

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

July 2020

Wanda Lovan

BSA Business Office operations continue to flow along with some adjustments in schedule in deference to Covid-19. Heather and I physically work in the office one day per week, on alternate days, in order to print and co-sign checks. We coordinate with Missouri Botanical Garden mailing services to get our checks in the mail and incoming checks processed. The bulk of our activities can be completed from our respective homes.

Highlights and challenges have included the following:

- **Botany Conference:** Following the postponement of the Anchorage Conference, registration refunds were issued. Plans are ongoing for the Virtual 2020 Conference.
- **Evolution Society:** We have been coordinating all award payments, stipends and other reimbursements with Chris Caruso, SSE Treasurer. All seems to be working well with this arrangement.
- **Economic Botany:** Finance activity has been less than usual given the cancellation of SEB conference. We continue to work with Wendy Applequist, Treasurer.
- **NSF Grants:** The three grants in process are Digging Deeper, Plants II and Diversity & Inclusion. These grants are all cost reimbursable. Due to Covid-19, no-cost extensions are in process.
- **Schowalter Jabouri Accounting Firm** continues to serve us well.
- **Sectional accounting and monthly transfer of designated dollars to Botanical Investment Portfolio** continues in accordance with our revised procedures.
- **BSA was included in Missouri Botanical Garden's Paycheck Protection Program Loan.**

Education Update –July 2020

Prepared by Catrina Adams, BSA Education Director

Grant Funding Updates:

- **NSF DRK-12 grant FUNDED!** (C. Adams PI, 3.9M, 2020-2025). Details available: https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2010556&HistoricalAwards=false
- Received a second no-cost extension year of our existing Digging Deeper (DIG) grant (through September 30, 2021; remaining budget of ~200K).
- Received a no-cost extension on NSF RCN-UBE grant: Conference: Educating for a Diverse and Inclusive Community in Botany for the 21st Century (C. Adams PI, Kyra Krakos coPI, \$63,599; remaining participant support budget of ~15K).

PlantingScience Updates:

- Spring session was complicated by shifts to online learning as a result of COVID 19. We currently have 13 teachers signed up for the upcoming Fall session, and will do our best to accommodate teachers' needs in a challenging K-12 education landscape.
- Year 1 activities for the new PlantingScience grant will involve building online professional development capabilities for PlantingScience and collecting classroom video of PlantingScience activities and from scientists working on research related to photosynthesis and respiration. Recruiting for research participants will not occur until Y2.

Continue to pursue collaborative agreement with US Botanic Garden RE new “Careers for Plant People” resource: We are working on details of an agreement and exploring potential partnerships with Plantae and Seed Your Future. It is taking time to get details of scope defined and all partners on board...a formal agreement may be delayed until next fiscal year.

Life Discovery: Doing Science Conference: We partner in hosting this education conference along with ESA and SSE. The conference was originally planned for Estes Park, Colorado in October. The planning committee has decided to host a smaller virtual conference October 22-24, and have renegotiated new dates with YMCA Estes Park, CO for October 2021. More info on the upcoming conference is available here: <https://www.esa.org/ldc/>

Publications in prep:

Taylor, J., Westbrook, A., Adams, C., Creasap-Gee, J. The effect of participation in a student-scientist partnership-based online plant science mentoring community on high school students' science achievement and attitudes about scientists. (for submission to the Journal of Research on Science Teaching (JRST)).

Additional papers on DIG results are planned for submission to the *The American Biology Teacher* and *BioScience*

Future Presentations:

PlantingScience Workshop, National Association of Biology Teachers (Virtual, November 2020). C. Adams will co-present with PlantingScience teacher Aubrey Mikos.

We cancelled our accepted workshop presentation at American Society of Association Executives on “What would a high school student say about your industry?” (C. Adams, H. Cacanindin presenting). It would have been difficult to do the workshop in a virtual format, and we worried about the close timing with our Botany 2020 meeting. We plan to resubmit for next year.

