



Status of Botany 2018 – Rochester, MN

Theme – Thriving with Diversity

Participating Societies: AFS, ASPT, IAPT, SHC, BSA and CBA/ABC

Our traditional partner ABLS is meeting on their own in Colorado but will be back for 2019

Program committee recently met in Rochester to discuss and plan for Botany 2018. Amy Litt, John Markham, George Weiblen, Amanda Gruez, Chelsea Pretz, Harvey Ballard, Kevin Stogran all attended for 2 days of touring and discussing. Oh, and eating!

Amy has collected the symposia and colloquia submissions and has sent them out to be voted on. 10 Symposia and 9 Colloquia have been submitted. Deadline is November 1 for decisions.

The center is brand new and quite large. We have free meeting space which includes complimentary LCDs and screens in each meeting room. We also have free basic internet in all meeting space. We can upgrade if needed for about \$500 for the week.

We do not have a food and beverage minimum to meet...which is refreshing....we usually don't have a problem meeting the minimum. We can also choose from 5 different caterers. I am in the process of collecting bids.

Confirmed Speakers:

Plenary Speaker: Walter Judd

Regional Botany Special Lecture: George Weiblen

Diversity Luncheon Speaker: Bryan Dewsbury

Annals of Botany Special Lecture: Elena Conti

Emerging Leader Lecture: Benjamin Blackman

Local folks have already been helpful in contacting exhibitors, artisans, venue for Student Social, and possible bands/DJs for the Celebrate event.

We have 4 hotels with different price points and NO attrition in any of them. I will begin building the website shortly, with all this information and more

Rochester is a very walkable city with many bars and restaurants close by. The city is connected by a sky walk and a pedestrian subway for getting around.