



## CONFERENCE REPORT—BOTANY 2021

### Overview

#### Participating Societies

Mycological Society of America  
American Fern Society  
American Society of Plant Taxonomists  
Botanical Society of America  
International Association of Plant Taxonomists  
Society of Herbarium Curators

#### Abstract Submissions

Oral and poster Presentations opened March 2, 2021  
Recent Topics opened in early June

#### Presentation Video Uploads

Information about uploading pre-recorded posters/colloquia/contributed talks was emailed June 17; deadline to upload recordings is July 12

#### Conference Registration

Opened March 15; included demographic survey

### Updates and News

#### New Opportunities

Botany 2021 and Plant Biology 2021 came together to organize a Joint Session to be open to all attendees of both conferences. The Joint Session will be in the format of a Symposium, with half-hour talks by five international experts who will speak on diverse symbioses, including endophytes, endofungal symbionts, mycorrhizae, and lichens. The session was organized by a team of three members selected from ASPB (American Society of Plant Biologists), MSA (Mycological Society of America), and Botanical Society of America.

Registrants for Botany 2021 and Plant Biology 2021 will have the opportunity to purchase access to on-demand recorded content for the other conference; information will be shared at some point during the conferences and interested registrants will be able to express their interest in obtaining information about how to purchase this access.

#### Procedural Changes/Notes

After several requests to “defer” colloquia and/or symposia that had been accepted for Botany Conference, it became apparent that we needed a policy for such requests. After discussion amongst the Planning Committee, it was decided that proposals that were withdrawn after being accepted for a Botany Conference would need to be resubmitted for the future conference and evaluated along with all other proposals: that is, proposals may be WITHDRAWN but they will no longer be considered as DEFERRED since they would need to compete for acceptance again (not automatic inclusion at the later conference).

Considering the financial struggles brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the BSA Board voted to cover the financial losses to the conference so that student and post doc registration fees could be significantly lowered for Botany 2021. These measures were done after consultation with all partnering societies.

### Conference Content

#### Featured Speakers

Plenary Speaker – Beronda Montgomery  
BSA’s Emerging Leader – Christopher Muir  
*Annals of Botany* Special Lecture – Mario Vallejo-Marin  
ASPT Incoming President Talk – Carolyn Ferguson  
Belonging in Botany Lecture: Perspectives on DEI - David Asai  
Kaplan Memorial Lecture – M. Alejandra Gandolfo  
Incoming BSA President Talk – Michael Donoghue  
MSA Presidential Address - Marc Cubeta  
MSA Karling Lecture – Anita Sil

## Workshops

Complete descriptions are on the Botany 2021 website

### All Day 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

- Using deep learning with digitized herbarium specimen image data  
Submitted by: Richard Hodel, National Museum of Natural History
- Using Digitized Herbarium Data in Research: Applications for Ecology, Phylogenetics, and Biogeography  
Submitted by: Pamela S. Soltis, University of Florida
- de novo genome assembly and annotation with an emphasis on phylogenetic and population genetic studies  
Submitted by: Jacob Landis, Cornell University and Boyce Thompson Institute
- Introduction to High-Throughput Sequencing: Techniques, Applications, and Analysis  
Submitted by: James Beck, Wichita State University

### Morning, Half-Day, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Navigating the submission and peer review process Submitted by: Michelle Gaynor, University of Florida

### Morning, Two-Hour, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Creating A Platform to Connect Research Across Plant Families  
Submitted by: Chelsea Pretz - University of Colorado
- Deep Learning-Based Object Detection for Plant Scientists  
Submitted by: Christoph Oberprieler

### Afternoon, Half-Day, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

- Herbariomics-based biodiversity research: from specimen to phylogeny  
Submitted by: Liming Cai, University of California, Riverside

### Afternoon, Two-Hour, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- Challenges and successes of research at primarily undergraduate institutions: Jump starting your 2021-2022 research program  
Submitted by: Jennifer Ison, The College of Wooster
- Tips for Success – Applying to Graduate School - Anna Monfils

## Pre-conference Workshop June 15th

- Ace It! Preparing your Presentation – Bruce Kirchoff

## Socials / Gatherings

- American Fern Society Luncheon
- Careers in Botany – “Student Luncheon”
- Student Networking Social (two evenings)
- Belonging in Botany Discussion (following special lecture)
- LGBT and Friends Mixer
- BIPOC Mixer
- AAPI Mixer
- Sci-Comm Celebration
- MSA Auction
- MSA Musicians Jam Session

