

2020-2021 Pteridological Section Report to BSA Council

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Annual Meeting

There was no fieldtrip because the 2020 meeting was virtual.

The Pteridological Section Program at the 2020 virtual meeting comprised 9 oral presentations and two poster presentations on Monday, 27 July 2020. The American Fern Society Luncheon and Society meeting was held virtually on Monday from 12:00–1:30 pm

Business Meeting, Pteridological Section:

The annual business meeting of the section was held virtually on 27 July 2020, 1:00–1:30 pm. Minutes of the meeting were prepared by Emily Sessa and are appended below.

Special election of a new Secretary-Treasurer:

Tom A. Ranker was elected as the new Secretary-Treasurer of the Section as the result of a special election held in September 2020.

Financial Status

The BSA Pteridological Section began Fiscal Year 2021 (on Oct. 1, 2020) with an operating fund balance of \$5,045.41. Income over the year to date has been \$970 (including \$510 in section dues, \$194 in contributions to section awards, and \$266 in gifts), yielding a current balance of \$6015.41.

On 30 July 2020, BSA issued a check on behalf of the section to the winner of the Edgar T. Wherry Award, Dr. Amanda Grusz. The Edgar T. Wherry Award fund began the year with a balance of -\$170.00; contributions to this fund over the year of \$265 brings the current balance to \$95. On 24 June 2021, the section requested a reimbursement of \$250 from the American Fern Society for their 50% share of the award.

There have been no FY21 expenses to date. The section's combined financial status is a positive balance of \$6110.41.

In December 2020 the BSA Board awarded the Pteridological Section funds to support travel awards as follows:

2 Undergrad student Travel Awards @ \$500 = \$1000

2 Graduate Students Travel Awards @ \$500 \$1000

TOTAL \$2000

When the decision was made to make the 2021 meeting virtual, the BSA Board decided to defer the use of these funds until 2022. The Pteridological Section requested that up to \$200 be used for 2021 for up to eight \$25 student meeting registration awards and a call was put out to section members for applications. One application was submitted and the applicant was awarded \$25 for registration.

Data from Wanda Lovan (wlovan@botany.org) July 20, 2021

Minutes of the Pteridological Section meeting 2020

- Approval of Tucson minutes
 - Moved by George, Second by Haufler, approved
- Highlights from last year:
 - Revised bylaws
 - Alejandra Vasco announced as new chair of the section
 - Raised section dues to \$10/year because they were among the lowest of any BSA section
 - Modifying governing language of the Wherry Award
- Dave needs to be replaced!
 - He stresses that it is a cushy service job
 - You write a report for the annual meeting, help develop the budget (but BSA actually manages it),
 - Dave is in his eighth year!!
 - Email Dave and Aleja if you are interested
 - We can potentially have an out-of-sync election to elect Dave's replacement
- Budget update
 - In good shape overall
 - Have just over \$5,000 in the section accounts, an increase of \$1,000 over last year, in part because there were no expenses this year (essentially because of the conference meeting virtually)
 - \$560 in section memberships, would suggest 56 members of the section
 - Contributions to the awards, to the Edgar T. Wherry award (in cooperation with AFS - award is \$500 split between the two). Currently \$360 in the Wherry fund (of the section's budget).
 - Only expenditure this year was a travel award for Morgan Southgate, the section paid her registration so she can participate in the polyploid physiology symposium. Everyone is encouraged to attend her talk and that symposium!
- Context in the Botanical Society, specifically what it will fund
 - BSA Central will no longer fund sections for development of symposia and colloquia, but they will fund travel awards. Also will not fund mixers or purely social events, unless an extraordinary need is demonstrated for those kinds of events.
 - We can still work with AFS to build financial support for symposia/colloquia
 - BSA Council has not yet met this year, so no updates from them at this point
- Collaboration with the Fern Society
 - Already covered this in previous comments
- From Emily: update on costs of
- From Warren Hauk: Asked whether the Wherry Award is still being given this year?
 - Answer from Aleja: Yes, there is a judging committee, and they will be meeting later on Monday
 - Further discussion of Wherry award...
 - Emily, Aleja, Jacob, Josh contributed to this discussion (I couldn't keep up well as I was talking and trying to take notes!)
 - Issue is when the check box for eligibility appears in the registration process; is this something that we can ask BSA to change or fix?

- Dave: we shouldn't be constrained by the check box on the registration. How should committee members deal with this potential complexity? Dave suggests leaving it in the hands of the committee.
- Judy: only three members of the judging committee, what if there are simultaneous talks in different sessions/places? Would need to have more than a single opinion on each.
- Dave: read out the Wherry language as amended - clarifies that it's only talks in the Pteridological session and related symposia/colloquia; none of the other standard session talks are eligible
- Do we have a local rep for next year's meeting in Boise?
 - Not yet - who was the local rep last time?

Minutes by Emily Sessa