Membership and Communications Report

2020 July Board Meeting

Amelia Neely – Membership & Communications Manager

Membership Overview

	as of 6/30/20		as of 6/21/19		All of 2019		2018		2017	
	2020	% of Total	2019	% of Total	2019	% of Total	2018	% of Total	2017	% of Total
Corresponding	69	2.4%	65	2.4%	69	2.3%	65	2.2%	68	2.3%
Life	91	3.2%	81	3.0%	87	2.9%	76	2.6%	69	2.4%
Emeritus	282	10.0%	278	10.4%	283	9.4%	280	9.5%	281	9.6%
E Family	42	1.5%	39	1.5%	39	1.3%	39	1.3%	38	1.3%
Retired	63	2.2%	52	2.0%	66	2.2%	65	2.2%	53	1.8%
R Family	4	0.1%	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	4	0.1%
3 Yr Professional	275	9.7%	285	10.7%	300	9.9%	242	8.2%	178	6.1%
3 Yr Prof Family	21	0.7%	17	0.6%	20	0.7%	17	0.6%		0.0%
Professional	814	28.8%	806	30.2%	881	29.1%	984	33.5%	1050	36.0%
P Family	101	3.6%	108	4.1%	111	3.7%	129	4.4%	145	5.0%
CC Professional	41	1.4%	32	1.2%	38	1.3%	34	1.2%	44	1.5%
CC Family	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	4	0.1%
PostDoc	147	5.2%	143	5.4%	159	5.3%	173	5.9%	173	5.9%
PD Family	3	0.1%	3	0.1%	3	0.1%	3	0.1%	1	0.0%
3 Yr Student	128	4.5%	0	0.0%	94	3.1%		0.0%		0.0%
Student	571	20.2%	610	22.9%	692	22.9%	643	21.9%	630	21.6%
S Family	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	3	0.1%
S Chapter	20	0.7%	22	0.8%	22	0.7%	34	1.2%	37	1.3%
K-12 Teachers	11	0.4%	9	0.3%	12	0.4%	15	0.5%	13	0.4%
Affiliate	25	0.9%	18	0.7%	22	0.7%	24	0.8%	33	1.1%
Associate	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	2	0.1%	5	0.2%
Amateur	51	1.8%	42	1.6%	51	1.7%	60	2.0%	64	2.2%
Developing Nations	68	2.4%	51	1.9%	69	2.3%	52	1.8%	24	0.8%
	2830		2666		3024		2941		2917	
Professional	2024	71.5%	1964	73.7%	2130	70.4%	2161	73.5%	2132	73.1%
Student	719	25.4%	632	23.7%	808	26.7%	679	23.1%	670	23.0%
Other	87	3.1%	70	2.6%	86	2.8%	101	3.4%	115	3.9%
<i>Growth/Decline</i>	2830	5.8%	2666		3024	2.8%	2941	0.8%	2917	6.9%
	as of 6/30/20		as of 6/21/19		All of 2019					

5.8% is compared to June 2019

Membership has increased almost 6% over the same time last year, with 164 more members. This increase can be at least partially attributed to the fact that we had a strong renewal season at the end of 2019 with excitement about the Alaska conference and renewed interest when the virtual conference was announced as well.

Membership Category Highlights:

- We saw an increase of 10 new **Life members** who took advantage of our one-time cost to stay members in perpetuity. This continues a strong trend toward this membership category for those who can afford to do so either personally or via professional funds.
- **Student membership** numbers continue to increase this year, adding almost 90 members (over 12% growth) over this time last year.
 - 128 student members have taken advantage of the **3-Year student membership**.
 - There have been 344 **New Student members** this year so far, which is 48% of our student member total.

Some ways we will continue to move these new students into renewing students in the coming years:

- Strong student social media presence
 - Student driven communications by the BSA Student Reps
 - Consideration of needs for upcoming mentoring program
 - Consideration of needs for upcoming website redesign
 - Student-centered activities at conferences
 - Continued awards and programs to promote students and support their needs
 - Promote Gift Memberships for Students
- The **Developing Nations** category grew by 17 members (10% growth compared to last year at this time), continuing to show the importance of offering this membership level to developing country members.
 - **Professional Members** (Professional, 3-Year Professional and Professional Family) are almost exactly the same as this time last year and decreased by only 5 members. This is a hopeful change from the downward trajectory of the last few years, but there is work to be done to keep the numbers from slipping. As seen in past years, this category renews at a high rate, but we do not have the same new member numbers as we need to keep this category growing.
 - **Post Doc Members** are also almost exactly at the same point they were at this time last year, with just about 5 additional members than 2019. We are excited to be able to announce a **3-Year Post-Doc membership option** after it has been voted upon at the coming membership meeting. This 3-year membership has the same caveat as the 3-Year Student membership that they will continue to benefit from this membership level for the entire 3 years not dependent on their career stage.

