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.