

Botanical Society of America
2006 Council Meeting
Sunday, 30 July, 2006
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
204 Bell Memorial Union, Chico, California

Attendees:

- Recorder: David Spooner
- Martha Cook, Illinois State Univ. (Phycological Section), mecook1@ilstu.edu
- Janice Coons, Eastern Illinois Univ. (Ecology Section), jcoons@eiu.edu
- Bill Dahl (BSA Executive Director), wdahl@botany.org
- Pam Diggle, Univ. Colorado (BSA Executive Council Representative), pameladiggle@colorado.edu
- Chris Haufler, Univ. Kansas (BSA President Elect), vulgare@ku.edu
- Donna Hazelwood, Dakota State Univ. (Teaching Section), Donna.Hazelwood@dsu.edu
- Kent Holsinger, Univ. Connecticut, (BSA Treasurer), kent@darwin.eeb.uconn.edu
- Harry (Jack) Horner, Iowa State Univ. (BSA Centennial Committee), hth@iastate.edu
- Judy Jernstedt (Editor-in-Chief, *American Journal of Botany*), jjernstedt@ucdavis.edu
- Susana Magallon, Univ. Nacional Autónoma, de México (Tropical Biology Section), S.Magallon@ibiologia.unam.inm
- James Mickle, North Carolina State Univ. (SE Section and Paleobotanical Section), james.mickle@ncsu.edu
- Ed Schneider Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (BSA President), eschneider@sbbg.org
- Randy Small, Univ. Tennessee (Genetics Section), rsmall@utk.edu
- Allison Snow, Ohio State Univ. (BSA Past President), snow.1@osu.edu
- David Spooner, USDA, ARS: Univ. Wisconsin-Madison (Recorder; Economic Botany Section), dspooner@wisc.edu
- Ruth Stockey, Univ. Alberta (Membership and Appraisal Section), ruth.stockey@ualberta.ca
- Mackenzie Taylor, Univ. Tennessee (BSA Graduate Student representative), Mackenzie@utk.edu
- Anita Thorhaug, Yale Univ. (Physiological Section), athorhaug@msn.com
- Steve Weller, Univ. California, Irvine (BSA Secretary Elect), sqweller@uci.edu

AGENDA

1. BSA President Edward Schneider called the meeting to order, 1:00 PM.
2. The minutes of the 2005 Council Meeting were distributed and approved.
3. Reports of Executive Committee, Editors, and Staff

A. President's report (Edward Schneider). Edward's report is on the BSA website. President Schneider reported his efforts to stay in touch and communicate with BSA Executive Director Bill Dahl and members of the Executive Committee. He detailed action plans to:

- 1) Expand capacity of BSA home office. He complimented the efforts of Bill Dahl and others in the home office and reported the society is moving forward well. The *Plant Science Bulletin* is going well under Marsh Sundberg's leadership. Planning is going well for next year's meeting in Chicago in collaboration with the American Society of Plant Biologists. He expressed the hard work of Program Director Karen Renzgalia in her first year in her position.
- 2) Expand student role in annual meeting and BSA governance. The BSA is making a push to expand student involvement and had a special student session last year in Austin. The BSA welcomes the new BSA student representative Taylor McKenzie
- 3) Ensure successful centennial meeting. Jack Horner has headed the Centennial Committee. Many sessions are planned for this year's Centennial Celebrations, including giving out 100 BSA Centennial Awards.
- 4) Increase BSA visibility. The BSA has been represented effectively at AIBS, AAAS, CCSP (Council of Scientific Society Presidents) in Washington, D.C.)
- 5) Establish Strategic Plan. President Schneider emphasized the importance of strategic planning and indicated the need to revisit the plan. Significant receipt progress has been made in hiring new staff, website development, and educational outreach through Planting Science and student travel grants.

B. Past President's report (Allison Snow). Allison's report is on the BSA website. Allison Snow reported that she concentrated on three main tasks:

- 1) Chairing the Elections Committee. This committee identified two candidates for President (Pamela Soltis was elected) and two candidates for Secretary (Stephen Weller was elected).
- 2) Planning the Plenary Symposium for Botany 2006 in Chico. Allison chose as a symposium "New Directions in Molecular and Organismal Botany."
- 3) Chairing the Corresponding Members Committee. Three openings were filled by Drs. Gabriel Bernardello, Jean Galtier, and Mostafa Kamal Tolba.

In addition, Allison served on a team that annually reviewed the BSA office and Executive Director, and served on the Executive Committee at mid-year and annual meetings.

