

2023–2024 Pteridological Section Report to BSA Council

Submitted by: Tom A. Ranker, Secretary-Treasurer
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Annual Meeting

There was a fieldtrip during the 2023 annual meeting in Boise, ID. The fieldtrip leaders were Sylvia Kinoshian, Josh Der, Emily Sessa, and James Smith. The fieldtrip included 40 attendees.

The Pteridological Section Program at the 2023 meeting comprised 19 oral presentations and 5 poster presentations on Monday, 24 July 2023.

The Edgar T Wherry award for the best paper in a contributed pteridological session for 2023 was awarded for two presentations: **Katelin Burow**, Purdue University, for the Presentation: Genetic Mechanisms of Sex Determination in *Ceratopteris richardii*. Co-authors: Grace Estep, Brian Dilkes, Jody Banks, Jen Wisecaver. **Sonia Molino**, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, For the Presentation: Discovering *Parablechnum*: a complex evolutionary history within the youngest fern family. Co-authors: Weston Testo, Mario Mairal, Guillermo Santos-Rivilla, Rafael Medina

Business Meeting, Pteridological Section:

The annual business meeting of the section was held virtually on 24 July 2023, 1:00–1:30 PM PDT. Minutes of the meeting were prepared by Emily Sessa and are appended below.

Financial Status

The BSA Pteridological Section began Fiscal Year 2024 (on 10/1/2023) with an operating fund balance of \$2,131.29. Income over the year to date has been \$1,020 (including \$540 in section dues, and \$480 in contributions to section awards, yielding a current balance of \$3,651.28.

In March 2024 BSA received four applications for \$250 student awards to travel to the Botany 2024 meetings in Grand Rapids, MI. One applicant was randomly chosen to receive an award. The award was funded from Pteridological Section funds.

Pteridological section business meeting – Botany 2023

Meeting was led by Alejandra Vasco

Present: Sally Chambers, Wes Testo, Emily Sessa, Josh Der, Chris Krieg, Thomas Buchloch, Mwhiki John (MJ) Karichu, Helen Holmlund, Sarah Morris, Lacy Benson

1. Alejandra recapped the minutes from last year;
 - Wes made a motion to accept the minutes, Helen Holmlund seconded. With no objections, the motion carried.
2. Botany 2022 recap:
 - Wherry award winner: Jessie Pelosi
 - The Pteridological Section talks were moderated by Emily Sessa and Jacob Suissa
3. Financial update:
 - Section bank account is currently at \$5,600.95 (before support for colloquium speaker travel was dispersed); this year we received \$710 income this year (dues and contributions to awards)
 - Two travel awards of \$500 each were made from Pter section funds this year
4. Section is always looking for folks interested in leadership!
5. Pam Diggle (AJB EIC) visited to share several items with us:
 - There's currently an open call for editors for the BSA journals (AJB and APPS)
 - AJB has a new reviews section and needs review submissions
 - BSA has established a new Synthesis prize for early career researchers; the prize is \$2000 and prestige! There has been one year so far, and the new call has just gone out.
6. Discussion of Wherry Award eligibility (led by Josh Der):
 - We had a long discussion/recollection of previous years' discussions about eligibility for the Wherry Award (the question essentially is whether talks in symposia/colloquia should be eligible). We decided that the answer should be YES, as long as the symposium/colloquium in question is fundamentally pteridological in nature. We decided that this distinction will be made annually by the Program Director, who will decide whether any of that year's symposia/colloquia should be eligible for Wherry Award judging.

Emily B. Sessa, Ph.D. (she/her)
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Financial statement for BSA Pteridological Section provided by Accounting Manager Tricia Jackson on 20 May 2024

Botanical Society of America			
Profit and Loss			
October 2023 - April 2024			
	Pteridological Section	Edgar T. Wherry Award Fund	Total Pteridological Section
Income			
4115 Section Dues	540.00		540.00
4309 Awards	200.00	210.00	410.00
4310 Other funds	70.00		70.00
Total Income	810.00	210.00	1,020.00
Expenses			
5725 Awards - general		(500.00)	(500.00)
Total Expenses	-	(500.00)	(500.00)
Net Operating Income	810.00	710.00	1,520.00

Balance as of 9/30/2023	3,201.28	(1,070.00)	2,131.28
Plus: FY24 Activity	810.00	710.00	1,520.00
Balance as of 4/30/2024	4,011.28	(360.00)	3,651.28