

2019-2020 Pteridological Section Report to BSA Council

Submitted by: David Barrington, Secretary-Treasurer

(University of Vermont) dbarring@uvm.edu

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Annual Field Trip and Meeting

The BSA Pteridological Section and the American Fern Society once again co-sponsored the annual Fern Foray, this year in conjunction with the Botany 2019 annual meetings at the Starr Pass Center in Tucson, Arizona. The field trip, “Lycophytes and Ferns of the Madera Canyon”, was organized and led in fine style by Emily Sessa. It included two excursions. On Saturday, we hiked into the large, north-facing Madera Canyon on the west slope of the Santa Rita Mountains. The group visited a set of vegetation communities from desert grassland through Madrean oak, juniper, and pine into the ponderosa pine forest, seeing a fine array of xerophytic Pteridaceae including *Myriopteris*, *Pellaea*, and *Astrolepis*.

Following an evening cook-out and overnight at the Santa Rita Experimental Station, operated by the University of Arizona, we drove north to the Catalina Mountains. There we met up with the participants of the “Lycophytes and Ferns of the Catalina Mountains” day trip. We made several stops along the Mt. Lemmon highway, making several stops along the Mt. Lemmon highway, where we saw higher-elevation, more mesic elements such as *Cystopteris*.

The Pteridological Section Program at the 2019 Tucson meeting comprised two colloquia, (“Reticulate evolution and biogeography in ferns and lycophytes” honoring David Barrington and “Questioning Species and Species Complexes” honoring R. James Hickey) and 21 oral presentations (15 Monday morning from 8 AM to noon) and six from 1:30 to 3 PM.

As usual, we held the American Fern Society Luncheon and Society meeting on Monday from 12:00–1:30 pm, which included a first report on the Field Trip and an update on the Society’s and the Section’s activities.

Business Meeting, Pteridological Section:

The annual business meeting of the section was held 29 July 2019, 3:45–4:45pm at the Botany 2019 meeting in Tucson, Arizona, with 13 attending. In summary, the meeting included:

1. announcement that Alejandra Vasco has been elected Chair of the BSA Pteridological Section
2. reminder of the need to replace outgoing Secretary-Treasurer David Barrington
3. section dues were increased to \$10 per year
4. governing language of the Wherry Award was amended
5. revised section by-laws were approved

Minutes of the meeting were prepared by Emily Sessa; they are attached, as are the amended bylaws.

Financial Status

The BSA Pteridological Section began Fiscal Year 2020 (on Oct. 1, 2019) with an operating fund balance of \$3884.11. Income over the year to date has been \$970 (including \$560 in section dues, \$160 in contributions to section awards, and \$250 in gifts), yielding a current balance of \$4854.11. The separate Edgar T. Wherry Award fund began the year with a balance of \$225.00; contributions to this fund over the year of \$105

brings the current balance to \$330.00. There have been no FY20 expenses to date. The section's combined financial status is a positive balance of \$5184.11.

At today's joint meeting of the American Fern Society council and the officers of the Pteridological Seciton, Botanical Society of America, a continued joint approach to supporting attendance at the annual national meetings of the Society was once again endorsed, with particular interest in paying registration fees and travel for student presenters.

Data from Wanda Lovan (wlovan@botany.org) July 20, 2020

Revised Bylaws

BYLAWS OF THE PTERIDOLOGICAL SECTION, BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Approved by members of the section present at its meeting in Tucson, Arizona, 29 July, 2019.

ARTICLE I. *Purpose*

The objectives of this organization shall be:

- (a) To promote interaction and coordination between specialists in different lines of research on pteridophytes.
- (b) To augment cooperation between pteridologists and the various sections of the Botanical Society of America, Inc.
- (c) To focus interest in special research aspects of pteridophytes and assist in the dissemination and publication of research results.

ARTICLE II. *Officers*

1. The officers shall be a Chair and a Secretary-Treasurer. The Section Chair will serve for two years and the Secretary-Treasurer for two years.
2. The Chair and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the members of the Section according to the following procedure: the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer, with a third member appointed by them, will seek nominations for the two positions by email to the members. Consent to serve, if elected, shall be obtained from all nominees. The Secretary-Treasurer will forward the candidates to the society, which will carry out the election.

(a) Duties of officers

(1) The Chair shall act as presiding officer at the sessions of the Section and arrange the programs for the Section in cooperation with the program representative of the American Fern Society.

(2) The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep records of the Section, carry on necessary correspondence and be responsible for the collection of dues.

(3) One or both of the officers shall represent the Section on the Council of the Botanical Society during the annual meetings.

