

# BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

## 2001 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 14, 2001  
4:30-5:30 PM

Albuquerque Convention Center 113-Dona Ana  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**1. Opening:** President Pat Gensel called the meeting to order at 4:36. President Gensel introduced the Society officers and announced that the Society will have a strategic planning session on the Thursday following the meeting. The session will be attended by the Executive Committee, past presidents, Editors of the Society publications and a few others and will be coordinated by David Northington of DiniPartners. The purpose of the session is to think seriously about the Society's goals and strategies for achieving them. President Gensel sought input from Society members about what issues they thought should be considered.

President Gensel announced that Scott Russell is retiring as Council Representative; Jim Mikle will take over as Council Representative. Scott Russell also needs to relinquish some of the duties of Webmaster, and volunteers are needed to take up this work. Scott Russell is the new President Elect of the Society. Institutional subscription rates have been changed as reported on the attached sheet.

**2. Minutes:** President Elect Judy Jernstedt moved to approve the minutes of the 2000 Business Meeting; Jack Horner seconded. The motion was passed.

**3. Reports:** Full reports are available on the BSA web page at <http://www.botany.org/bsa/membership/council2001/whole-council.doc> ; officers summarized important points as follows:

- A. President Pat Gensel—see “1” above.
- B. Secretary Jennifer Richards referred interested members to the report on the web site.
- C. Treasurer Ed Schneider reported that the Society's financial position remains strong. Our endowment is more than \$2,000,000; details are available in the reports on the web page. We have realized most of the Society income for the current fiscal year, but expenses are not yet paid; this must be taken into account when evaluating the reports. We have a projected net surplus next year of \$130,000, but the actual numbers will depend on results of changes in membership rates, especially of institutional rates. Jack Horner moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Scott Russell seconded. The motion passed.

D. *American Journal of Botany* Editor-in-Chief Karl Niklas noted that the journal is doing well and growing. The Journal's success was reflected in a record number of submissions and publications. The increased journal size and change in type instituted last year produced a 30% decrease in the backlog of papers. By next year Karl projects a backlog of 70 manuscripts, or about 3 months. He noted that free access to the Journal on the web would stop if the membership tiers proposal were accepted.

E. *Plant Science Bulletin* Editor-in-Chief Marsh Sundberg was unable to attend the Business Meeting but his report is on the Web. The Bulletin had a very successful year and is looking at ways to expand its scope and services.

F. Business Manager Kim Hiser reported that we are ahead of budget on receipts. She is utilizing QuickBooks for the Business Office payroll. This year the Business Office sent out second membership notices by e-mail with pdf applications attached. This was effective in getting members to renew. She also sent postcard announcements to members who do not have e-mail addresses. Membership was down for the year by 100 from last year. The Executive Committee has recommended a \$90 increase in institutional subscriptions, and the Society will begin to charge \$600 for institutional Web access. Kim noted that every volume costs \$101, so our old individual membership rates did not actually pay for a volume. She reported that JSTOR released back issues on-line with a 5 yr moving wall; they cover all published volumes of the Journal. Kim purged our inventory at Allen Press, which will reduce storage costs.

G. Meeting Coordinator Wayne Elisens said that he is transitioning out of his duties, while the newly hired Meetings Manager, Johanne Strogan, was doing an excellent job taking over. Wayne has handled contract negotiations up through 2004; for the 2000 meetings, which was the Society's first stand-alone meeting, we pulled the meeting off successfully and revenue exceeded costs. Publication of the meeting abstracts cost \$16,000, however, and meeting revenues had to cover this cost; hopefully revenue will exceed cost for this meeting. The Albuquerque meeting had 5% more registration than the 2000 meeting and Wayne thinks it should be even higher next year. Wayne thanked the Albuquerque local representatives Diane Marshall, Tim Lowry, Kelly Allred (field trips) and Sid Ash. The Cybernet café was due to Diane Marshall's efforts and was much appreciated and used.

*Botany 2002* will have additional affiliated societies at the meeting. This will be a campus-based meeting at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The meetings will be the first week in August.

*Botany 2003* will be at Mobile, AL, in a riverfront convention center venue. Wayne noted that Mobile has many historic sites, a renovated downtown, and two botanical gardens. This meeting will have an aquatic plants/wetland theme, and E.O. Wilson will be the Plenary Speaker. The meeting will happen in the last week of July.

*Botany 2004* has just gone to the contract stage with Snowbird, Utah, convention facilities. Snowbird has good rates with condos and camping in a retreat setting. Rooms at the lodge should go for rates comparable to those at Albuquerque. This meeting is scheduled for the first week of August.

