography and ecology
  Organized by Tatiana Arias, and Daniel Thomas

Tuesday Afternoon

- Botanical DNA Banking and the Systematics Community: Working Together
  Organized by Wendy Applequist, Sponsored by American Society of Plant Taxonomists; Botanical Society of America - Systematics Section; International Association of Plant Taxonomists
- Vision & Change in Undergraduate Botany Education
  Organized by J. Phil Gibson, Sponsored by Botanical Society of America Teaching Section
- The Miocene vegetation and environment of Western North America
  Organized by Richard Dillhoff

Wednesday Morning

- On models and methods pertaining to plant reproduction
  Organized by Jordan Sinclair, Sponsored by Botanical Society of America Ecological, Genetics, and Developmental and Structural Sections
- Evolutionary insights from studies of geographic variation: Establishing a baseline and looking ahead to future change, Organized by Heather Schneider, Nicole Soper-Gorden, and Jennifer Weber, Sponsored by Botanical Society of America - Systematics Section
- Species delimitation in composite organisms: the value of recognizing species boundaries in lichen symbionts, Organized by Steven Leavitt

Wednesday Afternoon

- Life after Arabidopsis thaliana: Using non-model organisms to understand species interactions
  Organized by Rupesh Kariyat, and Jordan Sinclair, Sponsored by Botanical Society of America Genetics Section
- Conservation of North American Lichens and the Ecosystems They Support
  Organized by James Lendemer, Sponsored by America Lichenological and Lichenological Society

Workshops

- #1 Georeferencing Natural History Collections: A Crash Course in Translating Locality Data into Geographic Coordinates
- #2 Introduction to Next Generation Sequencing
- #3 Introduction to Botanical Drawing with Alice Tangerini
- #4 Everything You Wanted To Know About PlantED But Were Afraid to Ask
- #5 Non-destructive and non-intrusive measurement techniques of plant responses
- #6 Adding and maintaining natural history collections data in a Symbiota driven web portal
- #7 Developing a Hands-on Distance Education Botany Lab Course
- #8 DNA Subway: Genomics, DNA Barcoding, and RNA-Seq - Bringing Cutting-Edge Biology into the Classroom
- #9 A Free Tool for Visual Learning
- #10 Publishing in 2014: What Should Authors and Publishers Do?
- #11 Field Sketching Techniques with Robin Jess
- #13 Incorporating the Plant Fossil Record into your Botany Courses
• #14 A target enrichment method for gathering phylogenetic information from hundreds of loci: an example from the Compositae, a.k.a. Asteraceae
• #15 Plant Collaborative: A Unified Cyberinfrastructure for Life Sciences
• #16 US Virtual Herbarium Annual Meeting
• #17 Software for teaching plant identification
• #18 Preparing Digital Images for Publication
• #19 Professional Development Workshop: Graduate School – How to Apply and What to Expect
• #20 Crafting an effective elevator speech and Communicating Broader Impacts of Your Work: Networking Workshop for Students and Postdocs

Ticketed Events

Sunday
• Botany in Action – Firewise!

Monday
• Cornell Botanists and Friends Breakfast
• Michigan Consortium of Botanists Breakfast
• American Fern Society Luncheon
• Student Involvement in Botany Luncheon
• California Botanists Brown Bag Luncheon
• Paleobotanical Section Banquet
• Planting Science Reception
• Student Social and Networking Event

Tuesday
• Kaplan Memorial Lecture Fund Cocktail Reception
• University of Connecticut Alumni and Friends Breakfast
• Enhancing Scientist Diversity in Plant Biology Luncheon
• Ohio State University Reception
• American Society of Plant Taxonomists Banquet
• ABLS Dinner

Wednesday
• University of Wisconsin Alumni and Friends Breakfast
• Miami University of Ohio Breakfast
• NSF Brown Bag Information Session
• Celebrate! (All-society mixer and awards presentations)

Featured Speakers

• Sunday—Charles Mann, Plenary Speaker
• Monday—Spenser Barrett, Annals of Botany Lecture
• Tuesday—Steve Novak, Regional Botany Lecture
• Tuesday—Sarah Hake, Kaplan Lecture
• Tuesday—Michael Dockry, Enhancing Student Diversity lecture
• Tuesday—Patrick Herendeen, Address of ASPT President Elect
• Wednesday—Martha Hawes, Pelton Award Lecture
• Wednesday—Tom Ranker, Address of BSA President Elect
Teaching Section:
The teaching section remains quite active in soliciting participation at the annual meetings.
Fifteen oral papers and 16 posters will be presented at the 2014 annual meeting. Drs. Madhav Nepal and Carina Kristina Antilla, incoming and outgoing chairs respectively, will preside.
Presenters represented the range of educational institutions from elementary, middle schools and high schools through community colleges, four-year colleges, and regional and research universities (including 1 international) as well as the Desert Botanical Garden. One session of the oral papers will be dedicated to the late Professor James Wandersee, former chair and program chair of the section who was awarded the section’s Postlethwait Award in 2013.

The Section and Education Committee co-sponsored a symposium, Vision & Change in Undergraduate Botany Education, whose speakers included: Cynthia Bauerle, Elisabeth Schussler, Phil Gibson, Sara Brownell, and Kathleen Archer. Phil Gibson, Education Committee Chair, will preside.

Education Committee:
In addition to the Vision and Change symposium above, the Committee has been engaged in two major initiatives: The USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington D.C. and the PlantEd Digital Library. The USASEF was a rousing success primarily due to the efforts of Phil Gibson and the Committee in leading the planning and on-site activities. The Committee has committed several reviewers to the PlantEd project and is still in the process of selecting an additional (to Phil Gibson) Resource Editor and additional reviewers to represent BSA. They have organized a PlantEd workshop to be presented during the annual meeting.

Plans are underway to participate in the 2015 NABT meeting in Providence, RI, at least to present a workshop based on the “Inquiring about Plants” book, and perhaps a half-day symposium and paper sessions on plant biology.

Society Activities:
PlantingScience
It is clear from the data provided by Dr. Catrina Adams in her Education Summary when NSF support for the project terminated. For the past four semesters we have held steady at serving approximately 800 middle and high school students in approximately 200 teams. This is half the number of our peak in the fall of 2011. The data also suggests that something other than student/teacher interest or available mentors began to limit even earlier growth. Nevertheless, this has been one of the two most successful educational initiatives in the history of the Society and it focuses on the student cohort whose interests are known to be shifting away from science. We continue to believe that this is the right cohort for the BSA to target in its efforts to promote scientific learning about plants. PlantingScience gives the BSA a seat at the table of K-16 education reform and a voice/opportunity to contribute to the future of science education, the future of botany education in K-16, and the future of K-16 scientist partnerships, beyond the actual number of students/teams we directly impact each session and even beyond the 7-12
cohort of students with whom we directly interact. We have built a great community with substantial expertise in teaching and mentoring already through PlantingScience, so it makes a great testing ground and “laboratory” that are worth maintaining. It also might be worth mentioning also that it seems like K-12 science education is “catching up” with PlantingScience…NGSS, AP-bio revisions, etc. all complement what PS has been doing since it started.

Catrina’s report also notes that the “Inquiring about Plants” book is beginning to generate income to support the project and that a BioScience article based on the project has been accepted and another is in preparation for submission to CBE Life Sciences Education.

Plant Ed Digital Library, Life Discovery Conference, and other collaborations. BSA is a co-sponsor of both of these initiatives. As mentioned above, the Education Committee is directly involved with the first and the Society office with both. In addition, Catrina has kept the Society represented at meetings of several more specialized science education organizations and she and I represented the Society at two meetings of the new Professional Societies Alliance for Life Science Education (PSALSE), formerly the Achieving Vision & Change through Life Sciences Societies and Organizations group.

Respectfully submitted:

Marshall D. Sundberg
Director at Large for Education.
Director-at-Large for Publications, Report
July 2014

Activities this year include a series of interviews with researchers on their current publication habits and perceptions, and a search for a new editor of the Plant Science Bulletin (PSB), outlined below.

(1) PSB Editor

The search committee for a next editor of the Plant Science Bulletin (PSB) consisted of Marsh Sundberg (PSB editor), Rich Hund (AJB Production Editor), Ned Friedman (publications committee representative), and me (Sean Graham, Publications Director-at-Large). I chaired the committee.

A call for applicants for the editorial position was posted in the two issues of PSB (Fall and Winter 2013), with an initial application deadline of 15th November 2013, and a revised deadline of 1st March 2014. We received one application (Mackenzie Taylor, Creighton University Omaha), and conducted a Skype-based interview with the applicant on 20th March 2014.

The committee enthusiastically endorsed Dr Taylor to the Board. She hit the interview out of the park, and we strongly suspect that if we had had other candidates she would have risen to the top of the list. She currently has a tenure-track position at Creighton University, and her department is supportive of her possible new role, as part of her outreach/service responsibilities. She has now accepted the position.

(2) Researcher interviews

Pam Diggle (incoming Editor-in-Chief as of January 2015), Amy McPherson (Managing Editor), and I had a series of one-hour Skype-based interviews of botanical researchers in May 2014. Our main goal (as we prepare for the change in editorship) was to understand better how botanists think about publishing their work, their perceptions of AJB, and how and where they look for published papers relevant to their research.

We interviewed 20 researchers at various career stages and in a diversity of fields, in groups of two to three people. Each interview lasted for about an hour. The following were participants (the list was developed by Diggle, McPherson and Graham): Spencer Barrett, Will Cornwell, Michael Donoghue, George Haughn, Sean Hoban, Morgan Gostel, Marc Johnson, Elena Kramer, Jim Leebens-Mack, Chris Pires, Mark Rausher, Loren Rieseberg, Sonia Sultan, Stacey Smith, Doug Soltis, Pam Soltis, Tim Vines, Mark Westoby, Jon Wilson, and Sarah Wyatt (Scott Russell and Missy Holbrooke, agreed to participate, but were unable to do so due to scheduling conflicts).

A summary of the main findings is copied below (this summary was sent to the Board for discussion in early June).
**Summary of findings to the board** (interviews on publication habits of researchers, and their perceptions of *AJB*)

“Audience” was widely considered to be the most important factor for choosing journals to publish in. *AJB* is viewed as a decent and “safe” journal. It has a strong bias to contributions from North Americans, but a broader/global readership. We are not viewed as being as prestigious or as interesting/edgy as some (e.g., *New Phytologist*, which was referenced repeatedly). We may have a slightly old-fashioned “feel” to our articles: we need to update style/presentation of these (and include new sections, e.g., on data deposition). Note: We will be exploring an updated “look” for *AJB* articles during 2014, to launch in 2015. If anyone on the committee is interested in participating in this process (or can recommend graphic designers well-versed in scholarly publishing), please contact the editorial office at ajb@botany.org).

“Impact Factor” was also considered to be a critical consideration, with some mixed opinions (this factor was lurking in the background of many discussions). Senior people were more apt to pooh-pooh the use of I.F., but all acknowledged that it is a major consideration for younger scientists, because of its widespread use in hiring and funding decisions (or at least the perception of its use). Some expressed surprise that our I.F. was so low. *AJB* is still perceived to have high prestige (due to our association with BSA, connection to a vibrant North American community of botanists, and long publication history in North America). The ability of our “prestige” to counterbalance “low I.F.” may not persist as the publishing habits of younger generations evolve rapidly. [Note: We have ideas to improve Impact Factor, and also to support authors in accessing article-level and alternative assessment metrics. Publication committee members were encouraged to contribute to the discussion on both I.F. and altmetrics through email and at the meeting in Boise.]

Other important considerations for choosing journals included speed (time to acceptance), the editorial board composition (as a marker for suitability of the paper for the journal, and whether appropriate reviewers will be selected), and especially the friendliness and professionalism of the editorial team. Associate Editors have a critical role in the journal – they interact with authors and direct the review process. There was some discussion about the need for more “decisiveness” on the AE side (e.g., fewer additional reviews), and the need to speed up handling times. Training of new Associate Editors (AEs) was identified as a significant area for consideration, as was the need for more active review of AE performance. We should also take on new AEs in areas that we want to cover better. Note: Do you have suggestions for the editorial board?

“Open Access” was viewed as nice to have, but largely the purview of rich (= Biomed) labs. PLoS and BMC (the best all-open journals) may be losing some lustre. We also discussed article-level metrics (e.g., provision of download and sharing rates would be desirable) and how to target new (or underserved) areas in botany, while retaining
traditional strengths. Special issues are an important tool for encouraging contributors in under-covered areas, but they need to be more aggressively followed through on (e.g., with subsequent matching themed or virtual special issues).

Substantial discussions took place about what other journals are doing better that we may want to emulate (or develop our own approaches to), such as the use of Tansley-style reviews, and quarterly “best paper” prizes. However, named reviews/prizes require the development of endowments... The development of “Commentary/Perspectives/Opinions”-style pieces along with special reviews, and similar topics (News and Views; minireviews; professional blogs like the “Molecular Ecologist”) was attractive to many. How do we get there from here? Note: Who in your field has particularly interesting ideas and opinions?

People told us that they find papers in many ways. However, the traditional way of doing this, by scanning print/online tables of content (ToC), was not high on many people’s lists. There was a very strong age-division in the methods used to find papers (for those under 25-30 year olds: Twitter, ResearchGate, Mendeley, etc). Other methods used included: Google, Google Scholar, Web of Science, e-ToC, good blogs, Facebook, articles being emailed by friends/colleagues.
2014 Student Representative’s report to the Board
The Botanical Society of America

Officers:

2014 has been an eventful year for student members of the Botanical Society of America. This year, we welcome Angela McDonnell as the incoming Student Representative to the Board.