## Symposia

- Frontiers in Botany: Environmental DNA as an Emerging Tool for Measuring, Monitoring, and Managing Plant Biodiversity  
Organized by: Brenda Molano-Flores and Mark Davis  
Sponsored by: ASPT, and BSA Ecology, Genetics, and Northeast Sections
- The Hills are Alive: Ecology and Evolution of the Intermountain West Flora  
Organized by: Catherine Rushworth and Susana Wadgymar  
Sponsored by: ASPT, and BSA Ecology, Economic Botany, and Northeast Sections
- Applications of CRISPR technology across the plant tree of life  
Organized by: Shengchen Shan, Douglas E. Soltis, Pamela S. Soltis, W. Brad Barbazuk, and Bing Yang  
Sponsored by: BSA Economic Botany, Genetics, and Northeast Sections
- The Botany of Invasions  
Organized by: Nicholas Kooyers, Brittany Sutherland, Craig Barrett, Maribeth Latvis, Erin Sigel, Michael McKain, and James Beck  
Sponsored by: ASPT, and BSA Ecology, Genetics, and Northeast Sections
- Gene regulatory networks in fungal development and morphogenesis - towards fungal evo-devo  
Organized by: Jaqueline Hess and Laszlo G. Nagy  
Sponsored by: MSA and BSA Mycological Section

## Colloquia

- Chromosome and Karyotype Evolution in Plants  
Organized by: Rebekah Mohn and Amanda Grusz
- Mechanisms underlying exceptional plant diversity across eastern Asia  
Organized by: AJ Harris and Huafeng Wang
- Reasons for Rarity? Exploring Acclimatory and Adaptive Constraints to Commonness  
Organized by: Jennifer Cruse-Sanders and Jennifer Nagel Boyd
- PhyloCode 2020: Naming the Tree of Life  
Organized by: Nico Cellinese and Michael Donoghue
- The Contribution of Regional Flora Projects to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation  
Organized by: Nina Rønsted and David Lorence
- Enhancing Quality and Use of Herbarium Collection Data through Community Data Curation  
Organized by: Joe Miller, Gil Nelson, Erica Krimmel, Anne Bruneau, Barbara M. Thiers, and Sandy Knapp
- Darwin's reversals: What we now know about Feralization and Crop Wild Relatives  
Organized by: Makenzie Mabry and Alex C. McAlvay
- Modeling the processes that mediate speciation and extinction rates across plants  
Organized by: Carrie Tribble and Rosana Zenil-Ferguson
- Phytochemistry: From atoms to organisms  
Organized by: Gaurav Moghe and Robert Raguso
- Speciation Mechanisms in Plants  
Organized by: Patricia Bedinger, Lila Fishman, Kathleen Kay, Jeremiah Busch, and Susan Kalisz

## Joint Symposium with Plant Biology World Summit 2021 (American Society of Plant Biologists)

- An Exploration of Inter-Kingdom Interactions  
Organized by: Heather Hallen-Adams, Gary Stacey, and Elizabeth Kellogg

## Other Conference Enhancements

Yoga sessions each morning  
Botany Trivia Game – organized by Minya and Others  
MSA Musicians – jam session  
2 Botanical Drawing sessions – Betsy Barry (Tuesday) and Alice Tangerini (Friday) at noon  
CV Review Sessions daily  
Black Botanists Week Pre-Event  
Presentation: William L. Brown Award for Excellence in Plant Genetic Resources Conservation  
Botanical Concoctions with Rachel Meyer

## Future Conferences

- Re-Negotiated the contract with Boise - without penalties – July 22-26, 2023

## Botany 2021- Virtual! Statistics

As of July 6<sup>th</sup>

- 1248 Registered  
344 Professionals – 27.6%  
506 Students – 40.6%  
116 Post-Docs – 9.3%  
795 BSA Members – 64%  
52 Counties represented
- 1111 Presentations  
669 Papers  
315 Posters  
9 Special Presentations  
5 Symposia  
1 Joint Symposium with ASPB  
10 Colloquia  
25 Lightning Talks  
2 Discussion Sessions  
18 Workshops