

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

4 August 1998
5:15-5:58 p.m.

Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Convention Center
Room 343/344

1. President Dengler called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
2. President Dengler introduced the officers of the Society.

3. Reports

- a. President's Report. President Dengler reported on the following four issues.

(1) Karling Awards: The call for applications went out in the Spring 1998 *Plant Science Bulletin*, with a deadline of May 1. Twenty-four applications were submitted; 10 awards were made. Sectional officers and the BSA Executive Committee ranked the applications. In the future, administration of the awards will be by the Karling Awards Committee, a new standing committee of the BSA.

(2) ASPT Business Office: The American Society of Plant Taxonomists has requested that the BSA consider sharing Business Office facilities at Ohio State University. This arrangement could benefit both societies as they work toward common goals. However, there are clearly some practical constraints, such as space, and discussions are still underway to resolve these issues.

(3) *American Journal of Botany* Search Committee: A search committee (consisting of Beryl Simpson, Chair; Peter Crane, Ned Friedman, Nels Lersten, and Diane Marshall) for *AJB* Editor for 2000-2005 has been established. The committee will advertise and solicit applications for Editor-in-Chief and submit a ranked list of applicants to the BSA Executive Committee.

(4) A new *ad hoc* Development Committee (Judy Jernstedt, Chair; Dan Crawford, Ed Schneider, John Herr, Joe Armstrong, Kim Hiser) will focus on raising funds for the BSA Endowment, including the Karling Fund for Graduate Student Research. Efforts are also underway to solicit funds to support student travel to the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis in 1999.

- b. Secretary's Report / Bylaws. Secretary Soltis reviewed the duties of the Secretary's office and reported on her activities since taking over the office. She also reported that all four proposed bylaws changes had passed. These changes: established

the Karling Awards Committee, modified the description of the Pelton Award, updated the duties of the Treasurer, and established a Corporate Membership category.

c. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Jernstedt reported that the Society was solvent, but that membership dues were down slightly. She noted that it costs \$85 to publish each copy of *AJB*, and with membership dues only \$65, *AJB* is a great deal. With the financial success of the endowments, some income will be returned to the sections for their programs. A dues increase is proposed for next year. The BSA budget for 1998-99 was approved by the Council.

d. Editor, *American Journal of Botany*. Editor-in-Chief Niklas reported that time from submission to *AJB* to publication is down to 7.1 months for manuscripts that receive two favorable reviews (7.7 months for those receiving split reviews). He also reported that electronic publication of *AJB* will begin with the January, 1999, issue. An archive collection of *AJB* has been donated to the BSA by Mann Library at Cornell. This complete collection will be optically scanned by JSTOR and made available electronically to JSTOR's subscribers (at no cost to the BSA). Editor-in-Chief Niklas noted that the Editorial Office had been under budget for 3 of the last 4 years; only in 1997-98 did it go over budget, and this was due to the purchase of a new computer.

e. Editor, *Plant Science Bulletin*. Editor Leverich reported that four issues of *PSB* had been published during the previous year. Issues ranged in size from 24-40 pages, with an average of 32 pages. *PSB* received 141 books to review; 55 reviews were published in *PSB*. The Editor and Editorial Committee are working to develop additional articles of interest to the BSA membership; ideas from the membership are welcome. *PSB* is now on-line, thanks to Webmaster Scott Russell's efforts.

f. Business Manager's Report. Business Manager Kim Hiser reported that the Business Office received a \$35,000 gain (due to the billing cycle and reduced costs of production for *AJB*). A new, three-year contract (retroactive to 1/1/98) was signed with Allen Press for publication (hard copy) of *AJB*. This contract saves \$4000/issue. Business Manager Hiser also reported that there are still more than \$7000 outstanding in mandatory editorial charges for volume 84 (1997), although over \$6000 were collected in voluntary editorial charges. Membership is down slightly (23), from 2769 in 1997 to 2746 in 1998. Receipts from institutional subscriptions are also down. No directory was published in 1998. The Business Office will hold a "fire sale" for back issues of *AJB*; unsold issues will be recycled. A bound set of *AJB* beginning with Vol. 1 has been made available to the Society.

g. Program Director's Report. Program Director Elisens reported on the success of electronic submission of abstracts, thanks to the efforts of Webmaster Scott Russell, and he emphasized that the system worked the first time it was used. For the 1998 meeting in Baltimore, Jim Reveal (University of Maryland) was the BSA's local representative; Beth Wells (George Washington University) provided some last-minute assistance. The 1998 program is small, compared to recent years, and banquet tickets were still available the day before the banquet. The 1999 program will be subsumed by

the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis. However, the BSA will still hold its business meeting, Council meeting, and social event (jointly with all North American botanists at the Missouri Botanical Garden, on Thursday, August 5, 1999). The meeting in 2000 in Portland, Oregon, will be the first BSA-sponsored meeting, with participation from the AFS, ABLs, and ASPT. Contracts have been signed with the Oregon Convention Center, and arrangements have been made with host hotels. Program Director Elisens reminded us that we should support the host hotels so that we meet contractual obligations. The meeting should provide revenues for the Society that will result in lower registration costs and additional funds for student awards for travel and research. The meeting site for 2001 has not yet been selected; negotiations are proceeding with Reno/Tahoe and Albuquerque.

