

2017-2018 Pteridological Section Report to BSA Council

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2017–18 Activities:

Annual Field Trip and Meeting

The 2017 Pteridological Section Field Trip, led by Barney Lipscomb, Bob O’Kennon, and George Yatskievych, was offered in conjunction with the Botany 2017 meetings in Fort Worth, Texas. About 20 members and guests participated in the full-day fern foray to Worth Ranch, in the Palo Pinto Mountains of north-central Texas. The ranch has excellent exposures including bluffs of Mississippian limestone and sandstone, which house a wide variety of xerophytic fern species. The day, spent exploring the dry rocky hills of the ranch, yielded a total of about 10 species of ferns was recorded, all but one in the cheilanthoid Pteridaceae (the sole outlier was *Asplenium resiliens*, Aspleniaceae).

The Pteridological Section Program at the 2017 Fort Worth meeting comprised seven oral presentations (Monday morning from 8:15 to 12:00). As usual, we held the American Fern Society luncheon and Society meeting on Monday from 12:00 – 1:30 pm, which included a first report on the Field Trip and an update on the Society’s and the Section’s activities.

Financial Status

The FY-18

For the current year we began with \$8362.00 in the Pteridological Section cash account. Expenditures since the beginning of the fiscal year comprise \$2000 in award travel grants to the Botany 2018 meetings and a \$3000 grant to the organizers of the Carl Taylor Colloquium, part of the Botany 2018 meetings. The current balance in the Cash account from these numbers is \$3362.00

The Wherry Award fund began the year with \$710. Donations to the Wherry Fund totaled \$100. The award of \$250 was given to three presenters. The balance remaining in the Wherry Fund is \$60.00.

Note: with the retirement of William Dahl as business manager for the Botanical Society, there has been some confusion in the reporting of income and expenses. The secretary-treasurer will be addressing these ambiguities in the coming year.

The FY-17 report, for reference.

For the current year (starting Sept. 30, 2017) we began with \$5773.12 in the Pteridological Section cash account. Dues received to date (\$335), donations (\$325) credited to the section, an investment allocation from the Society (\$419.77), and a transfer from the allotment account (\$1400, leaving the allotment account with a balance of \$0) has brought us to a balance of \$8252.89.

The Wherry Award fund began the year with \$710. Donations during the year brought the fund to \$810. The award of \$250 was not given in the past year.

Goals Statement for the Section

At the 2014 meeting in Boise, The AFS and BSAPT leadership decided on a temporary plan for the AFS president elect to serve as the program director for BSA and as the Pteridological Section Chair. The integrated leadership of AFS/BSAPT set as its goal to improve the effectiveness through the two working together in the coming years. Included among the objectives the leadership identified were the following:

1. Raising the professional profile of the American Fern Society
2. Defining the scope of the American Fern Journal (Are there categories of manuscripts we might wish to decline editorially?)
3. Clarifying the status of the Fiddlehead Forum (asking how can the Fiddlehead Forum best complement the AFJ)
4. Improving the organization and coordination of symposia and colloquia
5. Exploring whether to create more service opportunities to encourage more society involvement by younger members
6. Defining our long-term financial goals (specifically discovering the level of interest in building a more significant endowment and whether we can improve the return on our current holdings).