With the hiring of the Meetings Manager, Wayne noted that his job had become somewhat superfluous and that the Society may have to revisit his position.

President Gensel thanked Wayne for his outstanding service to the Society in getting the stand-alone meetings organized and going.

H. Program Director Jeff Osborn reported that there were over 700 presentations at the 2001 meetings, 130 more than last year. He said that registration numbers were up. Abstracts were distributed to attendees in the registration packet this year, and the program was organized into a cohesive conference program, rather than by society. Jeff noted that the recent topics posters were a success and that the "open space" format was expanded to Society-wide discussions with four scheduled for this year. *Botany 2002* will have the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, the American Fern Society, the Canadian Botanical Association, the International Association of Wood Anatomists, and the Phycological Society of America affiliated. A preconference forum on botanical education and outreach will occur beginning on the Friday before the meetings. This forum will have roundtable discussions, breakout sessions, and workshops aimed at high school and college teachers. This forum has a planning committee with representation from participating sections and societies to help finalize the program.

I. Webmaster Scott Russell reported that the BSA website got its 1,000,000 hit on the homepage. The site has been visited by people from 150 different countries. Scott is looking for a replacement Webmaster; he would like to go more to shared Web projects coordinated by several volunteers.

J. Corresponding Members Committee Chairperson Doug Soltis presented the Corresponding Member nomination under "5. B. New Business".

K. Elections Committee Chairperson Doug Soltis reported that the new President Elect for the Society is Scott Russell, while the new Treasurer is Joe Armstrong.

L. Young Botanists Awards Chairperson Doug Soltis announced that 30 young botanists received awards this year.

M. Financial Advisory Committee Chairperson Jack Horner reported that the Society endowment was now more than \$2,000,000. He noted that although this seems like a large amount, it isn't, given the initiatives that the Society wants to undertake. The Society Council approved the use of \$27,000 for special initiatives. Jack announced that special and section accounts will now yield interest at the same rate as the endowment. The Society will hire a development company to help improve the endowment over the next couple of years.

#### **4. Old Business**

President Gensel announced that the by-laws change to allow for the K-12 teachers category as a membership category was approved in the Society. Ballots for this vote went out with the spring, 2001, mailing.

#### **5. New Business**

A. Membership Tiers Committee Chairperson Scott Russell presented the membership changes proposed by the Committee. The Committee recommended establishing two membership tiers, one with electronic access to the Journal and one with electronic access and hardcopy of the Journal. The base membership rate would be \$30 (students, emeritus, and k-12 teachers) or \$45 (professionals). Hardcopy would cost \$35 more (students, emeritus, and k-12 teachers) or \$55 more (professionals). Beryl Simpson suggested that we get electronic reminders that the Journal has been published; Scott Russell replied that we could already subscribe to this notification service. Greg Anderson said that this change might alter the world of reprints. David Kramer asked what this did to family memberships; Scott Russell replied that family members would cost \$5 more for this membership. Jerry Baskin asked Scott Russell to address the effect of our on-line presence; Scott said that it has given us greater goodwill worldwide. He then explained the pay-per-view and site pass options for electronic access that were approved by the BSA Council at the 2001 Council meeting.

A motion to approve the modified individual rates and membership changes was made by President Elect Judy Jernstedt and seconded by Darlene Southworth; the motion passed unanimously. The new rates are attached.

President Gensel thanked Scott Russell and the Membership Tiers Committee for this proposal; she noted that the Society would be monitoring the results of the changes.

#### **B. Other New Business:**

Corresponding Members Committee Chairperson Doug Soltis said that there was one opening for a Corresponding Member this year. Dr. Stephen Vogel was nominated and he had very strong letters, as well as support from the Corresponding Members Committee and the BSA Council. Doug Soltis moved that we approve Dr. Vogel as a Corresponding Member; Joe Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Pat Gensel mentioned that the Society had lost a number of valuable members this past year, mentioning the deaths of Charley Worth and Herbert Baker. We had a moment of silence in memory of these colleagues.

President Gensel also noted that there would be a Latin American Botanical Congress next year and they have asked us if we would like to participate; President Gensel asked interested parties to get in touch with President Elect Judy Jernstedt.

President Gensel concluded with thanks to Society members for attending and to everyone who helped to make this meeting, as well as the past year, as success for the Society.

**6. Adjournment:** Karl Niklas moved to adjourn; Jennifer Richards seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer H. Richards, Secretary  
Botanical Society of America