

Publications Report for the BSA Spring Board Meeting, March 2025

This report updates progress for BSA publications since the BSA Board meeting in June 2024 and is a companion to the Publisher Report provided by Gillian Greenough from Wiley.

New Editors-in-Chief for *AJB* and *PSB*

In January 2025, Sean W. Graham, of The University of British Columbia, began serving as the new Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Botany* and Carolina Siniscalchi, Mississippi State University, started as the new Editor-in-Chief for the *Plant Science Bulletin*. The terms for both Editors are 5 years, with the possibility to renew one time. Please join us in giving them your support to thrive in their new positions!

BSA Early Career Advisory Board (ECAB)

We are pleased to announce the members of the 2025-2027 Early Career Advisory Board (ECAB). Out of an impressive pool of applicants, 12 were selected to serve. The ECAB is made up of senior graduate students and postdocs who engage with and advise the editors of the Society's publications: *American Journal of Botany*, *Applications in Plant Sciences*, and the *Plant Science Bulletin*.

For more information, see <https://botany.org/home/publications/ecab.html>.

“A Botanical Podcast” Update

BSA expects to launch the inaugural season of “A Botanical Podcast” this spring! The six-episode season, hosted by Dr. Shiran Ben Zeev (Penn State University) and supported by Publications team members Amy McPherson and Richard Hund, will feature conversations with botanical researchers discussing their work, with tie-ins to their work in BSA publications. Initial episodes will feature Andrea Berardi (James Madison University), Jordan Dowell (Louisiana State University), Erica Lawrence-Paul (Penn State University), and Jessica Savage (University of Minnesota – Duluth). Stay tuned in the coming weeks for more news.

Update on the *AJB* Synthesis Papers and Prize

The third round of Synthesis papers is currently going through peer-review, and those published before July 2025 will be in competition for the third \$2000 Synthesis Prize.

The fourth round is underway—12 proposals are under consideration by the committee. The committee includes Sean Graham, Carol Goodwillie, Pam Diggie, James Leebens-Mack, and Amy McPherson. A separate committee will evaluate the published Synthesis papers for the prize.

For more information, see <https://botany.org/home/awards/awards-for-early-career-scientists/ajb-synthesis-papers-and-prize.html>.

The *Plant Science Bulletin*

Carolina Siniscalchi has transitioned into the role of Editor-in-Chief of the *Plant Science Bulletin* with the help of Managing Editor Richard Hund. We are contracting with former Conference Manager Johanne Stogran for layout of the *PSB* for 2025. The *PSB* will retain many of the features it is known for, but we look forward to the editorial direction and new features Carolina will bring during her tenure.

Special Issue Calls for Papers: *AJB* and *APPS*

In efforts to bring excellent papers and an expanded readership to our journals, we are pleased to announce the following upcoming special issues.

AJB

“Understanding novel fire regimes using plant trait-based approaches”

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/ajb/cfp-plant-traits-and-novel-fire-regimes.html>

“Paradigm Shifts in Flower Color”

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/ajb/ajb-special-issue-call-for-papers-paradigm-shifts-in-flower-color.html>

A call for papers is launching soon for

“Plant Resilience and Conservation for a Changing Climate”

Based on the BSA’s 2024 Fall Symposium

APPS

2025

“Advances in analyzing and engineering plant metabolic diversity”

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/apps/apps-special-issue-call-for-papers-plant-metabolic-diversity.html>

“Quantifying plant and fungal dispersal: New methods from multiple disciplines”

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/apps/apps-special-issue-call-for-papers-quantifying-plant-and-fungal-dispersal.html>

2026

“Branching out: Resolving plant evolution through phylogenetic networks”

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/apps/branching-out-resolving-plant-evolution-through-phylogenetic-networks.html>

“Non-model plants: Challenges and solutions”

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/apps/non-model-plants-challenges-and-solutions.html>

Changes to the Editorial Boards post-July meeting:

AJB

The following Associate Editors have retired from the editorial board: Kasey Barton, Kathleen Kay, Gar Rothwell, Jürg Schönenberger, Silke Werth, and Sarah Wyatt.

APPS

The Recruiting Editor for *APPS*, Tilottama (Tilo) Roy, of Missouri Western State University, stepped away from her role in July 2024 to take on additional duties at her university. Fortunately, another qualified applicant, José M. Cunill-Flores from the University of Miami, agreed to assume the role, starting September 2024.

New Associate Editor: Irene Cobo-Simón (Forest Research Centre, CIFOR-INIA-CSIC, Spain).

Retiring Associate Editors: Jeff Maughan, Gil Nelson, and Yunjian Xu.

New *APPS* Reviewing Editor board: *APPS* Reviewing Editors work directly with Associate Editors during the manuscript review process to gain experience in the editorial and publication process. After an open call, 13 new REs were selected for a two-year term, starting in September 2024:

<https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/journal/21680450/homepage/editorialboard#rev>

Respectfully submitted,
Amy McPherson and Emily Sessa
BSA Director of Publications; BSA Director-at-Large for Publications
26 February 2025