The student representatives have spearheaded a few new activities this year and continue to support several ongoing events. First is the development of the Student Involvement Committee. The goal of this committee is to provide an easy, friendly way for students to communicate directly with us and each other. This helps us mold, shape, or create events based on the students ideas and comments and also allows the student representatives to expand the audience. Most notably, the format in which the student luncheon will be carried out this year was due to feedback by the committee. We currently have 25 members, 12 of which follow and keep up with us on Facebook. We continue to look for new members.

In April 2014, Morgan Gostel met with the second annual awardees of the BSA Public Policy Award in Washington, D.C. to help facilitate our ongoing participation with the AIBS and BESC Congressional Visits Day event. You can read a summary of our experiences with members of Congress in the Summer 2014 edition of the Plant Science Bulletin.

In May 2014, Morgan Gostel met with members of the Publications committee as part of a series of Skype calls to reenvision the next one hundred years of the American Journal of Botany. The results of these discussions have been shared in the report from the director-at-large for Publications, Sean Graham.

At this year’s meetings the student representatives are organizing three events. Two are longstanding – the student involvement in botany luncheon and the annual student social and networking event. The third event is new this year and gives students an opportunity to develop communication skills by crafting an elevator speech and sharing it with participants.

Looking toward the future, student representatives, Morgan Gostel, Angela McDonnell, and Jon Giddens plan to join the strategic planning session discussions to explore the role of our student membership in this process. Our current student membership will, as we can expect, transition into the future of this society and we therefore expect to continue to develop means to remain meaningful and relevant to these members at early stages of their career as well as support and encourage their continued growth. Cultivating this relationship with student members is going to be an important part of attaining our strategic planning goals. Focal areas will include cooperation with other parts of membership and the board to involve students in the
development of information technology, outreach, and awards. This will help students identify the BSA as a community that offers opportunities to enrich their work at an early time in their career as well as one that will continue to support their future plans.

Thanks,

Morgan Gostel
Jon Giddens
Angela McDonnell

The Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Office of the *American Journal of Botany* are grateful to our dedicated Associate Editors, Special Guest Editors, reviewers, and authors for their thoughtful and diligent work over the past year.

The Journal Citation Report, which issues the journal Impact Factors, is scheduled to be released on July 29 ([http://thomsonreuters.com/press-releases/062014/Thomson-Reuters-Research-Analytics-Enhancements?cid=social_20140610_25723586](http://thomsonreuters.com/press-releases/062014/Thomson-Reuters-Research-Analytics-Enhancements?cid=social_20140610_25723586)), so we are unable to pass on the most recent numbers at the moment.

We took further steps in 2013 to attempt to increase the Impact Factor for *AJB* and improve other metrics: (1) We spun off the “Primer Notes & Protocols” section of the *AJB*, which ran from 2010 to 2012, into the new BSA journal *Applications in Plant Sciences*, and (2) we focused on more special papers, issues, and sections in 2013 and 2014 (see below).

1. “alt-metrics”  [Information provided by Sean Graham.]

   Google Scholar has just released the 2014 'Scholar Metrics' to 'quickly gauge the visibility and influence of recent articles in scholarly publications' (see [http://googlescholar.blogspot.ca/2014/06/2014-scholar-metrics-released.html](http://googlescholar.blogspot.ca/2014/06/2014-scholar-metrics-released.html)). The site ranks journals by the h5-index ("... the largest h such that h articles published in 2009-2013 have at least h citations each...") for articles in the last 5 years. The *AJB* number is 43—ranking 18 out of the top 20 in 'Botany' (chosen from the subcategories list under 'Life Science & Earth Science' or see here—[http://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&vq=bio_botany](http://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&vq=bio_botany)). This is a different way of measuring impact than I.F., and the two metrics are reporting on different aspects of impact. The h5 index focuses on the top performing papers, and so is not directly affected by articles with few citations. Thus, I.F. (which considers everything) tells you more about the 'average' impact of *AJB* articles, and 'h5' more about how the set of top performing *AJB* papers is doing. For comparison, *AJB* ranks 47th by I.F. in 'Plant Sciences' on Web of Science.

   It is possible to see the papers that make up the *AJB* score by clicking on the number. For *AJB* they are here: [http://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&vq=bio_botany&view_op=list_hcore&venue=iRLX2urVoAj.2014](http://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&vq=bio_botany&view_op=list_hcore&venue=iRLX2urVoAj.2014)

   Note that Google Scholar numbers for a given article tend to be quite a bit higher than on Web of Science because Google Scholar includes citations in books and other categories (that WOS filters out).

   This last link shows the top 43 cited articles for 2009-2013. Of these, 19 are from regular issues, and 24 are from Special Issues (12 from the Darwin issue in 2009, 8 from the Biodiversity issue in 2011, and 4 from the Next-Gen Sequencing issue in 2012). This shows how important Special
Issues are. Another interesting observation: the titles of 14 of these 43 articles contain the term “angiosperm.”

2. AJB typically tries to publish one special issue, and several special articles, each year. In 2013, we published:

- A Special Issue on “Advances in Plant Tropisms” (editors: John Kiss and Sarah Wyatt) *AJB 100*(1)
- A Special Section on “Ecological Interactions and the Evolution of Plant Mating Systems” (editors: Rupesh R. Kariyat, Jordan P. Sinclair, and Edward M. Golenberg) *AJB 100*(6)
- A Special Issue on “Global Biological Change” (editors: Stephen G. Weller, Katharine Suding, and Ann K. Sakai) *AJB 100*(7)
- A Special Section on “Rhizosphere Interactions: The Root Microbiome” (editors: Darlene Southworth and Marnie E. Rout) *AJB 100*(9)

For 2014, we turned our attention to celebrating the journal’s first 100 years by publishing AJB Centennial Reviews each month of the year. These Open Access articles look back at key research published in the Journal over the past 100 years and bring those topics up to date. The following have been published this year, with more to come:

- “The evolutionary-development origins of multicellularity” by Karl J. Niklas *AJB 101*(1)
- “The nature of serpentine endemism” by Brian L. Anacker *AJB 101*(2)
- “Repeated evolution of tricellular (and bicellular) pollen” by Joseph H. Williams, Mackenzie L. Taylor, and Brian C. O’Meara *AJB 101*(4)
- “Is gene flow the most important evolutionary force in plants?” by Norman C. Ellstrand *AJB 101*(5)
- “Plant evolution at the interface of paleontology and developmental biology: An organism-centered paradigm” by Gar W. Rothwell, Sarah E. Wyatt, and Alexandru M. F. Tomescu *AJB 101*(6)
- “The polyploidy revolution then...and now: Stebbins revisited” by Douglas E. Soltis, Clayton J. Visger, and Pamela S. Soltis *AJB 101*(7) [in press]

*Other Centennial Articles in Revision or Review:*
"The Plastochron Index: Still useful after nearly six decades," by Roger D. Meicenheimer
"A century of auxin research," by Lucia Strader and Tara A. Enders
“The role of homoploid hybridization in evolution: A century of studies synthesizing genetics & ecology,” by Sarah B. Yamikowski and Loren H. Rieseberg
“Phloem Development: Current Knowledge and Future Perspectives," by Jung-ok Heo, Pawel Roszak, Kaori M. Furuta, and Ykä Helariutta
“The relative and absolute frequencies of angiosperm sexual systems, focusing on dioecy, monoecy, and gynodioecy,” by Susanne Renner
“Ever since Klekowski: Testing a set of radical hypotheses revives the genetics of ferns and lycophytes,” by Christopher H. Haufler

We also have a Special Issue slated for October 2014 titled “Speaking of Food: Connecting Basic and Applied Science.” This issue, headed by Special Issue Editors Briana Gross, Toby Kellogg, and Allison
Miller, comes on the heels of the symposium and colloquium on the same topic that took place at Botany 2013. The goal of those events and of this special AJB issue is to highlight basic research happening in crop species and their wild or weedy relatives, including agricultural ecology, biochemistry, ethnobotany, evolution and genome structure, gene flow, pollination biology, stress responses (both biotic and abiotic), and to demonstrate how this work is relevant to applied agricultural research, crop improvement, conservation of crop genetic resources, and sustainable agriculture. Several of these articles will already be online by the end of July 2014.

We anticipate that these topics and articles will increase interest in and citations for the journal and thus contribute to a higher Impact Factor, and we also hope that they draw attention to the excellent individual articles themselves.

3. AJB Centennial

In addition to the AJB Centennial Reviews listed above, we have been promoting the Centennial in other ways:

- Each Review article is Open Access upon publication and receives its own press release, which is then posted on EurekAlert. This exposes the research to thousands of readers that may not normally read the AJB.
- The Plant Science Bulletin, throughout 2014, features short interviews with some of AJB’s most prolific contributors. These interviews highlight the work these authors have published in the AJB, how their research has changed over their careers, and why they have consistently selected the AJB as one of their primary journals. Currently, the following authors have been featured, with more to come later this year: Karl Niklas, Pam and Doug Soltis, Mark Chase, Shirley Tucker, Gar Rothwell, Daniel Crawford, and Paul Mahlberg.
- We have freed up the content of our top 25 contributors’ entire AJB work at www.botany.org/AJB100.
- We continue to promote the AJB’s centennial (and the entire journal) via Facebook and Twitter. These two sites have nearly 10,000 followers, which far exceeds our BSA membership.
- The BSA created a short video to mark the centennial, which will be available online and shown in the BSA booth at Botany 2014.
- Giveaways at the meeting include a limited number of Centennial T-shirts (as part of a social marketing strategy), birthday cake at the Botany 2014 opening reception, and a desk calendar featuring AJB covers.

4. Upcoming Special Issues/Papers/Commentaries

- Imaging and Visualization in the Plant Sciences special issue; Special Issue Editors: Scott Russell and ?

5. Subscriptions

- The current renewal rate for AJB is around 94% of our 2013 year-end total. Overall, subscriptions are 82% online-only and 18% in print and online (for members and institutions). For institutional subscribers only, 51% are online-only and 49% are in print; for individual members, 93% are online-only and 7% are in print. [Subscriptions in print include online access.] Our print numbers continue to decrease: this year we are printing 790 copies (as compared with 892 in July 2013).
• The board approved an institutional subscription price increase for 2015. These amounts are as follows:
  - U.S. / Canada & Mexico / All Other Nations online only: $775 (4% increase)
  - U.S. online and print: $825 (5.1% increase)
  - Canada & Mexico online and print: $860 (4.9% increase)
  - All Other Nations online and print: $920 (5.7% increase)

The price increases reflect our focus on de-emphasizing print editions and moving to an online-only format in the near future. Current print numbers indicate that we still have a demand for print, although it is declining rapidly. For the July 2014 issue, we printed 418 copies for U.S. institutions, 114 for non-U.S. institutions, 121 for U.S. BSA members, and 81 for non-U.S. BSA members. This reflects an overall drop of 102 print copies from the July 2013 issue.

We are in the sixth year of the consortium arrangement with Charlesworth to maintain subscriptions in China, and we are beginning negotiations for another 3-year renewal to begin in 2015. We are in the first year of a 3-year contract with Globe Publications to increase subscription sales in India. With the help of this in-country partner, we are marketing directly to librarians and plant scientists through monthly emails and personal visits. As a result, our subscriptions in India have increased from 15 to 22 and we are budgeting for 30 subscriptions in India for 2015. We are also looking into opportunities to increase subscriptions in Latin America.

The current AJB editorial staff includes Ms. Amy McPherson (Director of Publications and Managing Editor for AJB), Mr. Richard Hund (Production Editor), Dr. Sophia Balcomb (Assistant Editor/Content Editor), Dr. Beth Hazen (Manuscript Editor), Mr. Richard Earles (Copy Editor), Dr. Larry Skog (Copy Editor), Ms. Elaine Firestone (Copy Editor), and Ms. Mary Des Chene (Copy Editor). Dr. Balcomb and Ms. Amanda Marie Gurung have supported our outreach by writing press releases for EurekAlert.

• Comments and suggestions are always welcome from readers, authors, reviewers, staff, and Associate Editors. E-mail us at ajb@botany.org.
• All communications (electronic, mail, and telephone) should be directed to the Editorial Office, which is located in St. Louis, at the BSA headquarters at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The address is American Journal of Botany, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; tel. 314-577-5112; fax 314-577-9515; email to: ajb@botany.org; www.amjbot.org).

6. Journal Metrics
Total number of manuscripts submitted to AJB [Total numbers of Primer Notes mss. From 2011 and 2012 are in brackets]
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- †Note: We discontinued the following categories in 2013—Bryology & Lichenology, Mycology, and Pteridology.
- *As of 16 July 2013, we had received 271 ms. submissions.
- AJB has published 108 articles so far in 2014 (through July), which compares with 127 through July 2013. (The Special Issues at the beginning of 2013 account for the difference.)

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jernstedt, Amy McPherson, and Richard Hund
Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, and Production Editor

17 July 2014
The Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Office of Applications in Plant Sciences are grateful to our dedicated Associate Editors, Reviewing Editors, Special Issue Editors, reviewers, and authors for their contribution to the journal.

1. Editorial Board and Editorial Office: APPS publishes monthly as part of BioOne's Open Access collection (http://www.bioone.org/loi/apps). The editorial board is: Theresa Culley (Editor-in-Chief), Diane Byers, Richard Cronn, Mitch Cruzan, Kent Holsinger, Jeff Maughan, Mike Moore, Pam Soltis, and Lisa Wallace. There are 10 editors on the 2012-2014 Reviewing Editor Board; the term for the 2014-2016 Reviewing Editor Board (9 editors) begins Sept. 1. Diane Byers has joined the board as an Associate Editor in July 2014; we are actively recruiting both Associate Editors and Subject Editors.

Beth Parada is the Managing Editor for the journal. She receives support with outreach from Amanda Gurung, Andy Crowl, and Greg Stull, who contribute press releases for EurekAlert.