(b) In the event that any officer cannot perform his/her duties or vacates his/her office before the expiration of his/her term, the following procedures apply. If the Chair vacates, the Secretary-Treasurer will act as Chair *pro tem* until the next regularly scheduled election. If the Secretary-Treasurer vacates, the Chair may appoint a replacement until the next regularly scheduled election for that office.-

ARTICLE III. *Meetings*

Generally, the Section will meet annually in conjunction with the Botanical Society of America for presentation of scholarly papers, field trips and excursions. In order to facilitate coordination of papers at the annual meeting between this Section and the Fern Society it is suggested that the program for the annual meeting be organized in alternate years by the Pteridological Section and the American Fern Society. Close cooperation between the two groups is anticipated.

ARTICLE IV. *Membership*

1. Any member in good standing in the Botanical Society of America, Inc. may become a member of this Section-upon payment of the current year's dues.
2. In order to defray incidental expenses of the Section, dues of \$10.00 a year may be assessed members and affiliates.

ARTICLE V. *Amendments*

The Bylaws may be amended by a three-quarters vote of those voting members present at a regularly scheduled business meeting. All amendments must be submitted to the Chairman at least 60 days before the annual meeting, and copies of the proposed amendments shall be circulated to the membership at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

Minutes, 2019 Business Meeting

Minutes from the annual meeting of the Pteridological Section of the Botanical Society of America

Meeting held 29 July 2019, 3:45-4:45pm in San Pedro 1 at Botany 2019 in Tucson, Arizona

Present: Dave Barrington, Eddie Watkins, Weston Testo, Jacob Suissa, Amanda Grusz, Alejandra Vasco, Lisa Hooper, Cathy Paris, Jessie Pelosi, Chris Haufler, Darla Kinman, George Yatskievych, Emily Sessa (who recorded these minutes)

[unless otherwise indicated, all statements were made by Dave Barrington]

1. Accept last year's minutes: moved by Chris, seconded by Aleja, motion passes (though one correction is needed – Fay-Wei Li's name is spelled wrong).

2. Travel awards:

- Half of the money comes from AFS, half from the section. Question last year about how to name the travel award (after Herb Wagner).
- Suggestion to name one for Herb and one for Florence
- Another suggestion to name one for Alice & Rolla Tryon
- Number of awards given varies from year to year
- Section leadership and AFS leadership will talk about this

3. Leadership:

- Alejandra Vasco has been elected chair of the Pteridological section (much applause!)
- Round of applause to recognize Melanie Link-Perez's contributions as section chair
- Still looking for a replacement for Dave's position...

4. Budget and BSA-AFS Coordination

- About \$6,000 in our account now, but we are spending faster than we take money in
- We spend \$2-3,000 per year on symposia and colloquia
- Used to be an appeal for funds to the Wherry Award, but that hasn't been as prominent lately so less has come in that way.
- BSA will no longer give money out to the sections as they did in the past, however BSA will consider requests from sections (and individuals) for funding.
- Dave plans to ask Lucinda (BSA treasurer) principally for money for student travel awards. He will write that up and send it in.
- George: Sections are supposed to give funding to colloquia, we need to be specific in our request about symposia vs. colloquia.

- Aleja: Symposia are meant to be broader, so if we want a session to be pteridophyte-focused, it needs to be a colloquium instead.
- George: limit of six symposia per meeting, so some will not be accepted. No limit to colloquia.
- Aleja: bringing speakers from underrepresented groups, we need to provide travel monies or they won't be able to come.
- Emily: motion to double annual section dues from \$5 to \$10, seconded by Amanda Grusz, motion passes unanimously
- George: need to get professional members who are not members of the section to actually join

5. BSA Council meeting

- BSA awards have gone from \$1k to \$2k, and there is now money for travel awards for students
- Emily: encouraged people to submit names of people who could write reviews for AJB
- Emily: APPS is eager to receive methods papers, and they are currently soliciting papers on inexpensive lab techniques, and will be starting a visual paper component (essentially videos of lab techniques, similar to but much cheaper than, e.g., JOVE).
- Appeal for members to join BSA committee

6. Other business:

- Slightly amended language for the Wherry Award description was suggested:
 - o "The Edgar T. Wherry Award, jointly awarded by the Pteridological Section of the Botanical Society of America and the American Fern Society (AFS), is given for the best oral presentation **in the Pteridological section or related colloquia and/or symposia** at the annual meetings. This award is in honor of Dr. Wherry's many contributions to the floristics and patterns of evolution of ferns."
 - o Cathy Paris moved, Weston seconded, motion passes unanimously
- Dave has been working on a by-laws revision, committee was Emily, Eric, and Dave. Highlights of Dave's suggested revisions are:
 - o Voting procedures amended
 - o Suggestion to expand the text describing the duties of the officers.
 - o George: motion to accept changes, Emily seconded, motion passes unanimously
- George mentioned the idea of the section contributing to the Annual Review of Pteridology, Dave suggested that Lisa or her equivalent make a request to Dave or his equivalent for those funds annually.