Social Media

We have continued to work very successfully with the first two BSA Student Social Media Liaisons **Taran Lichtenberger** from Northwestern University and **Jared Meek**

from Columbia University. Looking forward we have decided to change the positions from one-year positions to two-year staggered positions. Taran will be leaving her role in September, which has primarily focused on Facebook and Instagram, and Jared will be continuing on for the next year in his role with the BSA Twitter account. We are currently advertising for Taran's replacement, which will also take on the Facebook/Instagram roles, and will be starting October 1, 2020.

In every regard Taran and Jared have been a success, and we were very fortunate to have our first two positions filled by thoughtful, trustworthy, team-oriented students who have stepped up over and over throughout the year.

Jared Meek's report:

Since February, BSA has gained 1,523 new **Twitter followers**, which is an average of 253 new followers per month. This is nearly a four-fold increase compared to October 2019 - January 2020, in which we saw an average of 98 new followers a month (total of 392 new followers).

While this large increase is partially due to COVID-19 and our followers transitioning to majority online work, newfound interest in BSA can also be attributed to our ["Teaching Botany Online" resources page](#), and more especially to the success and promotion of [#BlackBotanistsWeek](#), which was organized by many BSA members (Dr. Tanisha M. Williams, Dr. Beronda Montgomery, and Maya Allen to name a few).

It is important to note that the BSA Twitter account has gained 335 new followers so far in July alone, which is more than any other individual month since October. I believe that nearly all of these recent followers can be attributed to the interest in [#BlackBotanistsWeek](#), which demonstrates the vital importance of highlighting Black (and BIPOC) voices within the botanical sciences. There are clearly many more plant enthusiasts who want to be part of the Botanical Society of America and are beginning to see a true place for themselves here, so we must ensure that their presence is continually welcomed and valued in action and not word only.

Top media Tweet earned 9,704 impressions
[#BlackBotanistsWeek](#) kicks off Monday w/ the inauguration of [#BlackBotanicalLegacy](#)—be sure to follow for personal stories within [#botany!](#) The week will focus on the many ways Black people engage w/ the global diversity of plant life. blackbotanistsweek.weebly.com
[#BlackRoots](#) [#Botany101](#)
pic.twitter.com/ooTQyhGXWt



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Taran Lichtenberger's Report:

Facebook following has increased by roughly 1274 followers since the end of January 2020 and now the page has over 33,000 followers. We average about 5 posts a week with an average of 522 engagements (reactions/comments/shares) on each post.

Instagram following has increased by roughly 1028 followers since the end of January, breaking 1000! The account now has 1286 followers. We average 2 posts a week with an average of 48 likes on each post. Posts about the journal articles consistently do well, a recent post receiving 305 likes. An updated description for the account to more closely match the Twitter bio was implemented. To make some posts for Instagram we have also started using Canva which has expanded what we can post.

On both platforms in May we had a 10 day countdown to the abstract submission deadline. Photos of posts from that countdown are attached. We have also sent a call out for our #SciComm Celebration on both platforms that we expect to be a great event for Botany 2020!

I have deeply enjoyed serving in this position and cannot wait to bring my science communication skills into future positions as I go forward. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Amelia, Richard, and Jared. Additionally, it has been uplifting to be part of the social media work for BSA that strives to amplify BIPOC voices. I immensely look forward to watching those efforts continue.



BSA eCommunications

Our 2020 *Membership Matters* eNewsletters averaged an open rate of 48.9% which is 4.6% higher than the first six months of 2019 and outstanding compared to the industry standard which is much lower. This shows that the monthly eNewsletter is seen as a great benefit to our members and has consistently included relevant and useful information to our member base. This year we continued to send monthly eTocs for *AJB* and *APPS* with an amazing open rate of 50.6%, showing the incredible value that our members find receiving eTocs from BSA. Our eCommunications are compiled with information from the team as a whole which allows for a wide variety of relevant content and resources made available to our members.

