



## **Publications Report for the BSA Spring Board Meeting, February 2023**

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This report updates progress for BSA publications since the BSA Board meeting on November 8, 2022, and is a companion to the Publisher Report provided by Gillian Greenough from Wiley.

### **Wiley Contract Negotiations Completed**

We are happy to report that after many months, and countless discussions with Wiley, the consultants Clarke & Esposito, and the lawyer Susan Carlson, the contract with Wiley was signed on 21 December 2022. The business model is moving to Open Access, so this presents many challenges to Society publishers (and scientific publishing in general): the next 5 years should be very interesting.

### **Update on the *AJB* Synthesis Papers and Prize**

<https://botany.org/home/awards/awards-for-early-career-scientists/ajb-synthesis-papers-and-prize.html>

The first call for applications of our newly established Synthesis Papers and Prize was a success. In the first round, launched in 2022, we asked 8 applicants (out of the original 20) to submit papers; 6 have been accepted, 1 is in revision, and 1 was rejected but was resubmitted and will be considered for publication outside of the competition.

When the 7 Synthesis papers are published, one of them will be selected to receive the \$2000 Synthesis Prize. The ad hoc committee for evaluating the 2022 Synthesis papers includes Richard (Dick) Olmstead, Cate Macinnis-Ng, and Nora Mitchell. The winner of the Prize will be announced in early summer, and the recipient will be formally recognized at the Botany meeting in Boise, Idaho.

The call for applications for the second round of the *AJB* Synthesis Papers and Prize went out in December 2022. In this second round, we received 11 applications and will be requesting reference letters for a subset of these. Out of this group, 5-6 will be invited to submit a 3000-word, single-authored synthesis on their chosen topic.

From the published papers, one will be chosen to receive the next \$2000 prize.

The ad hoc committee organizing the effort includes Sean Graham (chair), Kasey Barton, Pam Diggle, Lucia Lohman, and Amy McPherson. (Emily Sessa helped in the early stages and has since stepped down from the committee.)

In efforts to bring excellent papers and an expanded readership to our journals, we are pleased to announce calls for papers for upcoming special issues.

### **Joint Special Issue Call for Papers: *AJB* and *APPS***

#### **“Twice as Nice: New Techniques and Discoveries in Polyploid Biology”**

See <https://cms.botany.org/home/publications/apps/ajb-and-apps-special-issue-call-for-papers-twice-as-nice-new-techniques-and-discoveries-in-polyploid-biology.html>

Special Issue Editors: Michael Barker, Kelsey Glennon, and Yuannian Jiao (*AJB*)  
Agnieszka Golicz, Michael McKain, and Ya Yang (*APPS*)

### ***APPS* Call for Papers**

**“From Theory to Practice: New Innovations and Their Application in Conservation Biology”** to help celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the BSA’s Open Access journal *Applications in Plant Sciences*.

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/apps/apps-special-issue-call-for-papers-from-theory-to-practice.html>

Special Issue Editors: Christopher Krieg, Randall Long, and Lauren Trotta

### ***PSB* Call for Papers**

#### **“Art and the Botanical Sciences: Past, Present, and Future”**

See <https://botany.org/home/publications/apps/psb-special-issue-call-for-papers-art-and-the-botanical-sciences-past-present-and-future.html>

Special issue Editors: Patty Chan, Rosy Glos, Ashley Hamersma, Kasey Pham, and Nicolette Sipperly

Note: There was an overwhelming response to this first call for papers for the *Plant Science Bulletin* (55 proposals), so it is likely the special issue will be published as a three-issue anthology.

### **Letter from *APPS* Editor-in-Chief to BSA members re: publishing OA through Wiley’s Transformational Agreements (aka TA’s)**

Wiley is continually negotiating TA’s with institutions in the US and around the world; see <https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/open-access/affiliation-policies-payments/institutional-funder-payments.html>. Under the TA’s, the open access Article Publication Charges (APCs) may be covered in full or part for affiliated authors publishing in Wiley fully open access journals or in a hybrid journal (subscription journal which offers open access).

While this is good, it’s not clear that researchers/potential authors are aware of these opportunities. To inform our members, and to encourage them to send their methods-based papers and technical reviews to *APPS*, the Editor-in-Chief Briana Gross composed a letter targeted to those at institutions that are part of these TA’s with the subject line: “Publish open access in *APPS* for free!” She worked closely

with Managing Editor Beth Parada and Membership Manager Amelia Neely on this outstanding effort.

**Attendance at the “DEI and Open Access Workshop” in Washington, DC**

In early February 2023, Director of Publications Amy McPherson attended the NSF-funded “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Open Access Publishing: A Workshop to Explore Barriers and Solutions,” organized by the Ecological Society and attended by a broad cross section of the scientific publishing community. Attendees included Society publishers/authors/editors, commercial publishers, librarians, and consultants, and all were interested in how to make publishing Open, Equitable, and Sustainable; Society publishers were especially keen to explore the last point. A report will be written, and the conversations begun during the workshop will continue. [P.S. Very few people think APC-funded Open Access is really equitable.]

**Changes to the Editorial Boards post-meeting:**

**New *AJB* Associate Editors:** Julissa Roncal, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

**Retiring *AJB* Associate Editors:** Jannice Friedman, Bill Hoffmann, Deb Kohn, Cate Macinnis-Ng, and Mark Simmons.

**New *APPS* Associate Editor:** Carole Gee, University of Bonn, Germany.

**Retiring *APPS* Associate Editors:** Lisa Wallace.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy McPherson  
BSA Director of Publications  
20 February 2023