2. Submission data:
Submissions have been slow in 2013 and 2014, as we work to increase visibility of the journal. To increase submissions, we are directly inviting authors to submit to the journal and have sent out two Calls for Papers offering waived OA fees (in spring 2013 and spring 2014). An important part of our efforts to increase journal visibility/discoverability involves journal indexing (more on this below). While APPS still publishes Primer Notes, we are focusing on increasing submissions of methods and review papers to broaden the applicability and readership of the journal.

Published articles:
2013: 117 (22 non-Primer Notes)
2014 (through Vol. 2, issue 8): 62 (20 non-Primer Notes)

Submissions:
2010: 115
2011: 186
2012: 187 (ca. 10 non-Primer Notes)
2013: 62 (through 7/19/2013) (14 non-Primer Notes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles submitted (by article type)</th>
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<th>2014 (to July 16)</th>
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<td>Primer Note</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protocol Note</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Review Article</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Issue Article</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
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</table>
3. Indexing/Discoverability:

**Web of Science/Science Citation Index:** Based on discussions with other journals, we had hoped to receive news earlier (late 2013/early 2014); *APPS* is still under evaluation. Beth is in contact with the subject specialist at Thomson Reuters in charge of plant sciences; they have told us they are waiting for the 2013 Journal Citation Report data to be released (which will happen in late July) before making a decision on *APPS*'s inclusion, so we hope to receive news soon.

Once *APPS* is selected for indexing, the first impact factor for the journal will be available in June 2015 (evaluating 2013 and 2014 publications). The immediacy index would be available in the 2014 JCR (available in June 2015).

**NOTE:** Web of Science includes Science Citation Index, Biological Abstracts/BIOSIS, Current Contents. *APPS* is being evaluated for all of these products.

**PubMed Central/PubMed:** *APPS* passed the content evaluation for PMC January 2014 and the technical evaluation May 2014. Content approved for inclusion in PMC is automatically included in PubMed. This means that the full-text articles will appear in PMC, while the citations/abstracts will appear in PubMed. Content will appear on PMC after the full issue has posted on BioOne. There’s a 3–4-day lag time from posting on PMC to posting on PubMed. After some technical delays from our compositor, *APPS* content should be live on PMC/PubMed beginning late July/early August.

**Other indexing:** *APPS* is also indexed in AGRICOLA, CAB Abstracts, CrossRef, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Google Scholar, Mendeley, NCBI, OIAster, Portico (archiving), LOCKSS (archiving), and WorldCat.

We will be pursuing inclusion in: EBSCO, OVID, Index Copernicus, Pro Quest, SCOLOR, Zetoc.

**Altmetrics:** BioOne now includes Altmetric scores (through Altmetric.com) on applicable articles. This appears as a badge in the right column of the Abstract or Full-text view (under Social Tools). If you are interested, you can read about how the Altmetric score is calculated here: [http://support.altmetric.com/knowledgebase/articles/83337-how-is-the-altmetric-score-calculated](http://support.altmetric.com/knowledgebase/articles/83337-how-is-the-altmetric-score-calculated).

4. Journal Marketing/Visibility: Media outreach efforts by the editorial office include press releases (1–2 articles per issue) to EurekAlert, with supporting tweets and Facebook postings; *APPS* is featured in the monthly Publications newsletter sent to BSA members; and the latest *Plant Science Bulletin* includes an interview with Editor-in-Chief Theresa Culley. We encourage you to read the interview, which is very informative about what the first year and a half of publication has been like, and where *APPS* is headed ([http://issuu.com/botanicalsocietyofamerica/docs/psb_60_2_2014](http://issuu.com/botanicalsocietyofamerica/docs/psb_60_2_2014); article starts on p. 92).

5. Special Issue: Our first special issue is publishing in August. This is based on the Botany 2013 colloquium "Bioinformatic and Biometric Methods in Plant Morphology."
6. OA fees:
OA fees are currently $195 for members and $750 for nonmembers. For Vol. 2 (through July issue), of 54 articles published: 4 waived OA; 33 members; 17 not members (total income from OA fees for volume to date: $19,185).

BSA Executive Director Bill Dahl suggests increasing the OA fees for both members and nonmembers. Based on the slow submissions, Beth has recommended only a minimal increase until after APPS is accepted into Web of Science. The suggested increase is from $195 to $250 for BSA members and from $750 to $795 for nonmembers.

As APPS’s visibility increases, we expect submissions (and income) to increase as well. This is typical for a new journal.

7. Usage data: Because no Journal Citation data or other metrics are available yet, we have included usage data from BioOne.

BioOne Journal Usage Report for 2014, showing monthly page views by type of content.

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BioOne Journal Usage Report for 2013, showing the total for 2013 by type of content.

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<td>Enhancing PCR Amplification of DNA from Recalcitrant Plant Specimens Using a Trehalose-Based Additive</td>
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<td>An Improved Clearing and Mounting Solution to Replace Chloral Hydrate in Microscopic Applications</td>
<td>Villani, Koroch &amp; Simon</td>
<td>Vol. 1, No. 5, May 2013</td>
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<td>Dendrometer Bands Made Easy: Using Modified Cable Ties to Measure Incremental Growth of Trees</td>
<td>Anamaet &amp; Middleton</td>
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<td>Vol. 1, No. 11, November 2013</td>
<td>Tweet and Facebook post</td>
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<td>Changing Technologies Offer New Opportunities in the Plant Sciences</td>
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<td>Vol. 1, No. 1, January 2013</td>
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<td>An Efficient Technique for Primer Development and Application that Integrates Fluorescent Labeling and Multiplex PCR</td>
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<td>Annotation and Re-Sequencing of Genes from De Novo Transcriptome Assembly</td>
<td>Roschanski, Fady, Ziegenhagen, et al.</td>
<td>Vol. 1, No. 1, January 2013</td>
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<td>Applying microCT and 3D Visualization to Jurassic Silicified Conifer Seed Cones: a Virtual Advantage Over Thin-Sectioning</td>
<td>Gee</td>
<td>Vol. 1, No. 11, November 2013 Press release and tweet</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

• Comments and suggestions are always welcome from readers, authors, reviewers, and Associate Editors. Email us at apps@botany.org.

• All communications (electronic, mail, and telephone) should be directed to the Editorial Office, which is located in St. Louis, at the BSA headquarters at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The address is Applications in Plant Sciences, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; tel. 314-577-9486; fax 314-577-9515; email to: apps@botany.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Culley, Editor-in-Chief
Beth Parada, Managing Editor

18 July 2014
2014 Editor’s Report, Plant Science Bulletin

Volume 59

2. All four issues, 184 pages, were published on schedule.

3. Published peer-reviewed articles:
   - Early 19th-century expressions of popular botany through sentimentalism in American gift books and annuals.
   - Elementary botany: How teachers in one school district teach about plants.
   - A navigation guide to cyberinfrastructure tools for botanical and lichenological systematic research.

4. 34 books were received for review: 31 book reviews were published.

5. PDF and Flip-page versions of each issue are now available as soon as proof is sent to the printer. We are still working to make submitted materials and reviewed manuscripts accessible on-line in a more timely manner.

Volume 60

2. Three articles were published in the first two issues:
   - Students’ interest in useful plants – a potential key to counteract plant blindness.
   - Geocaching as a means to teach botany to the public.

3. 13 books were received for review: 12 book reviews were published.

4. Two articles have been accepted for the Fall issue.

5. We have accepted a full page advertisement for the first time, Li-Cor.


-Marsh Sundberg, Editor
Mission: The Botanical Society of America exists to promote botany, the field of basic science dealing with the study and inquiry into the form, function, development, diversity, reproduction, evolution, and uses of plants and their interactions within the biosphere.

The objectives of The Society are to: sustain and provide improved formal and informal education about plants; encourage basic plant research; provide expertise, direction, and position statements concerning plants and ecosystems; and foster communication within the professional botanical community, and between botanists and the rest of humankind through publications, meetings, and committees.

I. 2014 BSA Business Report - Introduction

The following report provides an overview of the activities of the Botanical Society of America’s business office over the past twelve months. Let me begin by thanking and acknowledging the Executive Committee for their support and direction. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Society, and myself, I also thank and acknowledge the Society’s staff, Catrina Adams, Rob Brandt, Heather Cacanindin, Richard Hund, Toby Lounsbury, Wanda Lovan, Amy McPherson, Beth Parada, Birgit Spears and Johanne Stogran, for their efforts and dedication to the Botanical Society of America.

II. Thank you!

We extend a special thank you to members who donated to our endowment, and to the various BSA section and award funds. Contributions so far this year totaled over $30,500.

III. Financial Update

Our key operational revenue streams for the year are budgeted at $1,555,853. Actual income to date is $1,568,953, a positive variance (+$13,100), which is due to higher than anticipated income from Botany 2104 in conjunction with the final payments/expenses from the first NSF DK12 PlantingScience grant.

Expenditures are currently running at $1,176,350, below the anticipated full-year budget of $1,584,332. Variance (-407,982) at -26% is deemed in line with our end of the year projections. I anticipate we will end the year running very close to budget on operational expenditure.

Overall the Society is in reasonable
shape, with year-to-date income of $1,852,903 (+15% on full-year budget) and expenditure of $1,219,409 (-24% on full-year budget).

Our current account balances are:
- St. Louis Cash - $85,734.24
- Money Market - $150,257.63
- Conference Account - $267,967.81
- Smith Barney - $4,859,277

Over the past few years we have budged income from the Smith Barney account that we have not needed to withdraw. This year we will likely request $100,000 to $150,000 from the funds allocated to top up our St. Louis Cash/Money Market accounts.

IV. Membership

Membership in the Society remains relatively stagnant. We anticipate coming close to the 2013 levels in all membership types. We are concerned with lower than anticipated student numbers.

Recommendation 1: It is recommended hold current membership rates for 2015.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended we again provide students and Post-Docs an incentive to renew, with an "early renewal" rate of $15 for Students and $20 for Post-Docs.

Recommendation 3: It is recommended we again hold a new student membership drive early in the fall with a gift-rate of $10 per student.

V. American Journal of Botany

We have registered 1,095 institutional subscriptions for the year to date (1,161 in 2013). Sales revenue is currently $890,253, as compared to a full-year budget of $857,918. Institutional revenue in 2013 was $902,217.

We continue to see the number of print copies of the AJB being ordered and delivered drop, down ~114 (-13.3%, 742 per month down from 856 in 2013) for 2014. Institutional print subscriptions have fallen to 536, representing less than half of our institutional orders. Member print subscriptions stand at 206. We are approaching to important milestones. Soon our print volume will drop to a point where we: 1) need to change the type of press we use; and 2) print subscriptions prices will be much higher than what we see now, if we keep printing the journal, and move to an “on demand” model (or online only model). Our crossover point in moving from...
our current printing method (Sheridan Press Sheet-fed Offset Press) to a digital format is roughly 665 copies. We will move to the digital press early in 2015.

Please see the “Membership and Institutional Subscription Activity” figure below to better understand the overall trend for institutional/member print and online subscription volumes.

The 2015 *American Journal of Botany* base institutional rates (online subscription) will move to a level of $745.00, up $30 (4.2%) on that of 2014.

**Recommendation 4**: Our goal was to provide print subscriptions to the *AJB* through the centennial year. Having met that goal, it is recommended we now move to an online-based subscription model as our main form of delivery by 2016.

### Membership & Institutional Subscription Activity

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<td>421</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**VI. Plant Science Bulletin and Applications in Plant Sciences**

Please see the respective Editors reports for further information.

**Recommendation 5**: It is recommended we review the cost structure for papers submitted to APPS, with a move to $295 per paper for members and $795 for non-members.
VII. **BSA Support Services**
The BSA earned $24,498 in revenue from support services to SSE. We will receive an additional $8,166, plus $20,000 from SEB, for a year-end total of $52,664. It must be noted that these services are run at a break-even position, and allow us to carry an additional staff member to support our overall efforts.

VIII. **Botany Conference**
Upcoming Botany Conferences:
- 2015 – Edmonton
- 2016 – Savannah

IX. **PlantingScience**
The *PlantingScience* program continues to develop, albeit at a slower pace than we’d hoped with the online component remaining on hold. We are current waiting to hear the outcome of our proposed $2.9 million “Generating Reflection and Science Practices (GRASP) Community of Practice” grant.

The Botanical Society of America (BSA), Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS), and American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB), propose a Full Research and Development Project to develop, implement, and test a professional development (PD) model of teachers and scientists collaborating with each other and with students over extended periods. The research will test the impacts of the PD materials and collaboration on a community of students, teachers, and scientists. The GRASP project will address the DR K12 Teaching Strand to develop and study resources and models for helping in-service teachers develop content, pedagogical knowledge and skills and for sharing teaching expertise across the national teacher community.

The project targets high school teachers and their students in biology classes as well as scientists and education researchers interested in innovative online learning and professional development involving STEM education-profession partnerships.

The full proposal can be found at http://www.botany.org/bsa/membership/council2014/ZZZ-GRASP_fullsubmission.pdf.

X. **IT Developments**
The PlantED system is fully functional and we will hold a workshop at Botany 2014 to seek educational material submissions as well as to train reviewers.

CiviCRM is in test mode and will be deployed after the meeting for the BSA. Please see Toby or Rob for a full demonstration.

We have a shell-structure in place for a remodel of the BSA website. We will continue to move content and hope to complete the project, with input from the IT Committee, by December.

