

**Botanical Society of America Teaching and Outreach Section
Annual Report for 2023-2024**

Section Chair: Benjamin R. Montgomery

Immediate Past Chair: Kyra N. Krakos

Section Vice Chair and Program Director: Robert K. Noyd

Section Secretary/Treasurer: Janelle Burke

1. Leadership: Ben Montgomery, Bob Noyd and Kyra Krakos served in the second year of their 2-year terms as Chair, Vice Chair, and Past Chair, respectively. Janelle Burke began a 3-year term as secretary / treasurer. We will hold elections for a new Chair and Vice-Chair during this year's conference.

2. Awards: The Postelthwait Award received no applicants and was not awarded. The chair of Education Committee (Rachel Jabaily) formed a committee of Education Committee members and Teaching and Outreach section officers to choose this year's winner for the Bessey Award. We will discuss with the teaching section how to better differentiate the Postelthwait Award from the Bessey Award.

3. Conference Participation: The teaching and outreach section continues to have a strong presence among the contributed papers at the annual Botany. The number of presentations and posters shows a rebound compared to 2023, as shown below:

| Year | Papers | Posters |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2024 | 19 | 12 |
| 2023 | 13 | 10 |
| 2022 | 25 | 9 |
| 2021 | 15 | 6 |

4. Symposium for Botany 2024: Bessey's Legacy: Enthusiasm and Innovation in Botanical Instruction

A symposium consisting of past recipients of the Charles Edwin Bessey Teaching Award reflecting on best practices in botanical education was accepted for the Botany 2024 conference. It features 6 past recipients with an introduction by the 2024 recipient.

5. Finances: The section finished the year with a higher balance, mostly due to investment gains.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Balance as of 9/30/2022 | 11,937.46 |
| Plus: FY2023 Activity | 1,383.92 |
| Ending Balance (9/30/2023) | 13,321.38 |