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