**Thanks, Bill**
Report of the Committee on Committees - February 2014

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES** (6 appointed members; 3 year terms)

- Tom Ranker (2016), President Elect, Chair, ex officio
- Theresa Culley (2014)
- Jennifer Richards (2014)
- George Weiblen (2015)
- Scott Russell (2016)
- Liz Zimmer (2016)
- Marian Chau, Student Representative (2015-two year term following rotation off of Board)
- Andrea Wolfe (2015), Secretary, ex officio

**BSA committee assignments to begin summer 2014: status as of 26 February 2014**

(The names in red rotate off in August 2014 and need to be replaced early in 2014 so people can attend the appropriate meetings at Botany 2014)

The names in green are new nominees to begin as of the 2014 annual meeting and ending at the 2017 annual meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES** (6 appointed members; 3 year terms)

- Tom Ranker (2016), President Elect, Chair, ex officio
- Theresa Culley (2014)
- Jennifer Richards (2014)
- George Weiblen (2015)
- Scott Russell (2016)
- Liz Zimmer (2016)
- Carrie Wu (2017)
- Eric Bishop von Wettberg (2017)
- Marian Chau, Student Representative (2015-two year term following rotation off of Board)
- Andrea Wolfe (2015), Secretary, ex officio

**Other Committees:**

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN DIVERSITY**

- Brenda Molano-Flores, (2016) Chair
- Ann Hirsch (2014)
- Muriel Poston (2014)
- Anna Monfils (2015)
- Juan Zalapa (2015)
- Ann Sakai (2016)
- Jim Cohen (2017)
- Stacey Smith (2017)
- Lavanya Challagundla, *Student Representative* (2014)
- Shawn Abrahams, *Student Representative* (2017)
- David Spooner (2014), Program Director, ex officio
• Pamela Diggle (2015), President, ex officio
• Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE (6 appointed members; 3 year terms)**

• Phil Gibson, Chair (2015)
• Christopher Martine (2014)
• Elisabeth Schussler (2015)
• Suzann Koptur (2016)
• David Baum (2016)
• Paul Wolf (2017)
• Alan Bowsher, BSA Student Representative (2015)
• Pamela Diggle (2015), President, ex officio
• Andrea Wolfe (2015), Secretary, ex officio
• Marsh Sundberg (2014), At-Large Director - Education and Editor of the *Plant Science Bulletin*, ex officio
• Catrina Adams, Acting BSA Education Director, ex officio

**ELECTION COMMITTEE (3 appointed members; 3 year terms)**

• Elizabeth Kellogg (2014), Past President, Chair, ex officio
• Mark Fishbein (2014)
• Lena Hileman (2015)
• Brenda Casper (2016)
• Dianella Howarth (2017)
• Andrea Wolfe (2015), Secretary, ex officio

**FINANCE COMMITTEE (3 appointed members; 3 year terms)**

• Darleen DeMason (2014), (Chair) Darleen DeMason (2017), (Chair)
• Kristina Schierenbeck (2015)
• Richard McCourt (2016)
• Morgan Gostel, Student Representative (2014)
• Erin Fujimoto, Student Representative (2017)
• Joe Williams (2016), Treasurer, ex officio

**INVESTMENT COMMITTEE (3 members; 3 year terms)**

**Since this committee only requires 3 members, no action needed this year since after Mackenzie leaves there will still be 3 regular members**

• Harry T. Horner (2014), (Chair) Harry T. Horner (2017), (Chair)
• Mackenzie Taylor (2014)
• Jon Giddens Student Representative (2015)
• Russell Chapman (2015)
• Larry Hufford (2016)
• Karl Niklas (2017)
• Pamela Diggle (2015), President, ex officio
• Joe Williams (2016), Treasurer, ex officio
• Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

• Kent Holsinger (2015), Chair
• Kay Havens (2014)
• Judy Skog (2014)
• James Cohen (2015)
• Marian Chau (2015)
• Krissa Skogen (2016)
• Benjamin Blackman (2016)
• Nicholas Tippery (2017)
• Kathryn LeCroy (2017)
• Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (3 year terms)

• Qiu-Yun (Jenny) Xiang (2014), Chair
• William (Ned) Friedman (2014)
• Jeffrey Osborn (2014)
• Mitch Cruzan (2015), Chair
• Michele Dudash (2016)
• Allison Miller (2017)
• Sarah Wyatt (2017)
• Richard McCourt (2017)
• Rachel Germain Student Representative (2015)
• Sean Graham, BSA Director at large - Publications, ex officio (2016)
• Judy Jernstedt, Editor, AJB, ex officio
• Pamela Diggle, Incoming Editor, AJB, ex officio
• Theresa Culley, Editor, APPS, ex officio
• Marshall Sundberg, Editor, PSB, ex officio
• Amy McPherson, AJB Managing Editor, ex officio
• Richard Hund, AJB Production Editor, ex officio
• Beth Parada, APPS Managing Editor, ex officio

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (5 appointed members; 3 year terms)

**Needs two new regular members for 2015-2017 terms; BILL DAHL IS DEALING WITH THIS

• Chris Martine (2015), Chair
• Mike Moore (2014)
• Norm Wickett (2014)
• David Tank (2016)
• Mario Vallejo-Marin (2016)
• Rob Brandt, BSA Manager Technology Development, ex officio

MERIT AWARDS COMMITTEE (6 appointed members; 3 year terms)

• Bruce Baldwin (2014), Chair Pam Soltis (2015)
• Susan Kalisz (2014)
• Allison Snow (2015)
• Pam Soltis (2015) need another member since Pam is moving to Chair
• Pat Gensel (2016)
• Norm Ellstrand (2016)
• Susana Magallon (2017)
• Jill Miller (2017)
• Pamela Diggle (2015), President, ex officio

BSA GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD COMMITTEE (INCLUDING THE J.S. KARLING AWARD) (10 appointed members; 3 year terms)
• Kyra Krakos (2014), Chair Gabriel Johnson (2015), Chair
• Patrick McIntyre (2014)
• Kate Hertweck (2014)
• Monica Carlsen (2015)
• Gabriel Johnson (2015)
• Amy Parachnowitsch (2015)
• Mauricio Diazgranados (2016)
• Megan Peterson (2016)
• Liz Zimmer (2017)
• Mark Fishbein (2017)
• Melissa Islam (2017)
• Nico Cellinese (2017)
• Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

CHEADLE AWARD COMMITTEE (3 appointed members; 3 year terms)

• Amy Litt (2016) Chair as Chair of D&S Section
• Jim Cohen (2014)
• Carrie Wu (2015)
• Jocelyn Hall (2016)
• Donovan Bailey (2017)
• Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

DARBAKER PRIZE COMMITTEE (3 appointed members; 3 year terms)

• In partnership with the Phycological Society of America
• Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

ESAU AWARD COMMITTEE (3 appointed members; 3 year terms)

• Nicholas Tippery (2014), Chair Jessica Budke (2015)
• Jessica Budke (2015) need another member since Jessica is moving to Chair
• Chelsea Specht (2016)
• Kark Niklas (2017)
• Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

DONALD R. KAPLAN MEMORIAL LECTURE COMMITTEE (3 appointed members; 3 year terms “once established-2013”)

• Darleen DeMason (2014), Chair Dennis Stevenson (2017; Chair for at least 2015)
• Cindi Jones (2015)
• Chelsea Specht (2016)
• Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

MOSELEY AWARD COMMITTEE (3 appointed members; 3 year terms)

• Selena Smith (2014), Chair Veronica Di Stilio (2015) Chair
• Clinton Whipple (2016)
• James Boyer (2017)
• Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

PELTON AWARD COMMITTEE (3 appointed members; 3 year terms)
- Ned Friedman (2014), Chair
- Joe Williams (Chair 2015; committee member until 2016)
- Brigitte Marazzi (2014)
- Peter Endress (2015)
- Jill Preston (2017)
- Andrew Doust (2017)
- Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

International Affairs Committee

- Mark Mort (2015), Chair
- Alejandra Jaramillo (2014)
- Natalia Pabon-Mora (2014)
- Tom Rost (2016)
- Allison Miller (2017)
- Mark Beilstein (2017)
- Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio
Botanical Society of America
Education Committee Annual Report
July 22, 2014

EDUCATION COMMITTEE (6 appointed members; 3 year terms)
Phil Gibson, Chair (2015), Christopher Martine (2014), Elisabeth Schussler (2015), Suzann Koptur (2016), David Baum (2016), Alan Bowsher, BSA Student Representative (2015), Pamela Diggle (2015), President, ex officio, Andrea Wolfe (2015), Secretary, ex officio, Marsh Sundberg (2014), At-Large Director - Education and Editor of the Plant Science Bulletin, ex officio, Catrina Adams, BSA Education Director, ex officio

The Education Committee focused its efforts on two areas over the past year: the USA Science and Engineering Festival (USASEF) and the PlantEd Digital Learning Library Program.

For the USASEF, discussions began after the 2013 Annual Meeting to develop interactive activities for the BSA’s USASEF booth. A group of approximately 12 BSA members discussed different activities that could be conducted at the booth and have a specific learning goal. Unfortunately, after considerable effort had been expended developing the basic activities, we learned that due to security and other restrictions at the USASEF site, we would not be able to use the planned activities. In a last minute effort, members of the Education Committee discussed several small activities including a plant scent activity, a fruit versus vegetable quiz, and a plant evolution card sorting activity were developed and used at the USASEF. Ten members of the BSA volunteered to work at the booth for the three-day event that hosted over 10,000 visitors.

After resolving a number of issues, the PlantEd program is underway. It appears that the web site is fully functional for submissions and review activities. Several on-line meetings of resource and managing editors continued dialogue about the development of this resource among the partnering societies.

The Education Committee is also continuing involvement in the Planting Science Program. We are working to help develop this resource in light of funding issues. Several reviewers have been identified and agreed to help support this initiative. A workshop on the submission process will be held at the 2014 annual meeting.

The Education Committee is sponsoring a symposium titled, “Vision & Change in Undergraduate Botany Education” on Tuesday afternoon at the annual meeting. The five speakers will discuss how the vision and change document can be used in future efforts to reform and strengthen undergraduate education in the plant sciences.

The Bessey Award will be awarded to Bruce Kirchoff, Professor at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

The committee welcomed Catrina Adams who stepped in as Acting Education Director for the BSA in November. The committee also acknowledges the work of Claire Hemingway who had previously served as Education Director.
At the 2014 meeting, the committee will discuss plants for future participation in the USASEF and future initiatives for the education committee to undertake.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Gibson
Chair, BSA Education Committee
Annual report of the BSA Committee on Human Diversity

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN DIVERSITY

- Brenda Molano-Flores (2016) Chair
- Ann Hirsch (2014)
- Muriel Poston (2014)
- Anna Monfils (2015)
- Juan Zalapa (2015)
- Ann Sakai (2016)
- Lavanya Challagundla, Student Representative (2014)
- James Cohen, Past Student Representative (2014)
- David Spooner (2014), Program Director, ex officio
- Pamela Diggle (2015), President, ex officio
- Bill Dahl, Executive Director, ex officio

1. Committee meetings. In 2013, the BSA Committee on Human Diversity met at the BOTANY meetings in New Orleans, Louisiana. During this meeting Ann Sakai provided an update about activities to increase diversity in the BSA. In addition, she notified the committee that BSA will sponsor the PLANTS program once NSF support is over. After our meeting at BOTANY 2013, several emails were sent to committee members to request input for the Diversity Lunch Speaker and new committee members. The list of nominees for the committee was sent to BSA Board of Directors.

The Committee will meet Sunday July 27, 11:00 am-noon at BOTANY 2014. Reminders have been sent to the Committee.

2. Broadening Participation Symposium at BOTANY 2013. During the 2012 Diversity committee meeting, Anna Monfils suggested a symposium on the topic of broadening participation for the 2013 meetings. Following this suggestion, Anna Monfils and Ann Sakai worked on the symposium ‘Broadening Participation: Recruiting and Retaining Outstanding Scientists in the Botanical Sciences’. The symposium was well attended at BOTANY 2013. The abstracts of the presentations can be found at the end of the report. This symposium was co-sponsored by the BSA Ecology section, BSA Teaching section, BSA Systematics/ASPT, and with the support of iDigBio. Lastly, The Plant Science Bulletin (2013, vol 59: 162-163) provided a short summary of this symposium.

3. PLANTS Program. The Botanical Society of America was awarded a five-year NSF-funded PLANTS grant (Preparing Leaders and Nurturing Tomorrow’s Scientists: Increasing the diversity of plant scientists) directed by Ann Sakai (UC-Irvine), Ann Hirsch (UCLA), and Heather Cacanindin (BSA) in 2011. The goal of this program is to increase the number of undergraduates from underrepresented groups who attend the annual BOTANY meetings, and to increase their level of academic excellence and motivation to pursue advanced degrees in the plant sciences. The program for the PLANTS students is based on extensive mentoring by BSA
volunteers (faculty, postdocs, PLANTS alumni) at the meeting. In addition, the program includes a workshop on how to apply to graduate school and in 2013 included a new Student Writing Workshop. The continued involvement of the Diversity Committee in publicizing this program and selection of students, and the enthusiastic support of the BSA membership as writing mentors, PLANTS mentors, and as panelists for workshops is greatly appreciated. The support and expertise of Heather Cacanindin has been invaluable.

In 2013, a total of 15 students were selected to attend Botany 2013. In 2014, we had 40 applicants and 13 will be attending Botany 2014.


4. **Enhancing Scientist Diversity in Plant Biology Luncheon.** In 2013, Dr. Muriel Poston gave a talk entitled “Cultivation of the next generation of plant biologists”. In 2013, several emails were sent and a meeting was held with committee member Juan Zalapa to come up with issues and speakers that would be of interest to the Lunch audience. In 2014, Dr. Michael J. Dockry - Forest & Wildlife Ecology (http://www.mikedockry.net/) will be the speaker for the lunch. Michael holds a non-academic position at the USDA.