Future projects

- 3-Year Post-Doc membership option to be approved and implemented by 2020 renewal season in October 2020
- Once SEB's database is transitioned to CiviCRM I will take over responsibility for database integrity and their membership program (Heather is currently doing this)
- Continue to update both BSA and SEB websites as needed and participate in BSA website redesign, with my focus on member experience
- Explore new member onboarding experiences, including new member highlights on social media, asking for hash tag for member twitter group and promoting any micro-volunteering opportunities, gift memberships, and possible refer-a-friend program

BOTANY 2020, BSA Board and Council Report
Virtual! Via Zoom, July 2020

The past year has been interesting, to say the least. For publications, we experienced several highlights, as well as having to deal with the “lowlight” that is the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights over the past year:

- **Increased Journal Impact Factor for both journals:** Although the IF is not the only measure of quality for a journal, and everyone recognizes it is not a *perfect* metric, it is still a positive indicator for any journal when the IF increases. The **2019 IF for *AJB* is 3.038** (up from **2.841** last year) **and for *APPS* it is 1.591** (up from **1.232** last year).
- **Establishing an Early-Career Advisory Board and Modifying the APPS Reviewing Board:**
 - The Early-Career Advisory Board (ECAB) is up and running, thanks to the leadership of our Director-at-Large for Publications, Emily Sessa. The ECAB members help with social media; recommend papers from preprint servers for *AJB* and *APPS*; suggest topics and authors for Reviews and special issues; and potentially edit Wikipedia articles to cite *AJB/APPS* articles as appropriate. [Check out one of the cool “Twitter Takeovers” in late March by Rocío Deanna: [# Fruit](#) ; <https://bit.ly/3h9avNy>.) Current members of the ECAB are listed here: <https://cms.botany.org/home/publications/ecab.html>.
 - **APPS Reviewing Editor Board:** In 2020, *APPS* expanded the remit for its Reviewing Editor Board to provide new opportunities for post-doc and senior grad student researchers who are interested in gaining a behind-the-scenes understanding of the editorial and publication processes. We received 37 applications, with the expectation that 15 will be accepted for the board. We are hoping to make a final decision by July 20, in time for the *APPS* editorial board meeting.
- **AJB Reviews:** We launched the new Reviews series for *AJB* in late 2019, anticipating that publishing good, timely Reviews will contribute to botanical scholarship and also help garner citations for the journal. The Reviews team, led by Jannice Friedman, with support from Emily Sessa, Pam Diggle, and Amy McPherson, is actively recruiting contributors. To date, we have received six

submissions, with several additional contributions expected.

- **Discontinuing Primer Notes for APPS:** As of November 1, 2019, *APPS* no longer accepts Primer Notes for consideration. The last Primer Notes were published in the May 2020 issue.
- **Outreach and Collaboration:** In support of the BSA's commitment to greater international outreach and collaboration, the BSA publications group and Wiley hosted a free author workshop at the XXI Congreso Mexicano de Botánica on October 23, 2019, in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Amy McPherson (BSA/*AJB*), Gillian Greenough (Wiley), Heather Cacanindin (BSA), and Marcelo Pace (UNAM) represented the society and our publications.

Lowlight: The COVID-19 Pandemic (but even that resulted in a few positives)

- Contingency Plans
 - Staff at the BSA headquarters in St. Louis, including the publications team, have been working from home since mid-March. This is working well, and we will continue to WFH for the foreseeable future.
 - In late March, Wiley contacted its publishing partners with their plans for adapting to the pandemic and stay-at-home orders worldwide: flexible work schedules and locations in their US and non-US locations; temporary halt to printing (for a brief period); recommendation to us to publish smaller issues (just in case); and to anticipate potential delays in production because we just "didn't know" what was going to happen.
 - In fact, while there were a few slowdowns initially, it has mostly been business-as-usual with little disruption.
 - Wiley recommended that we also develop a written contingency plan for the editorial office and our editors. They provided a template for accomplishing this, which we will embark on this fall.
- Postponed Strategy Day:
 - Originally, our Wiley-BSA publications strategy day was scheduled for April 25, 2020. This in-person meeting was canceled because of the pandemic but will be reconsidered for later this year, potentially in virtual format.

Open Access and Plan S

The plans for more "open" science continue, but the pace of [Plan S](#) has slowed down a little, and some of the deadlines for compliance have been extended. *APPS* is an OA journal, and *AJB* is covered because we are partnering with Wiley, which is engaging in several transformative deals.

See also the reports from Wiley, prepared by Gillian Greenough, Executive Editor, Life and Physical Sciences, Research & Society Services (our main contact at Wiley).

JCR, Impact Factor, and Journal Information

The Journal Citation Report* was released by Clarivate on June 29, 2020.

The 2019 Impact Factor for *AJB* is **3.038**, up from **2.841** last year.

The 2019 Impact Factor for APPS is **1.591**, up from **1.232** last year.