Former Secretary Darleen DeMason noted that some abstracts did not contain italics. Both Program Director Elisens and Webmaster Russell responded that it depended on whether the italics were coded by the person submitting the abstract.

h. Webmaster's Report. Webmaster Russell reminded us that the Society's website is at www.botany.org. He has bookmarked a number of other sites of interest to the BSA membership. The BSA site has received 150,000 hits (95,000 so far this calendar year) from >70 countries. The website carries the following items: *AJB* abstracts, *PSB*, online publications, membership directory, list of Society officers, announcements, and web statistics.

A question was asked about electronic submission of abstracts for the year 2000, when a number of computer systems may encounter problems. Webmaster Russell assured us that there will be no such problem with the BSA website.

The question of whether or not there would be electronic submission of abstracts for the International Botanical Congress in 1999 was also raised. Peter Hoch responded that there would be electronic submission, and that abstracts are due 4/1/99.

i. Elections Committee. Past-President Crawford reported that Doug Soltis is the new President-Elect and Ed Schneider is the new Treasurer.

j. Corresponding Members Committee. Past-President Crawford reported that Konrad Bachmann (Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research, Gatersleben, Germany; currently President of the International Organization of Plant Biosystematists) had been nominated as a Corresponding Member. His nomination was endorsed by the BSA Council.

Past-President Crawford moved and Jernstedt seconded that Dr. Konrad Bachmann be approved as a Corresponding Member of the BSA. Motion carried.

Past-President Crawford also reported that there is now at least one additional opening for a Corresponding Member, and he asked the membership to consider possible nominees.

k. Young Botanists Awards. Past-President Crawford reported that 21 applications had been received. This number is down from previous years. Past-President Crawford and committee members Allison Snow and Andrea Wolfe selected 16 of these to receive Certificates of Special Achievement and four to receive Certificates of Achievement. The list of winners will appear in *Plant Science Bulletin* and will be posted on the BSA website.

l. Financial Advisory Committee (FAC). Chair Horner reported that the committee was working to maintain and build the endowment fund. This fund will provide the base for a number of BSA initiatives. The endowment has grown 60% in the last 3.5 years, from \$810,000 to \$1.3 million. Projections for 1998 indicate that growth will be as good as or better than in 1997.

m. AJB ad hoc Task Force. Chair Horner reported that the BSA had signed a contract with High Wire Press for electronic publishing of *AJB*, to begin with the January, 1999, issue.

n. Education Committee. Chair Kramer reported on the committee's efforts to digitize the BSA's collection of approximately 750 slides and place them on the BSA web page. The subcommittee working on this effort hopes to have this completed 6 months from now. The committee sent delegations to the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA; an organization of 20,000 teachers) and to the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) last October. During the next year, the committee will expand its efforts. It will send delegations to both conferences again, and the committee will place a note in *PSB* asking BSA members to attend regional conferences and workshops on teaching science in general and botany in particular. Other projects of this committee will be described in an upcoming issue of *PSB*. The committee is trying to assemble a symposium on education in botany for the International Botanical Congress in 1999.

4. Old Business

J. Shipman reminded BSA members to get "botany" into the news through our university Public Relations offices.

5. New Business

Dues Increase

Treasurer Jernstedt indicated that two alternative proposals for a dues increase are given on the front of the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Jernstedt proposed the increase summarized in Column A on page 1 of the Treasurer's Report (summarized below; current dues for each category are given in brackets):

Regular Member [\$65]	\$	80
Regular Family [\$70]		85
Student Member [\$25]		30
Student Family [\$27.50]		35

Retired Member w/AJB [\$40]	55
Retired Member w/PSB [\$10]	15
Retired Family w/AJB [\$45]	60
Life Membership [\$1,500]	2,000
Sustaining w/AJB [\$250]	250
Corporate [\$150]	150

Treasurer Jernstedt noted that the additional revenues collected from the increased dues will be used for several initiatives, including education and outreach, running our own meetings, and maintenance of the BSA website.

Discussion followed: It was noted that because membership is down slightly, perhaps we should hold the line on dues for student members, while increasing the dues for other membership categories as proposed. President Dengler responded that the modest increase is to support initiatives that will help disseminate knowledge and benefit students, so that they should be involved in supporting the Society's new initiatives as well. A question also arose about raising institutional subscription rates. Business Manager Hiser replied that she had already increased institutional rates by \$30 earlier this summer. Former Secretary Darleen DeMason echoed President Dengler's comments, noting that students get a great deal from the BSA.

Karl Niklas moved and Jernstedt seconded that the proposed dues increases be adopted. The vote was taken by a show of hands. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Acknowledgments

President Dengler acknowledged the following individuals for their contributions to the Society: Out-going Treasurer Judy Jernstedt for serving two terms, Program Director Wayne Elisens, who has juggled arrangements for five years of meetings simultaneously, and Webmaster Scott Russell for his conscientious attention to the BSA website.

7. The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Motions made during the Meeting:

Past-President Crawford moved and Jernstedt seconded that Dr. Konrad Bachmann be approved as a Corresponding Member of the BSA. Motion passed.

Karl Niklas moved and Jernstedt seconded that the proposed dues increases be adopted. The vote was taken by a show of hands. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela S. Soltis
Secretary