5. **Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS).** The BSA currently sponsors two undergraduate poster awards ($500 each) at the annual SACNAS meetings. SACNAS is an organization devoted to advancing Hispanics, Chicanos & Native Americans in Science. The 2013 SACNAS meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas, Aug 3-6, 2013. The BSA co-sponsored with the American Society of Plant Biologists (John Harada, Diversity committee chair) up to half of the cost of a booth and a symposium (Living With the Neighbors - How Plants Cope With Other Organisms), with speakers Dr. Linda Walling (linda.walling@ucr.edu), Dr. Brenda Molano-Flores (molano1@illinois.edu), Dr. Monica Medina (mmedina@ucmerced.edu), and Dr. Gustavo MacIntosh (gustavo@iastate.edu). This symposium was well attended and Brenda Molano-Flores and Ann Sakai will report back to BSA about the level of interest of SACNAS participants in the booth and symposium. The Plant Science Bulletin (2013, vol 59: 163) provided a short summary of our involvement at the SACNAS meeting.

Prepared by Brenda Molano-Flores and Ann Sakai, Diversity Committee Chair and past Chair.
Broadening Participation - Recruiting and Retaining Outstanding Scientists in the Botanical Science

Organized by Ann Sakai and Anna Monfils

Monfils, Anna [1], Sakai, Ann [2].

Broadening Participation - Recruiting and Retaining Outstanding Scientists in the Botanical Sciences.

Many of the upcoming crises facing the U.S. and the planet, such as climate change, loss of biological diversity, invasive species, and sustainable agriculture, will affect future generations. Addressing these issues will require innovative training of young scientists and expertise that crosses traditional discipline boundaries and utilizes new technology, forms of communication and research techniques. These issues also will require the creativity, originality, and participation of a diverse community of scientists. The vitality of the sciences depends upon inclusion of people from the broadest possible base. The purpose of this symposium is to share some of the best practices to encourage recruitment and retention of all students, and particularly URM (underrepresented minority) students. What are the best practices to recruit and retain a diverse community of young scientists who will help maintain the creativity and vitality within the botanical sciences? Are there particular pedagogical methods, curricula, or types of institutional support that are good for all students and especially effective for students from underrepresented groups? How can some of these methods be implemented by instructors at institutions ranging from small teaching institutions to large research universities, and across botanical disciplines? Speakers will discuss successful teaching approaches in the introductory core biology courses, mentoring strategies for students and academics, recruitment of a diverse community of scientists, overcoming the dual hurdles of science and technology as it relates to current digitization initiatives, and curricular and institutional programs to promote diversity in the sciences. We will encourage audience participation on how to apply these ideas to specific botanical disciplines and research initiatives. With a Botany 2013 conference-wide theme of Celebrating Diversity, this symposium seems timely, relevant and of broad appeal to graduate students, postdocs, and faculty.

Skog, Judith [1], Skog, Jeremy [2].

Biodiversity, Bioinformatics, Bias, and Beyond.

The "Field of Bachelor's Degree in the United States: American Community Survey Reports" from the U.S. Census Bureau notes that out of 56 million people with bachelor's degrees, 20 million are in STEM fields. However, there are great differences within these 20 million people for field of study according to ethnicity or gender, and only about 1 million of them hold degrees in interdisciplinary areas. Additional data provide information on other science degrees and workforce. A new report from NSF on "Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering" shows mixed results for several areas of increasing participation in the sciences of
underrepresented groups. More students from these groups are showing interest in a
career in science areas, but not all fields of study are showing similar gains and interest is
mixed across the various ethnic groups, along with differences in preferences by gender.
Discrepancies increase, according to both these reports, as the recipients enter and move
through the workforce. Some of the examples and data from these reports will be
presented and examined in this discussion in the light of increasing opportunities for
integration of biology and informatics and the availability of big data for furthering
research analysis. New opportunities will require examining old views, creating new
ways of attracting those groups now underrepresented to take up challenges, improving
mentoring and the mentors, and ameliorating implicit bias in training, hiring, promoting
and rewarding in academia and beyond. Documented approaches and support for proven
methods need to be more fully embraced and disseminated through societies and
institutions to fully prepare a diverse student population capable of meeting the
challenges of integrated research.

**Bart, Hank [1].**

**Increasing the participation of African Americans in ecology and evolutionary biology: experts, attitudes and interventions.**

The underrepresentation of African Americans in ecology and evolutionary Biology,
especially field-oriented and museum-based professions such as taxonomy, is striking.
What is particularly troubling about this is that decades of investment in programs
designed to broaden the participation of African Americans and other underrepresented
groups in STEM is having measureable impact on numbers and the representation of
African Americans in biomedical fields is robust. Why are so few African Americans
pursuing advanced study and careers in ecology and evolutionary biology? The fact of
the matter is, no one really knows. A team of highly accomplished, African American
ecologists and evolutionary biologists has recently assembled to study this issue and find
solutions. The plan is to survey the attitudes of African Americans toward careers in
ecology and evolutionary biology and develop interventions to designed remove the
roadblocks. In this presentation, I will review the scant literature on this subject, describe
our thinking in developing the attitudes survey, and provide very preliminary details on
potential interventions.

**Haak, David [1], Freeman, Scott [2].**

**Closing the Achievement Gap: Evidence-Informed Teaching and Learning in Biology.**

If we bring the same level of rigor to our teaching as our research, then we should design
our courses based on data. Together with my colleagues, we have been working to
evaluate the impact of different course designs-- from “highly-structured”, where
students are required to prepare for class sessions that focus on intensive active learning
exercises, followed by weekly practice exams, to “low-structure”, much closer to a
traditional lecture format--on student performance in an introductory biology course for
majors. I will present results from our research and address questions about wether
structured interventions can close the achievement gap between students from advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds enrolled in STEM courses. In the process of this research we have addressed interventions that promote culturally aware teaching and therein have a disproportionate benefit for high-achieving students and for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Finally, I will discuss work on metacognition and learning and how we have developed approaches for evaluating the equivalence of students and assessments when comparing measures of achievement.

Herrera, Jose [1].

*Talking about leaving -- botany and related disciplines, an NSF perspective.*

Hidden in many of the statistics about the lack of participation by Underrepresented Minority (URM) students is the worrisome detail that most URM students, who are successful in STEM, disproportionately choose careers in health-related fields. The reasons URM students opt not to pursue a career in field-related or botanically-focused professions are numerous, interrelated and complicated by sociological, economic and cultural considerations. Yet, solving many of the most pressing contemporary ecological problems will require ideas and the intellectual capital of the fastest growing demographic of our nation. Many STEM disciplines, including botany, lack a diversity of viewpoints that has limited our ability to manage important scientific challenges. This talk will remind the audience of several common misconceptions about URM students and describe a few of the widespread challenges that prevent or stifle URMs from considering STEM careers that ultimately undermine their needed contributions to such fields. Several federally-funded programs have shown promise to mitigate these challenges and the talk will focus on highlighting place-based strategies that engage URM students in STEM and encourage their entry into field-based and botanical careers. Moreover, since many of these strategies are place-based we will endeavor to enter into collective and interactive conversations with the audience to share some commonly-used strategies used in a diversity of institutions by a variety of professionals within biology. Finally, the talk will briefly describe programs within the National Science Foundation (NSF) that directly or indirectly fund innovative and evidence-based strategies to recruit and retain URM students within STEM and highlight several examples of NSF-funded projects that have successfully addressed the need to encourage URM students to pursue non-health related careers.

McKenna, Mary [1].

*Growing Minority Botanists: “Roots” of Engagement for Undergraduates.*

The national under-representation of African Americans and other minorities in graduate programs and professional careers in botany, ecology, and environmental science is an area of critical concern for the future of these fields. In 2004, faculty at Howard University established the Environmental Biology Scholars program with support from NSF, to develop a community of African-American undergraduate researchers prepared for graduate programs in botany, ecology, and environmental biology. Key aspects of this
program are (1) early recruitment of talented and highly motivated students (2) early and sustained research experiences (3) close mentoring by Howard faculty (4) strong peer mentoring (5) community-building through regular meetings and activities for all participants (6) opportunities to present research at scientific meetings, and (7) effective partnerships with the scientific community. Our students benefit from participation in REU programs throughout the US and internationally (OTS, Ghana), and in particular, we formed a strong partnership with UVA’s Blandy REU program. Close partnerships with graduate programs at U Michigan, UC Davis, and UC San Diego provide further training for our students. Diversity outreach programs in scientific societies such as PLANTS (BSA) and SEEDS (ESA) are another important tool that provides a glimpse of the professional life of a scientist and empowers students to expand their scientific networks. So far, nineteen Environmental Biology Scholars graduated from the program and fourteen students are current participants. Ten of our graduates entered masters programs in botany, ecology or environmental science (half at Yale FES and U Michigan), and four are currently pursuing a doctorate (Duke, Berkeley, Texas Tech, and Columbia U). Although the biology students at Howard (and HBCU’s generally) have traditionally been more attracted to medical careers or research in biomedical areas of biology, creating a community of inquiry and peer support along with sincere and sustained faculty mentoring can be transformative.

O’Neal, Christopher M. [1].

Increasing Retention of Underrepresented Groups in Biology: The Role of the Graduate Student Teaching Assistant.

Despite impressive improvements in the retention of some underrepresented minority (URM) groups in the biological sciences, other groups continue to lag behind in their proportional representation. Pushes from the National Science Foundation, academic institutions and other organizations have focused on faculty mentorship, bridge programs, and undergraduate research opportunities as mechanisms for addressing the retention gap. Little has been done, however, to empower graduate student teaching assistants to positively impact URM retention in the classroom, the teaching lab, and in office hours. This is a particularly unfortunate oversight in the biological sciences, where TAs at large institutions account for a majority of the contact time students have with instructors. This presentation will review some of the research on how instructor behaviors in and out of the classroom impact students’ decisions to stay in or leave the sciences. Participants will have the opportunity to explore qualitative data collected at the University of Michigan from students in gateway sciences courses, including biology. We’ll close with a discussion on preparing TAs to teach “for retention,” and look at some best practices that arise from our research.
Date: July 16, 2014

To: Board of Directors and Council of the Botanical Society of America (BSA)

From: BSA INVESTMENT COMMITTEE (6 members, 3 year terms; 3 ex officio members, varies)

- Russell Chapman (2015; member) <chapman@lsu.edu>
- Jon Giddens Student Representative (2015; member) GIDD8708@gmail.com [918-277-9731]
- Harry T. (Jack) Horner (2014; member, Chair) <hth@iastate.edu> [515-294-8635]
- Larry Hufford (2016; member) <hufford@wsu.edu> [509-335-2183]
- Karl Niklas (2017; member) kin2@cornell.edu [607-255-8727]
- Mackenzie Taylor (2014; member) <mackenzietaylor@creighton.edu> [402-340-5963]
- Pamela Diggle (2014, ex officio), President <pamela.diggle@uconn.edu> [303-550-3065]
- Joe Williams (2016, ex officio), Treasurer <joe@utk.edu>
- Bill Dahl (continuous, ex officio), Executive Director wdahl@botany.org [928-963-0940]

Re: Annual Report of the Investment Committee (IC) for 2013-2014 regarding the BSA Endowment Fund and its year-to-date activities

Since the previous 2012-2013 Annual Report, the IC has during 2013-2014:
- monitored monthly the BSA Endowment Fund (EF) invested with Morgan Stanley (MS; changed from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney-MSSB) in Des Moines, IA, and reviewed reinvestments by MS;
- approved making changes in the endowment portfolio per recommendations from MS;
- supplied MS with a series of questions regarding the investments during Spring 2014;
- received both the answers to the questions and an Investment Portfolio Review from MS dated April 30, 2014 prior to the May 30, 2014 IC conference call with MS (Bryan Boesen, CFP, CIMA, Vice President – Wealth Management) in Des Moines, IA;
- renegotiated a lower MS management fee. When the Endowment Fund (EF) reaches $5M, a lower fee and additional benefits will be available to it.

Comparison of this year’s value with the EF values for the five previous years

As of June 30, 2014 the EF value was $4,859,277 (this represents a 17.7% [$730,713] increase from last year [see below]). This increase was due to major changes in the global economic conditions during the past year and several changes in the endowment portfolio investment categories. The EF has increased 78.3% from its low point five years ago (see below) of June 30, 2009.

- June 30, 2013 the EF value was $4,128,564
- June 30, 2012 the EF value was $3,787,307
- June 30, 2011 the EF value was $3,915,427
- June 30, 2010 the EF value was $3,108,492
- June 30, 2009 the EF value was $2,724,682
The BSA EF Assets (as of 6/30/14) as invested by MS are divided into the following categories (details are available on an individual basis):

- Cash, Deposits, Money Market Funds $ 105,555.04
- Stocks $1,834,675.26
- ETFs & CTFs* $2,736,313.08
- Mutual Funds $ 182,733.82

$4,859,277.20

*ETF = exchange-traded fund; CTF = commodity (exchange) traded funds

Society and Sectional Funds as part of Total Endowment

- TOTAL MS Endowment Funds $4,859,277.20*
- Unrestricted Funds (30.5%) $1,441,243.04**
- Restricted Funds (66.2%) $3,216,339.65**
- Permanent Restriction (3.3%) $ 161,694.52**

- Sectional Cash $ 118,635.03
- Sectional Allotments $ 17,736.92
- Awards $2,286,016.51
- Endowments $ 397,180.38

*as of June 30, 2014

**These categories and percentages have been established by the Board of Directors and Council

Summary of BSA EF monthly totals from July 2013 through June 2014

The EF total management fee for this last fiscal year (2013-2014) was $65,635.90. This represents 1.453% of the average portfolio value during this yearly period.
BSA Total Giving includes Endowment Fund and Special Endowment Drive Spring 2014, and Other Giving During 2013-2014 (October 2013- June 2014; 8 months, BSA Office time frame)

- Total giving in all categories = $30,769; = 378 individual donors
- All Endowment Giving 2013- June 2014 + Special Spring 2014 Endowment Drive = Total Endowment donations = $18,810; = 230 gifts

As of May 31, 2014 the EF continues to be divided into two parts within BSA accounting: Unrestricted funds (82% of total EF = $3,182,294); and Restricted funds (18% = $697,152) that represent BSA section and special award funds.