[*The 2019 IF = the number of citations received by the journal in 2019 to articles published in 2017 and 2018/number of citable items published in 2017-2018.]

The 5-year Impact Factor for *AJB* is 3.245, down from 3.414 in 2018.

The 5-year Impact Factor for *APPS* is 1.914, up from 1.389 in 2018.

See the Wiley Report for more detailed information about the JCR.

AJB:

- In 2019, *AJB* handled 451 new submissions plus 375 revised manuscripts, and published 151 articles. The total number of pages published in 2019 was 1637. Submissions were received from 40 countries, with the highest numbers from the United States (170), China (85), Brazil (33), Mexico (21), Canada (20), Japan (17), Spain (12), and the Czech Republic (10).
- We have 56 Associate Editors from around the world: 34% of our Associate Editors are from countries other than the U.S., and 46% are women.
- The average time to first decision in 2019 was 34.6 days; 2018 was 35.2 days; and 2017 was 34.8 days. So far in 2020, this number is 33 days.
- Our overall acceptance rate for articles in *AJB* was 38% in 2019 (41.5% in 2018, and 38% in 2017).
- Pam Diggle is in the first year of her second 5-year term as Editor-in-Chief.
- In late 2019/early 2020 we welcomed new Associate Editors Mike Barker (The University of Arizona), Anna Bucharová (University of Münster, Germany), Anne-Laure Decombiex (UMR Botanique et Bioinformatique de l'Architecture des Plantes [AMAP], Montpellier, France), Ignacio Escapa (CONICET, Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio [MEF], Argentina), and Juan Fornoni (Instituto de Ecología, UNAM, Mexico). For the current editorial board, see <https://bit.ly/3j8oBAp>
- Retirements from the Board include Oliver Bossdorf, Rubén Cúneo, Erika Edwards, Chris Ivey, and Don Les.

Special Issues

Special issues raise the visibility of the journal and demonstrate the breadth of our content, as well as (often) help our Impact Factor, by attracting high-quality and potentially well-cited papers. We thank all of the Special Issue/Section editors and contributing authors for their hard work in making their Society journal as strong as possible.

2020:

Joint Cross-Publication Special issue—*AJB*, *APPS*, *IJPS*

- [Plant-Environment Interactions: Integrating across levels and scales](#)—led by Gina Baucom, Sharon Kessler, Katy Heath (*AJB*); Sally Chambers (*APPS*); and Dan Chitwood and Selena Smith (*IJPS*). The February issues of *AJB* and *APPS* (partial

issue) were devoted to this topic, and a Virtual Issue pulling together contributions from *AJB* and *APPS* was published on our hub page. Cross-publication promotion on social media included all three journals.

AJB 2021:

- [Life Without Water](#)—led by Karolina Heyduk, Michael McKain, and Olwen Grace.
- [Exploring the Potential of Angiosperms353, a Universal Toolkit for Flowering Plant Phylogenomics](#) a joint special issue with *APPS*; led by Bill Baker, Felix Forest, Lisa Pokorny, Steven Dodsworth, Jennifer Tate, and Sean Graham.

APPS:

- In 2019, *APPS* handled 178 new submissions plus 136 revised manuscripts, and published 80 articles (44 non-Primer Notes). So far in 2020 volume 8 (through the July issue), *APPS* published 54 articles (42 non-Primer Notes).
- Submissions were received from 34 countries, with the highest number from the United States (57), China (54), the Czech Republic (5), Pakistan (5), India (4), and Mexico (4). NOTE: In 2020, the number of submissions from China has decreased since Primer Notes were discontinued as an Article Type (5 MSS from China as of 14 July 2020).
- We have 8 Associate Editors and 11 Senior Associate Editors. Three (16%) of our Associate Editors are from a country other than the U.S., and 42% are women.
- The average time to first decision in 2019 was 39.5 days; 2018 was 30.7 days; and 2017 was 29 days.
- Our overall acceptance rate for *APPS* was 52% in 2019 (50% in 2018, and 55% in 2017).
- Theresa Culley is in year 2 of her third (3-year) term as Editor-in-Chief.
- In late 2019/early 2020 we welcomed new Associate Editors Karolina Heyduk (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa), Gil Nelson (iDigBio, Florida Museum of Natural History), Michael McKain (University of Alabama), and Susann Wicke (Humboldt University of Berlin). For the current editorial board, see <https://bit.ly/3fAs2gZ>.
- There are seven editors on the 2018–2020 Reviewing Editor Board; the current RE Board term ends August 31. We are currently evaluating a large and diverse group of applicants for the 2020-2022 RE Board. The role is being expanded so that REs will work closely with a mentoring Associate Editor to gain experience in the editorial process.

