

## **2021 Genetics Botany Section Report to the BSA Council Submitted by Jeremy Coate, Chair, July 6, 2021**

### **2019-2020 Activities:**

Contributed papers: 49, organized into three sessions (Population genetics/genomics [17 papers]; Hybrids and hybridization [8 papers]; and Functional and comparative genetics/genomics [24 papers])

Margret Menzel best paper award: 36 talks were submitted and was awarded to Rebecca Povilus

**Genetics section poster award:** Only two posters were submitted to the genetic section, therefore it was decided to be not competitive enough and no judging or award was made.

**Genetics section business meeting:** After discussion at Botany 2020 with the BSA, the genetics section was encouraged to submit a request for funds, annually, to give our travel and best poster/talk awards, but to discontinue genetics section research awards. A new budget will be prepared by the Genetics Section and submitted to the BSA board by October each year.

Dues average 150 renewals each year, and the genetics section is raising dues to \$20. Justification includes to sustain the Menzel, poster and travel awards and to host either a Genetics section mixer or breakfast. The hope is that a mixer or breakfast would in turn raise awareness of and membership in the section.

Award amounts were revisited following the shift of research awards from the section to the society at large. The Margret Menzel award is being increased from \$400 to \$500. Travel award increases are still under discussion and will be finalized during the 2021 business meeting. Best poster award will remain at \$250, but will be split into two awards (one undergrad and one graduate).

Future session organization was discussed with the potential of including a transcriptomics specific section due to the popularity of transcriptomics talks.

### **2021 Activities:**

The Section is supporting 3 symposia in name:

Frontiers in Botany: Environmental DNA as an Emerging Tool for  
Measuring, Monitoring, and Managing Plant Biodiversity  
Applications of CRISPR technology across the plant tree of life  
The Botany of Invasions

The section received 107 abstracts

Comparative genomics/transcriptomes (38)

Population genetics/genomics (38)

Hybrids and hybridization (17)

Functional genetics/genomics (14)