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<th>2013-2014 All-Society and Endowment Giving</th>
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<td>Donor Giving Levels</td>
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<td>Total Donors</td>
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<td>Total Contributions</td>
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*This column includes all contributions to the endowment (including**)
Finally, the IC would like to thank Pamela Diggle (BSA President, 2013-2014) for serving on the IC during this past year. Her one-year term expires as of this annual meeting. The remaining committee members (identified previously) have provided excellent service to the BSA through this committee during the past year. Thank you all.

The chair or any member of the IC present will be willing to answer questions about the EF. You are invited to attend the IC meeting on Sunday morning, July 27, 8-9 am in Cattails Room, The Grove Hotel (Session MO2).

Respectfully submitted,

Harry T. (Jack) Horner, BSA IC Chair
2014 Report by BSA Publications Committee:

- Qiu-Yun (Jenny) Xiang (2014), Chair
- William (Ned) Friedman (2014)
- Jeffrey Osborn (2014)
- Mitch Cruzan (2015)
- Michele Dudash (2016)
- Rachel Germain, Student Representative (2015)
- Sean Graham, BSA Director at large - Publications, ex officio (2016)
- Judy Jernstedt, Editor, AJB, ex officio
- Pamela Diggle, Incoming Editor, AJB, ex officio
- Theresa Culley, Editor, APPS, ex officio
- Marshall Sundberg, Editor, PSB, ex officio
- Mackenzie Taylor, Incoming Editor, PSB, ex officio
- Amy McPherson, AJB Managing Editor, ex officio
- Richard Hund, AJB Production Editor, ex officio
- Beth Parada, APPS Managing Editor, ex officio

Responsibilities of the committee: This committee provides the link between the various publication activities of the society, the staff, and the board through the Publications Board Member. The committee seeks to elevate the BSA to be one of the most influential publishers of scientific content in plant biology, examines the role of all BSA publications such as AJB, PSB, APPS, and the web pages and works with outside evaluators on assessment of the journals. In addition, the committee will coordinate with the editors and associate editors on issues regarding their publications and consider and advise on new activities and initiatives, present a resource assessment on the impact of any new activities for the society, address issues impacting the publications, such as online vs. print copies, subjects to be covered, and other matters arising from the publications. This committee will interact with the Information Technology Committee to be sure the BSA web presence is representing the society publications appropriately.

Selection of the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, with the Publication Board Member acting as the liaison for this activity. To fill a vacancy in this office, the President appoints a committee consisting of at least three members of The Society, including the chair of the Publications Committee. This committee solicits nominations for Editor-in-Chief, evaluates the candidates and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, who then appoint the Editor.

Highlights of the past year: Pam Diggle has been selected to serve as the incoming Editor-in-Chief for the American Journal of Botany, and Mackenzie Taylor has been selected to serve as the incoming Editor-in-Chief for the Plant Science Bulletin. Their terms officially begin January 2015.

Specific information about AJB, APPS, and PSB (including metrics, special issues/sections/articles, centennial celebrations, subscription information, etc.), is available in the Council Reports: http://www.botany.org/bsa/membership/council2014/council.shtml

Items to be discussed at the strategic planning meeting concerning publications (e.g., Open Access, Updating the AJB “brand,” and Big Data) are available here: http://botany.org/SPC/BSASP2014-DiscussionforPublications.docx
BSA Survey Results (we will insert the link when we have clearance to do so)

**Skype calls** conducted by Pam Diggle, Sean Graham, and Amy McPherson with members of the botanical community regarding their thoughts on AJB and on the future of publishing in general. [See Council Reports, Director at Large for Publications, Sean Graham]

**Key Suggestions from the Committee:**

- Encourage more high-quality integrative papers, including reviews
- Mini-reviews that are short, topical
- Letters/commentaries—quick turnarounds on “hot” short papers
- We should do a better job at attracting new/upcoming areas, and some strong areas that don’t have a regular journal home
- Encourage more papers that combine organismal-level natural history with community or ecosystem-level processes, perhaps as the basis for a timely special issue or a review/opinion piece. This idea captures the spirit of AmJB content: the unison of diverse content at different levels of biological organization.
- Perception of content, and what the journal should focus on: how general should the content be (broad areas may be diluting our impact?)
- One way to elevate a particular research area, ex., evolutionary ecology, might be a symposium at the annual meeting that is well advertised and composed of leaders in the field. Additionally, the frequent overlap in dates between BSA and ESA might be diminishing the journal’s influence in this particular area.
- Shortening time to publication (we already employ the techniques of a triage process that returns manuscripts without review if they are clearly outside the focus of the journal or have serious language problems. Many papers are by international authors, and the editorial staff directs them to sources of editorial help if the language is the problem)
- If a focus is to increase readership and paper submissions by graduate students/next generation of plant biologists, need to understand that the people in this group have *incredibly short attention spans*. If content is even slightly difficult to find, they won’t find it.
- Pursue avenues for discovering articles, beyond electronic Tables of Contents ("other articles with related content" or "articles that cite this paper or are cited by this paper"); other avenues mentioned: Google, Google Scholar, Twitter, Facebook, BSA homepage
- Contemplate the function of categories in the context of potential authors and readers
- We should consider whether we want to attract more international authors, and if so, how (note: we do look at the research question, data, and results and recommend a suite of copy editors who specialize in scientific papers for ESL authors)
- Open access is expensive, but is there some middle ground, say to advertise the articles published in our journal to increase their visibility?

Miscellaneous topics of discussion:

- CHORUS: a publisher-directed option for public access to articles
  http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2013/09/19/chorus-comes-into-focus/--We are pursuing this as the initiative progresses (FundRef, ORCid, DTD upgrade)
- A discussion session/workshop moderated by Chris Martine and Amy McPherson, “Publishing in 2014: What Should Authors and Publishers Do?” will be held Sunday, July 27, at 1 p.m. in the Snake Room of the Boise Center. If you’ve heard of “altmetrics” (or haven’t),
DORA, CHORUS, Mendeley/Academia.edu/ResearchGate, etc. This will be an opportunity to discuss.

- Institutional repository policy—final ms. (pre-copyediting and typesetting) may be posted, with links to the final, published article. Note our current Open Access policy: http://www.amjbot.org/site/misc/ifora.xhtml#OpenAccessPolicy
- Policies for data deposition requirements; AJB, http://www.amjbot.org/site/misc/ifora.xhtml#1DataAccess; APPS, http://www.botany.org/apps/APPS_Author_Instructions.html - DataAccess. Note that the BSA currently covers the fee for authors submitting their data to Dryad.
- ORCID integration in 2013, http://about.orcid.org/organizations/publishers
- New features implemented over the past year
  Figures/tables as PPT downloads for AJB: Allows readers to automatically generate a pre-formatted PowerPoint slide from figures and tables within the full-text of journal articles. Implemented figures-only view in March 2014.
  Cover Gallery for Back issues of AJB—added July 2014.
  Inclusion of Altmetric feature for APPS articles implemented early 2014.

Respectfully submitted by

Jenny Xiang, Amy McPherson, Richard Hund, and Beth Parada

17 July 2014
BSA Technology Committee Report
2013-2014

Submitted by Chris Martine, Bucknell University, Committee Chair

The second year of the Tech Committee has been rather slow, with little new progress to report. However, we are committed to working with the BSA staff on a botany.org website redesign in the coming year.

Activities:

- Continued review of botany.org, including soliciting comments from members, particularly junior members.
- Review of and support for tech-related BSA activities including efforts related to Twitter, Facebook, the conference website, and the conference app.

Review of www.botany.org

Committee members M. Moore (Oberlin), N. Wickett (Northwestern), D. Tank (U. Idaho) and C. Martine assigned website review to each our lab groups (largely undergraduate students, but also grads and post-docs). Participants were asked to compare and contrast science- and society-based websites with botany.org. Users agreed that revising the BSA’s web presence in a similar manner as that of the National Geographic Society. We are eager to help the website redesign process along in the coming year. I am also actively looking to add one new undergrad and one grad student to the Tech Committee during Botany 2014, with plans to ramp up our activity in 2014-2015.
The 2014 recipient of the Bessey Award is Professor Bruce K. Kirchoff, University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Bruce has been on the faculty at Greensboro since 1986 where he has distinguished himself as a plant morphologist and botanical educator. He is a former member of the BSA Education Committee and served as chair in 1993-94. His botanical education research on image recognition is a direct outgrowth of his morphological studies. Dr. Kirchoff is transforming the way that students learn through the creation of active, visual learning programs and mobile applications. He has created, validated, and is in the process of distributing groundbreaking software that helps students more easily master complex subjects. Furthermore, he has collaborated not only with scientists in the US, but also Europe and Australia, to adapt his visual learning software to local problems such as helping Australian veterinary students recognize poisonous plants and providing visual identification keys for tropical African woods. In 2007 he was the Botanical Society in America Education Booth Competition winner for Image Quiz: A new approach to teaching plant identification through visual learning and his work was showcased in the Education Booth at the Botany & Plant Biology 2007 Joint Congress in Chicago. In 2013 he was the inaugural recipient of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT) Innovations in Plant Systematics Education Prize and this year he was recognized with the University of North Carolina System Board of Governors award for Excellence in Teaching.

-Respectfully Submitted

Marshall D. Sundberg, Board Member-at-Large for Education
At the Botany 2013 conference, the Esau Award Committee consisted of Nic Tippery (faculty, University of Wisconsin – Whitewater), Jessica Budke (postdoc, University of California – Davis), and Mackenzie Taylor (faculty, Creighton University).

We considered ten paper presentations for the Esau Award and ultimately selected Lachezar (Luke) Nikolov of Harvard University to receive the award for his presentation entitled, “Developmental origins of the world’s largest flowers”.

We considered seven poster presentations for the Developmental and Structural Section Best Poster award. Up to two such awards may be given, however we elected to present only one award, to Katie Downing of Eastern Michigan University, for her poster entitled, “A S.E.M. survey of carnivorous North American purple pitcher plant leaves, Sarracenia purpurea (Sarraceniaceae)”.

– Nic Tippery, Esau Award Committee Chair
Moseley Award Committee report, July 2014

The Maynard Moseley Award is "given to the best student paper, presented in either the Paleobotanical or Developmental and Structural sessions, that advances our understanding of plant structure in an evolutionary context" (as described on the BSA website).

This year the committee includes Selena Y. Smith (chair for 2014), Verónica Di Stilio, and Andrew Leslie.

Last year, the award went to Robert A. Stevenson, University of California - Berkeley. His presentation was titled "Flight of the conifers: Reconstruction of the flight characteristics of Paleozoic winged conifer seeds" and was co-authored by Dennis Evangelista and Cindy V. Looy.

This year, we have 11 candidates for the Moseley award. Ten of the talks are being presented in the Paleobotanical Section and one in the Development & Structure Section.

The committee expressed some concern about the low participation of students from the Development & Structure Section. It is not clear if this is due to lack of knowledge about the award, just an anomalous year, or because of some other reason. The award historically is about evenly split in being awarded to students of the Paleobotanical and Development & Structure Sections and in the last decade has mostly gone to Development & Structure students (7/10 awards). We propose to have the Chair of the Moseley Committee work with the Chairs of both sections to send out a reminder early in 2015 (and thereafter) to ensure that students are aware of the award and remember to select to be considered for it at the time of abstract submission, if they are doing research that fits the award description.
This year the Botanical Society of America Merit Award Committee was tasked with overseeing the process of choosing recipients of both the Merit Award and the new Emerging Leaders Award. The BSA Merit Award is “the highest honor our Society can bestow. Awardees are chosen based on their outstanding contributions to the mission of the Society,” with “demonstrated excellence in basic research, education, public policy, or who have provided exceptional service to the professional botanical community, or who may have made contributions to a combination of these categories.”

The committee generally consists of five to seven regular members appointed by the BSA President for a three-year term, with representation of the breadth of disciplines in the society. The Chair of the committee is appointed by the President for a one year term.

The 2014 Merit Award Committee comprised the following members:
Bruce Baldwin (Chair), Bill Dahl (Executive Director, ex officio), Pam Diggle (President, ex officio), Norm Ellstrand, Pat Gensel, Susan Kalisz, Pam Soltis, and Alison Snow.

Concerns expressed by the 2013 Merit Award Committee in its annual report were resolved prior to formation of the 2014 Merit Award Committee. In response to the concern that there was a lack of clear guidelines about the number of awards to be granted each year, with the number varying between one and six or more, the BSA Board instituted a policy that no more than two Merit Awards were to be granted per year. The strong heterogeneity among nomination packages in 2013, in terms of supporting letters for each person and amount of other supporting material, was not a problem for any of the nominations in 2014, presumably because of clearer guidelines for nominators.
Three nominations for the Merit Award were received by the March 15th deadline, for Michael Donoghue, Jim Doyle, and Jeff Doyle. Based on the newly imposed limit of two awardees per year, each member of the committee was tasked with not only carefully reviewing the three nomination packages but also sequentially ranking the candidates. Compilation of those rankings placed one candidate above the other two, who in turn were tied for second place. Given the great strength of all three candidates and the disparity in rankings across the members of the committee, it was decided by unanimous agreement that the tie should be respected, and that three awards were warranted and in the spirit of the Board's earlier decision, under such exceptional circumstances. The committee also recommended that the limit of two awards per year should remain in place and continue to be respected.

The new BSA Emerging Leaders Award is “to be given each year in recognition of creative and influential scholarship in any area of botany reflecting the breadth of BSA” to a single recipient within eight years of receiving a Ph.D. That recipient “will have produced outstanding scholarship and also demonstrated exceptional future promise for future accomplishment.”