APPS Special Issues:

One of the key ways that we are working to increase visibility of *APPS* is with special issues. Three special issues have been published so far in 2020, with a fourth scheduled for August. One special issue is scheduled for 2021.

2020:

- *Conducting Botanical Research with Limited Resources: Low-Cost Methods in the Plant Sciences*—led by Gillian Dean, Alice Nakhumicha Muriithi, and Theresa Culley; published April 2020.
- *Machine Learning in Plant Biology*—led by Pam Soltis, Gil Nelson, Emily Meineke, and Alina Zare; publishing in two issues: June and July 2020.
- *Advances in Plant Phenomics: From Data and Algorithms to Biological Insights*—led by Sunil Kenchanmane Raju, James Schnable, and Addie Thompson; publishing in August 2020.

2021:

- *Exploring the Potential of Angiosperms353, a Universal Toolkit for Flowering Plant Phylogenomics*—a joint special issue with *AJB*, led by Matt Johnson, Angela McDonnell, Susann Wicke, and Norm Wickett for *APPS*.

Outreach for Publications

With 33,995 Facebook fans (up from 30,000), 9430 Twitter followers (up from 7000), and 1351 Instagram followers (up from a handful), we work hard to promote our authors' research beyond publication and beyond the immediate BSA audience. We promote each article via Twitter, but we also encourage authors to use the tools at the article site to promote their research via social media or direct e-mail. This combination of broad-based marketing and personal contact helps to enhance BSA membership and *AJB* author engagement. See also Wiley's marketing efforts in their report.

As approved by the Board in July 2019, the BSA recruited two **Student Social Media Liaisons**—Taran Lichtenberger (Northwestern University/Chicago Botanic Garden) and Jared Meek (Columbia University)—to enhance the BSA's social media reach, to help promote authors and their work published in BSA journals, and to promote the work and initiatives of BSA members.

Your Research Publications Team

Our BSA Director-At-Large for Publications is Dr. Emily Sessa (University of Florida).

The current *AJB* editorial staff and freelance editors include Ms. Amy McPherson (Director of Publications and Managing Editor for *AJB*) and Mr. Richard Hund (Project Manager for BSA and Production Editor for *AJB*); and Dr. Marian Chau (Assistant Editor/Highlights Editor), Dr. Beth Hazen (Manuscript Editor), Mr. Richard Earles (Copy Editor), Dr. Larry Skog (Copy Editor), and Ms. Elaine Firestone (Copy Editor).

Ms. Beth Parada is the Managing Editor for *APPS*. She receives support with copyediting from Dr. Sarah Jose.

Respectfully submitted July 16, 2020

Summer 2020 IT Report

As usual it has been a busy time for IT in the Botanical Society.

March was particularly busy with awards, using our new module to handle awards for 3 different societies. This included 9 different BSA awards, the SSE Lewontin award that includes a couple hundred applications, and a first run for ASPT handling their GSRA award. All of these awards amounted to a certain amount of user support, training, and coding changes/feature implementation for all three societies. ASPT in particular had a learning curve since it was their first time through it.

During the Spring I primarily worked with AFS and SEB migrations to CiviCRM. These tasks are not yet done but are very close. For both implementations we want to try a different method of handling Family Memberships, as we aren't very happy with how it currently works. Family Memberships are the last piece of the puzzle prior to a test migration, review by the societies and then final implementation.

Once we had a plan for a Virtual Botany Conference, we got rolling with abstract submission – much later than in normal years. What used to be a February/March task now happened in May/June. That of course transitioned into support for Program Managers putting their programs together, and then setting up the schedule once it was planned out. A new script needed to be written for moving data from our system into the Virtual Conference system, called Pathable.

These were our major projects since our board meeting. In addition to that, minor projects included completion of the retirement of an old network storage device in the BSA office, optimization of our Amazon server storage account (which resulted in substantial savings), and continuing work on revising the botany.org web site. The most substantial piece completed of the botany.org revision was finishing the migration of our PSB archive into the content management system, which will allow site-wide searches to include the PSB. While the user interface needs to be completed for this, the next task will be to expose the search function to the public, allowing an additional method of finding information on the site that is both accurate and complete.