BSA spring board meeting, March 9-10 2018

Advisory Council Chair's report.

For the most part, all quiet on the western front. The Advisory Council meeting went smoothly at the summer meeting in 2017, with most of the discussion focused on the move to Wiley publishing. There was no pushback on this, and few questions. Nobody seemed to be overly concerned.

There are a few small things brought up by various sections that we should discuss briefly. In no order of importance:

*Amanda Ingram mentioned that it might be nice to develop clearer guidelines for funding requests for symposia and colloquia. While evaluating the proposals, the requests seem to vary wildly, and this is probably because no one really knows what the appropriate level of funding is.

*The Pteridological Section has reported a large increase in the number of malicious emails to the treasurer pretending to be another societal officer and asking for money transfer. This seems to be happening everywhere, both in BSA and beyond. I know SSB has had major problems with this as well.

*Ingrid Jordon-Thaden reported on the success of the updated talk categories the genetics section implemented at the meetings last year. 3 of the 4 new names went over well- the 'classical genetics' name they have decided to change again, this time to 'functional genetics/genomics'. The categories for this summer's meeting are as follows:

1. Functional Genetics/Genomics: Studies of inheritance of genes and their function and behavior within a breeding system or population using classical Mendelian genetics. Including cytology, QTL, heterozygosity, genotyping, phenotyping, and other inheritance pattern measures.

2. Hybrids and Hybridization: Studies that specifically explore the speciation boundary and evolutionary history between naturally or synthetically produced hybrids and the process of hybridization.

3. Comparative Genomics/Transcriptomics: Studies that compare evolution of the genomes, transcriptomes or proteomes between lineages or species. Specifically illustrating gene order, presence/absence, regulatory sequences, and other -omic structural landmarks, and not phylogenomics goals.

4. Population Genetics/Genomics: Studies that use any molecular data type to explore principles of population genetics and the microevolution of those populations in time and space.

* Finally, Rachel Meyer from the Economic Botany section mentioned that she would like section leaders to actually be able to see their budgets, and that it had been years since she had seen the Economic Botany budget. This really surprised me- this seems like important business!

Rachel also mentioned that she will be discussing the Nagoya Protocol, possibly at this board meeting. In the event this does not end up being discussed, I want to make a placeholder here to let you all know that she might be requesting a small amount of funds from BSA to support some development of online content about the Nagoya Protocol, in conjunction with a meeting she attended.