Nine applications for the Emerging Leaders Award were received by the March 15th deadline, for Madelaine Bartlett, Uromi Goodale, Sean Hoban, Anna Jacobsen, Ingrid Jordan-Thaden, Mike Martin, Emily Sessa, Stacey Smith, and Jonathan Wilson. The Merit Award Committee members were tasked with considering all of the applicants’ materials and sequentially ranking them. The committee was highly impressed by the entire pool of candidates and their ranking was difficult. Nonetheless, one applicant, Stacey Smith, emerged from the rankings as the unequivocal top choice of the committee.

Bruce G. Baldwin (submitted on behalf of the committee)
July 10, 2014
THE GRADY L. WEBSTER AWARD was established in 2006 by former BSA President (1983) Dr. Barbara D. Webster, and daughter Dr. Susan V. Webster to honor the life and work of husband and father, Dr. Grady L. Webster. The Grady L. Webster Award is a rotating award presented by the American Society of Plant Taxonomists and the Botanical Society of America in alternating years.

The BSA component of the award, the Grady L. Webster Structural Botany Publication Award recognizes the most outstanding paper published in the American Journal of Botany in the field of plant growth and development over the two-year period prior to the award year. An ad hoc committee is assembled by the AJB Editor-in-Chief from BSA members with active research in plant development and structure, to evaluate the eligible papers.

The 2013 Grady L. Webster Award was presented to Drs. Jessica M. Budke, Bernard Goffinet, and Cynthia S. Jones for their paper entitled "The cuticle on the gametophyte calyptra matures before the sporophyte cuticle in the moss Funaria hygrometrica (Funariaceae)," American Journal of Botany, 2012, 99(1): 14-22.

The 2014 award will be presented by ASPT. The 2015 award will again be presented by the BSA and the papers considered for the Webster Award will be from the previous two years of the AJB, 2013 (vol. 100) and 2014 (vol. 101).

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jernstedt, Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of Botany
Annual Report for the Developmental and Structural Section, 2014
For the period June 2013-June 2014

1. Cheadle Student Travel Awards of $500 each were given to the following individuals to attend Botany 2014:
   a. Carla Harper (University of Kansas; Advisor: Thomas N. Taylor)
   b. Rebecca Kill (University of Florida; Advisor: Steven Manchester and William DiMichele)
   c. Meghan McKeown (University of Vermont; Advisor: Jill Preston)

2. D&S Section Travel Awards of $250 each were given to the following individuals to attend Botany 2014:
   i. Italo Coutinho (Universidade Federal de Vicsosa; Advisor: Renata Maria Strozi Alves Meira)
   ii. Roux Florian (INRA; Advisor: Jana Dlouha)
   iii. Rebecca Povilus (Harvard University; Advisor: William Friedman)
   iv. Beck Powers (University of Vermont; Advisor: Jill Preston)

3. Student Presentation Awards at Botany 2013:
   a. The Esau Award: Luke Nikolov (Davis Lab, Harvard University)
   b. The D&S Student Poster Award: Katie Downing (Hanes Lab, Eastern Michigan University)
   c. The Moseley Award: Robert Stevenson (Looy Lab, University of California, Berkeley)

4. The D & S Program at Botany 2014 will include 18 oral papers and 11 posters. There will be two D&S sponsored symposia at the 2014 meetings: *On models and methods pertaining to plant reproduction* and *The evolution of pollen performance*. Both of these symposia requested, and were granted funds totaling $1500. The topical session on Evolutionary Developmental Biology (Evo-Devo) is also overseen by the D&S section and will feature 14 oral papers, and 6 posters.

5. The section continues to be in sound financial shape with approximately 308 members, and $13,551 in its non-earmarked, cash account as of June 2014.

6. Bruce Kirchoff stepped down, and Amy Litt was elected as the new Chair of the Section at the Annual Business Meeting. The Section thanks Bruce for his three years of excellent work.
A Summary of the Ecological Section’s Activities in 2013-2014

1. Business Meeting conducted during Botany 2013 meeting, in New Orleans LA. Topics at this meeting included:
   a. **Call for and discussion of ideas for Symposia for Botany 2014 meeting:** Section members were reminded that symposia proposals for Botany 2013 would be due to the Executive Committee by August 30, 2013.
   b. **Student Awards:**
      1) Student travel award winners for Botany 2013 were recognized: Melissa Ha (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) and Robert Harbert (Cornell University). The judges were thanked.
      2) Student presentation and poster awards for Botany 2012 were announced: Best Graduate Student Poster: Jennifer Murphy (John Carroll University); Best Graduate Student Presentation: Roxanneh Khorsand Rosa (Florida International University, Daniel Park (University of California, Davis) ; Best Undergraduate Presentation: Megan Ward (SUNY Plattsburg); Jenna Annis & Jennifer O’Brien (Eastern Illinois University). The judges were thanked.
   c. **Nominations were taken for Section Chair:** The term of Rebecca Drenovsky was ending and was not able to run again. The section graciously thanked Rebecca for her extensive service to the section. Eric Morgan was nominated to run by Suzanne Koptur. There were no other nominations.
   d. **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.
   e. **Announcements and Information:**
      BSA 2014 will be held in Boise, Idaho

2. Student Awards for Botany 2013
   a. **Student Travel Awards ($400 each)**
      a. **Melissa Ha,** University of Massachusetts, Amherst - Advisor, Dr. Lynn Adler, for the paper “*Pollinator-mediated interactions between Clarkia unguiculata and its neighbors are context-dependent*” Co-author: Christopher T. Iveyr
      b. **Robert Harbert,** Cornell University - Advisor, Dr. Kevin Nixon, for the paper “*Climate niche, invasiveness, and allopolyploidy: The case of perennial Glycine (Leguminosae)*” Co-author: Jeff Doyle
   b. **Student Presentation Awards**
      i. **Best Graduate Student Poster: Jordan Ahee,** Trent University, for the poster “*Evidence of restricted pollen dispersal in Typha latifolia*” Co-authors: Marcel Dorken and Wendy Van Drunen
ii. **Best Graduate Student Talk**: Ian Jones, Florida International University, for the paper “Temporal and developmental changes in extrafloral nectar production in *Senna mexicana* var. chapmanii: *is extrafloral nectar an inducible defense?*

iii. **Best Undergraduate Presentation**: Jenna Annis, Eastern Illinois University, for the paper “*Seed Ecology of Federally Threatened* Pinguicula ionantha (*Godfrey’s Butterwort*)” Co-authors: Jennifer O’Brien, Janice Coons, Brenda Molano-Flores and Samantha Primer

iv. **Best Undergraduate Presentation**: Nia Johnson, Howard University, for the poster “*Herbivory Response of Murgantia histrionica to a Ni-hyperaccumulator, Alyssum murale*” Co-authors: Chandler Puritty, and Mary McKenna

*Chandler Puritty*, Howard University, for the poster “*Herbivory Response of Murgantia histrionica to a Ni-hyperaccumulator, Alyssum murale*” Co-authors: Nia Johnson, and Mary McKenna

3. Sponsored symposia:

   a. For Botany 2014 we are sponsoring or co-sponsoring one symposium:
      
      i. On models and methods pertaining to plant reproduction Organizer : Jordan Sinclair

6. At Botany 2014 there are 38 posters or presentations in the Ecological Section 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, Eric C Morgan, 19 July 2014
2014 Economic Botany Section Report to BSA Council  
Submitted by Allison Miller (Saint Louis University, amille75@slu.edu)  
July 25, 2014

Please accept my apologies for not attending the BSA Sunday meeting this year. I would love to be there but am unable to get to Boise until Monday night. I will look forward to catching up with everybody Tuesday and Wednesday! All best, Allison Miller

2013 – 2014 Activities:

1. **Botany 2013 New Orleans Activities.** The Economic Botany Section completed the following activities in 2013:

   a. **Contributed Papers: Economic Botany:** ten papers were presented in the Economic Botany section.

   b. **Contributed Posters: Economic Botany** ten posters were contributed in the Economic Botany section.

   c. **Symposium and Colloquium: Speaking of Food: connecting basic and applied science.** The Economic Botany section, together with ASPT/BSA Systematics Section, the Genetics Section, and the Torrey Botanical Society, sponsored a joint symposium/colloquium entitled “Speaking of Food: connecting basic and applied science.” The symposium and colloquium were inspired by Toby Kellogg’s 2012 Presidential Address in Columbus, OH.

   i. **Symposium/Colloquium description:** The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) predicts that food production must rise 70% over the next 40 years to meet the demands of a growing population that is expected to reach nine billion by the year 2050. Many facets of basic plant science promoted by the Botanical Society of America (BSA) are important for agriculture; however, connections between basic research and applied agricultural science could be made more explicit. For example, BSA members are studying evolution and genome structure in crop plants, drought tolerance, ecological and evolutionary responses to climate change, gene flow, ethnobotany, and pollination biology, all of which are relevant for agriculture. The principal goal of this symposium is to highlight basic research happening in crop species and their wild or weedy relatives, and to demonstrate how this work is relevant to applied agricultural research, crop improvement, and the conservation of crop genetic resources. “Speaking of Food” will bring together a diverse group of scientists working on various aspects of the biology of food plants, who normally present their research within their own disciplines or
at other meetings. The symposium will diversify the botany meetings by attracting speakers from non-academic institutions who are working in more “applied” fields of botany, and will highlight alternative, non-academic careers for plant scientists.

ii. Speaking of food: **Six invited speakers** - 30 minute talks in a morning symposium (in alphabetical order):
   2. Ana Caicedo, University of Massachusetts. Weed evolution
   3. Jeff Doyle, Cornell University. Soybean genomics and systematics
   4. Norm Ellstrand, UC Riverside. Crop weed complex
   5. Peter Morrell, Univ. Minnesota. Biotic stress in barley

iii. Speaking of food: **Eight contributed papers** – 15 minute talks in an afternoon colloquium.
   2. Eve Emshwiller, Univ. Wisconsin – Madison
   3. Stephanie Pearl, Univ. Georgia
   4. Massimo Iorizzo, Univ. Wisconsin – Madison
   5. Allison Miller – Saint Louis Univ.
   6. Toby Kellogg – Univ. Missouri – St. Louis
   7. Victor Amoroso – Central Mindanao University, Philippines
   8. Tracy Kahn – University of California, Riverside.

d. **Business meeting**: Monday, July 29, 2013 at 4:00pm the Economic Botany business meeting was held. Topics of discussion included:
   1. What is Economic Botany? Economic Botany as defined by the Botanical Society of America encompasses the interaction of people with plants. Attendees at the business meeting talked about the various scientific disciplines that fit under this umbrella, including agronomy, horticulture, evolutionary biology, physiology, systematics, etc.
   2. How can we promote Economic Botany within the Society? We discussed the idea of holding a symposium that would highlight aspects of economic botany related to food. We talked about Toby Kellogg’s Presidential address entitled “Speaking of Food” as a potential theme. We developed a list of potential speakers that included people working in a range of disciplines related to food plants (ethnobotany, development, genetics, physiology, systematics, etc).
e. **New Secretary elected:** Nanci Ross, Assistant Professor of Economic Botany, was voted as Secretary of the Economic Botany Section in 2013.

f. **Awards:** Two student travel awards ($300 each) were given in 2013:
   i. Taylor Nelson (Weber State University) and Sushil Paudyal (Old Dominion University).

2. **Botany 2014 Boise ID Activities and looking ahead.**

   a. **Contributed Papers:** Economic Botany: **ten papers** will be presented in the Economic Botany section.

   b. **Contributed Posters:** Economic Botany: **two posters** were contributed in the Economic Botany section.

   c. **Awards:** Two student travel awards ($500 each) were given in 2014.
      i. Jacob Washburn, University of Missouri ($500)
      ii. Lauren Frazee, Rutgers University ($500)

   d. **Speaking of food update:** Following on the Speaking of food: connecting basic and applied science symposium/colloquium, we solicited presenters and others to submit articles for a Special Issue in the American Journal of Botany. Currently there are ~19 manuscripts in various stages of review and revision. The Special Issue is expected for mid-late Fall 2014. The co-editors of this issue are: Allison Miller, Briana Gross, and Toby Kellogg.

   e. **Election of new Section Leader:** Allison Miller is finishing her third year of a three year term as the Economic Botany section leader. She is willing to serve another three-year term if needed but we are surveying the society now to see if there are others who might be interested in serving as section leader.
2014 Genetics Section Report to BSA Council

Activities of the BSA Genetics section during the 2013-2014 year include:

1. Business meeting conducted at the Genetics section mixer at the Botany meetings 2013, July 29, 2013, New Orleans LA., 5:30-6:30pm.

2. Genetics had 37 contributed papers and 25 posters in 2013, and 53 papers and 28 posters in 2014

3. Genetics co-sponsored a symposium on Speaking of Food in 2013 and one symposium on models and methods pertaining to plant reproduction in 2014

4. The 2013 Margaret Menzel Award ($200) for the best paper was given to Ingrid Jordan-Thaden for her paper "Differential gene expression and loss in two natural and synthetic Traopogon species"

5. The 2013 Genetics Section Poster Award was given to Meng Wu for her poster on “Investigation of protein evolution on the Y chromosome of papaya, Carica papaya“

6. The 2014 Graduate Student Research Award based on evaluation of 8 submitted proposals was awarded to two students (Ph.D and Msc), Keven Wittmeier for his work on “Genome-enabled phylogeography of a great basin milkweed”, and Kimberly Hansen for her work on “Reconstruction the Evolutionary History of Campanulaceae“

7. The 2014 Graduate Section Travel Award based on evaluation of 12 submitted proposals was awarded to three students (2 PhD and a MS). The winners were Rosa Rodriguez (msc), Heather Dame (PhD), and Rob Massatti (PhD).

8. During the 2013-2014, the Chair and Vice-Chair sent a few email updates to sectional members, which appear to have been well-received (e.g. several members volunteered to judge talks and posters at the 2014 meeting).

