

## **BSA Southeastern Section Annual Report – 2017-2018**

Activities of the Southeastern section of the Botanical Society of America (BSA) occurred at the annual meeting of the ASB in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Each year the section collaborates with the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society (SABS) to host a student reception and a morning breakfast meeting attended by members of the BSA Southeastern Section and members of SABS (there is a lot of overlap between these two groups). This year the student reception was held at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center hotel bar. Students were encouraged to attend by the option to participate in a raffle that occurred during the reception. A large number of students attended the reception and mingled with other students and Botany faculty from across the southeast. The reception was a success and we will attempt to repeat the format in future years. During the joint breakfast meeting Chris Havran (Section Chair) presented on the yearly activities of the section.

The BSA Southeastern section provides awards for best poster and oral presentations given at the annual ASB meeting. The best poster presentation was awarded to Lee Rumble of Middle Tennessee State University for his presentation entitled: "Measuring spatial and temporal shifts in forest structure and composition post-beech bark disease in Great Smoky Mountains National Park". The best oral presentation was awarded to Tesa Madsen-McQueen of Appalachian State University for her presentation entitled: "Environmental niche divergence in southeastern *Kalmia* species: integrating phylogeny, community, composition, and ecology". Each awardee was sent a \$300 check as an award.

The section held an online election for two new officers: Secretary/Treasurer and Activities Chair. Jeremy Rentsch (Francis Marion University) and John Schenk (Georgia Southern University), ran unopposed for these two positions, respectively. A separate vote was held in person at the section's breakfast meeting to increase the dues of the section to \$5. Section members in attendance voted unanimously for the change. This will increase funds available to the section to provide awards to students and to conduct other student events.