Genetics Section Officers:

Chair: Eric von Wettberg (Florida International University). Will step down at end of Botany 2015
Vice-Chair: Ingrid Jordan-Thaden (Bucknell University). Will become chair after
Sec/Treasurer: Currently vacant
**Official Notes from the Genetics Section meeting:**
July 29, 2013; New Orleans, LA

**Attendance:**
Kristina Schierenbeck, Chair
Eric Von Wettberg, Co-Chair
Ingrid Jordon-Thaden, Secretary/Treasurer

**Financial Changes**
Kristina reported on the outcome of the BSA Finance Committee and Council meeting. The BSA as a whole is on target. The genetics sectional allocation has $11,000 to spend. The council and finance meeting discussed that there is no reason for our section to hold onto that money. They suggested it would be useful to fund student attendance even more than we already are. Therefore, at the sectional meeting, changes were agreed upon (see below).

**Travel Awards**
The change we suggest is that the Genetics Section could fund three students at $1000 each for 2014.

**Research Awards**
For 2013, the section awarded two people with $2000 each.

  Recipients of the 2013 awards: Richie Hodel and Christine McAllister

For 2014, the section would like to award two people with $3000 each.

**Menzel Award**
Currently the Margret Menzel award is $200.
We have $2400 available. The award can be increased to $500 for 2014.

**Change in Dues**
Annual dues are currently at $4, and we would like to increase to $10, but ask Bill Dahl if we need a vote. This was suggested as a way to be sustainable in the future.

**Other Items**

*Kristina:*
The BSA committee asked each section to promote two items.

Promoting to join the Legacy Society. This promises a certain amount dedicated to the society when you pass away. It is part of the BSA Endowment. The BSA Endowment is currently 4 million dollars, but needs to be 15 million dollars for it to be sustainable because of open access journals raising the cost of publication out of the societies.

Promoting the APPS journal. Please submit or find potential authors.

*Ingrid:*
It was suggested that an announcement to BSA is needed to explain why it is important to be a member of the genetics section, as well as other sections. Sections support students who want to travel to the meetings and support funding of research. The current section membership is less than 200 and should increase. She suggested a snail mail outreach to new professors and post-docs, as well as asking each member to recruit 1 or 2 people.
The Paleobotanical Section continued its strong record of activity last year and has ambitious plans for 2014. The 2013 meeting in New Orleans program consisted of 46 oral presentations, and 10 posters. Highlights included the colloquia “The Critical Role of Plant Fossils in Divergence Dating Studies,” and “Themes of Land Evolution, a Celebration of the Contributions of Leo Hickey; and the symposium “The Devonian Period: a Time of Major Plant Diversification.” This symposium had substantial support from the Developmental and Structural Sections, which was greatly appreciated. The Section Banquet was very well attended.

Awards presented to Paleobotanical Section members at the 2013 meeting included:

BSA Merit Award: Charles Beck. Bill Stein made the presentation of the award to Dr. Beck during the BSA banquet.

BSA Merit Award: Patrick Herendeen.

COOKSON Award: Dori Contreras - for her contribution “New data on the structure and phylogenetic position of an extinct Cretaceous redwood”.

MOSELEY award: The award went to Robert Stevenson for his paper on “Flight of the conifers: Reconstruction of the flight characteristics of Paleozoic winged conifers seeds”

CICHAN award: The Michael Cichan award for 2013 went to Anne Laure Decombeix, for her paper “Bark Anatomy of an Early carboniferous three fern from Australia”.

The location of the 2014 meeting in Boise Idaho provides the ideal setting for paleobotanical sessions and field trips. We look forward to a full program including student talks in competition for the Cookson and Moseley Awards. The Paleobotanical Mixer and Banquet will be followed by an auction. A colloquium “The Miocene Vegetation and Environment of Western North America” will take place on Tuesday afternoon. An exciting post conference field trip to visit Middle Miocene floras of northern Idaho is being led by Steve Manchester, Bill Rember, and Rick Dillhoff. The field trip departs from Boise Thursday morning. The Business Meeting of the Section will take place after the last talks presided over by this year’s chairperson Caroline Stromberg.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Axsmith

June 5, 2014.
Annual Report for the Physiological Section, 2014
For the period from June 2013-June 2014.
Submitted 7.21.2014

The current officers of this section are:

Chair Frank Ewers (2015)
Program Director Peter Melcher (2014)
Treasurer Anitra Thorhaug (2014)

We will have to elect, or re-elect, two officers at the Physiological Section 2014 Business Meeting. The Business meeting will be held after the Ecophysiology talks on Tuesday, July 29th. The meeting will be from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm at the Firs South/Boise Centre.

Botany 2013, New Orleans

The following person was recommended by officers of the Physiological Section for Corresponding Membership:

Dr. Jorge Alejandro López-Portillo Guzmán (2013)
Instituto de Ecología, A.C. Xalapa, Veracruz, México

His election by the BSA Council was approved at the annual meeting.

Student awards for 2013 were:

1. Physiological Section Li-Cor Prize:
Samuel Del Rio, California State University - Bakersfield, for the paper “Hydraulic conductance is coordinated at the leaf and stem levels among chaparral shrubs” Co-authors: Christine Hluza, Evan D. MacKinnon, Jeffrey Parker and R. Pratt

2. Physiological Section Best Student Paper Award:
Kerri Mocko, University of Connecticut - Advisor, Dr. Cynthia Jones, for the paper “Physiological responses to drought reflect phylogenetic history in South African Pelargoniums (Geraniaceae)” Co-author: Cynthia Jones

3. Physiological Section Best Student Poster (two awardees):
Robert “Berto” Griffin-Nolan, Ithaca College - Advisor, Dr. Peter Melcher, for the poster “The physiological responses of moss to greenlight” Co-author: Peter Melcher
Marta Percolla, University of Connecticut - Advisor, Dr. Cynthia Jones, for the poster “Reduced number of vessel connections is positively associated with greater cavitation resistance to water stress in chaparral shrubs” Co-authors: R. Pratt, Anna Jacobsen and Michael Tobin

Botany 2014, Boise

1. The Physiology Section is Sponsoring a conference wide workshop at Boise: Non-destructive and non-intrusive measurement techniques of plant responses.
Thorhaug, Anitra, Ewers, Frank, Berlyn, Graeme.
This workshop will take place Sunday morning, from 8:00 until noon.

2. Contributed talks and posters scheduled for 2014:

a. Physiology Section: 10 papers and 8 posters (18 total abstracts)
b. Topical Presentations, Ecophysiology: 14 papers and 11 posters (25 total abstracts)
Southeastern Chapter of the Botanical Society of America

*Acting southeastern representative: Emily Gillespie*

Annual report to BSA—July 2014

In April 2013, Emily Gillespie (Marshall University) was asked to step in as the acting Southeastern representative to BSA, as the then-current representative, Zack Murrell (Appalachian State University) had become the president of the Association of Southeastern Biologists. Gillespie agreed to do so. Regular elections will be held at our 2015 ASB meeting.

In April 2014, during the Association of Southeastern Biologists annual meeting held in Spartanburg, SC, we held a competition for the best student paper and poster for the Southeastern Section. We received 21 poster abstracts and 22 paper abstracts that were deemed eligible. Twenty-five faculty members attending the ASB meeting volunteered to judge one or more papers/posters and we collectively chose two winners: Titan Ghandforoush (Wake Forest University) was selected for the best paper (on Old World blueberries) and Kristen Emery (University of North Carolina at Asheville) was selected for the best poster (on pollination dynamics of an endangered Spiraea).

Our immediate goals include 1) resuming formal Southeastern chapter meetings jointly with the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society business meeting (during the Association of Southeastern Biologists annual meeting), and 2) fundraising to facilitate sending our poster/paper student winners to the annual BSA meeting.
The BSA Systematics Section used income from Section dues and its annual allotment to support student participation in field trips associated with the annual Botany conference. In addition, the Systematics Section used section funds to sponsor symposia for the annual conference. Details on sponsorship and funding are provided below. Lynn Clark (BSA Systematics Section Chair) and I considered requests for sponsorship and funding that were directed to Systematics Section. As in previous years, ASPT and the Systematics Section have coordinated funding decisions to maximize support of sponsored symposia. I list here all symposia and colloquia that were sponsored and funded by the Systematics Section and ASPT.

Twelve symposium proposals and five colloquium proposals were submitted early on, with one symposium withdrawn due to lack of commitment by speakers; this has left 11 symposia and five colloquia. In addition, one discussion session was submitted. Details on sponsorship and funding are provided below. The new BSA website had peculiar wording for the question regarding funding of symposia, which I believe may have led most prospective coordinators to NOT request funding (it said, if I recall, something like "If you have arranged funding for your symposium, please briefly describe it") because the website didn't specifically ask. This is obviously something we need to investigate, as only one symposium organizer actually requested funding, via email as well as mentioning it in the website submission itself. I list here all symposia and colloquia that were sponsored and funded by the Systematics Section and ASPT.

**Financial Support.** BSA Systematics Section and ASPT supported the one symposium that requested funding:

- **Phylogenetic Comparative Methods and Approaches in Plant Science**
  Total funding = $2,000.

**Sponsorship in name only** (without financial support). The ASPT and BSA Systematics Section, and in one case also IAPT, sponsored 5 symposia in name only, 1 colloquium and 1 discussion in name only:

**Symposia:**
- Botanical DNA Banking and the Systematics Community: Working Together
- Annonaceae evolution: integrating molecules, biogeography and ecology
- Evolutionary insights from studies of geographic variation: Establishing a baseline and looking ahead to future change
- Phylogenetic Comparative Methods and Approaches in Plant Science
- Digitized natural history collections records in traditional research, collaborative research, and big data research

**Colloquia:**
- Empirical Approaches to Phylogenetic Comparative Methods in Plant Science

**Discussions:**
• Stepping Out of the Tower: Careers Beyond the Academy

In addition to the symposia, colloquia and discussion, the systematics program will include 2-3 concurrent sessions from Monday morning through Wednesday afternoon, including the Biogeography, Phylogenomics, and Hybrids & Hybridization topic sessions, which contain many systematics papers.

Again this year ASPT and BSA Systematics Section are supporting student participation in field trips associated with the Botany 2014 conference. Expenses are being split evenly between Systematics Section and ASPT. We are providing up to $100 per student toward the cost of the field trip. So far this year we have supported 28 students for a total of $1650, split between Systematics Section and ASPT. This is down slightly from 31 students at $2695 funded in 2013. I would like to acknowledge that Pat volunteered to take on the burden of receiving application materials and arranging payments for the field trip reimbursements, and to thank him profusely for doing all the hard work. He hopes to present this particular task to the Membership Committee as a potential “adoptee” in upcoming years.

An additional form of financial support to students at the annual botany conference is supplementing the cost of banquet tickets. Full price banquet tickets cost $50, student price tickets are $35. According to Pat, this was discussed briefly at the Council meeting in 2011 and it was decided that this represented an important contribution on the part of ASPT to help students attend the main systematics social event during the conference. We will see shortly if subsidy of student participation at the ASPT banquet keeps student numbers strong.

Future Botany Conferences
Botany 2015 will be in Edmonton, Alberta, 24-30 July, 2015
Botany 2016 will be in Savannah, Georgia, 28 July-4 August, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Harvey E. Ballard, Jr.
2013-2014 Teaching Section Report

The Teaching Section celebrated James “Jim” Wandersee of Louisiana State University for the last year with the Samuel Postlewait award. Unfortunately Jim passed away on January 24, 2014. The Teaching Section is saddened by the loss of Jim and will seek to establish a student award in his name at the Boise 2014 meeting.

The focus of the Teaching Section is to enable educators to further the teaching of plant science. At the 2013 New Orleans meeting we help support the Charles Edwin Bessey Award with the Education Committee to Dr. Shona Ellis of the University of British Colombia. In addition, the Teaching Section supported Joseph Armstrong and Marshall Sundberg in the presentation of an symposium titled “Yes, Bobby, Evolution Is Real” that was attended by 200+ members. The section looks forward to support future educational efforts.

The Teaching Section presented 9 papers and 15 posters at the 2013 meeting. For Boise in 2014, eleven papers and 16 posters are expected. The current balance of the Teaching Section account is $9,791.76 with 2013 expenses of $1168.49 and encumbered funds of $306.05 and $500.00. The section is lead by Dr. Carina Anttila-Suarez, Dr. Madhav Nepal and Dr. Aubrey “Bruce” Cahoon. We look forward to a wonderful meeting in Boise and welcome all educators to the Teaching Section sessions.
Tropical Biology Section Report – 1 August 2013 – completed 25 July 2014

There has been a long period of time with little activity and no written records for this section; we will make amends now and work toward greater involvement and a written history.

The Tropical Biology section met at the Botany 2013 meetings, held in New Orleans. Our meeting followed a contributed paper session; for this meeting there were five contributed paper abstracts submitted, and five poster abstracts. Only four of each made it to the program schedule, and one of the contributed talks was a no-show, so we had three excellent presentations. Members present, who attended the session, agreed to award three student presenters all Best Student Paper Awards. We will work on making an official best student paper award to be in place for future meetings.

Awards were presented to:

- **Beyte Barrios Roque**, Florida International University, for the paper “Herbivory in fragmented populations of the Pineland golden trumpet (Angadenia berteroi)”
- **Laura Lagomarsino**, Harvard University, for the paper “Of Bats, Birds, and Berries: Phylogeny and Evolution of the Species-Rich Neotropical Lobelioids (Campanulaceae)”
- **Melissa Johnson**, Claremont Graduate University, for the paper “Evolution of reproductive barriers within a non-adaptive hyper-species-rich radiation of Hawaiian Cyrtandra (Gesneriaceae)”

Present at the business meeting were seven people, including two students. Margaret Deval was nominated and agreed to serve as the new section chair; Suzanne Koptur will serve as the second officer (secretary/treasurer/program chair).