C. President Elect's report (Christopher Haufler). Chris's report is on the BSA website. Chris reported that he attended two national conferences, the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP) meeting in Washington, DC. He found the meetings valuable but was not sure that the BSA was benefiting from association with the CSSP. He also attended the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in St. Louis, Missouri. He reported that it was valuable to have the BSA represented at this meeting. In this meeting and at

the CSSA meeting Chris reported his interest in the teaching of evolution. Chris reported that the AAAS adopted a resolution on the teaching of evolution that stressed its importance as a core element in the teaching curriculum and expressed concern about states undermining the teaching of evolution. Chris also proposed new BSA committee members.

D. Secretary (David Spooner). David's report is on the web. He reported that he was involved in a BSA reassessment of the method to organize talks and posters as thematic topics as well as in sections. This is the first year that a new thematic presentation was organized. David reported that as the BSA Secretary he attended the mid-year BSA Executive Committee meeting and the annual meeting. His three-year term is ending this year.

E. Treasurer's report (Kent Holsinger). Kent's report is on the web. Kent reported that the BSA is in good financial shape. Institutional subscriptions from the *American Journal of Botany* continue to decline slowly, mirroring a trend in declines in most institutional journal subscriptions, but journal income is sufficient to continue and even expand its operations. As of 30 June 2006, assets in the Society's investment accounts totaled more than \$3.1 million dollars, an increase of nearly \$290,000 from 30 June 2005, resulting from a 10.3% annual rate of return from investments. Kent's report details the budget that was approved for 2004/2005.

F. Program Director's report (Karen Renzaglia). Karen's report is on the web. She reported that she worked closely with the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran, and the Executive Director, Bill Dahl, on many planning tasks for Botany 2006, and that Claire Hemingway, BSA Education Coordinator was instrumental in organizing the Education and Outreach Forum. In early fall 2006, Johanne Stogran, Kevin Stogran, Claire Hemingway and Karen attended a site visit to Chico, California. Karen and Claire met with local teachers and Science Educators at CSU. The site visit was coordinated by the BSA Meeting Manager, Johanne Stogran. Karen explained her tasks as Program Director. She explained the new method of submitting abstracts. In addition to presenting them to sections, the BSA offered the option of submitting abstracts to 16 contemporary thematic topics. The list of topics (and their number of submissions in parentheses) was: Applied Plant Biology (5), Biomechanics (0), Conservation Biology (26), Ethnobotany (4), Gene Structure and Function (1), History of Plants and People (2), Population Genetics (12), Pollination Biology (9), Evolutionary Developmental Biology (11), Biogeography (17), Chemical Ecology (0), Ecophysiology (11), Evolution of Cultivated Plants (7), Genomics / Proteomics (4), Molecular Biology (1), Molecular Ecology and Evolution (12), Stress Tolerance (5), Symbioses: Plant, Animal, and Microbe Interact. (11). Karen reported that BSA Technology Manager Rob Brandt was instrumental in assembling the on-line submissions, and Johanne Stogran did considerable proof reading of the program book. The abstract volume included 836 abstracts but there were a total of 870 presentations considering the BSA Centennial and other presentations. There were 13 field trips, a Centennial Awards Ceremony, and a

plenary Symposium. A new feature of this year's meeting is a Graduate School-Post-Doc-Job Fair. This year also holds an educational forum on the Sunday preceding the meeting with a focus on BSA's SIP3 initiative. Next year's meeting will be in Chicago, IL from July 7-11, 2007, and in addition to meeting with traditional BSA affiliated societies the BSA will meet with the American Society of Plant Biologists. The 2008 meeting will be held in Vancouver, BC, Canada, in association with the Canadian Botanical Association, and the 2009 meeting will be in Snowbird Utah with the Mycological Society of America.

G. Council Representative's report (Pam Diggle). Karen's report is on the web. She reported on her organization of the 2005 annual meeting on student participation in the BSA. This resulted in a new student member of the BSA Executive Committee. As a BSA Executive Committee member Karen also participated at the mid-year (April) BSA Executive Committee meeting. Karen also was responsible for the Young Botanists Award Program and 16 awards were presented in 2006.

H. Editor, *American Journal of Botany's* report (Judy Jernstedt). **Judy's report is on the web.** Judy reported that the current editorial staff includes Amy McPherson (Managing Editor), Beth Hazen (Production Editor and lead copy editor) and several freelance copy editors. She thanked the Associate Editors. She reported that the operation and performance of AllenTrack, the online manuscript submission and handling system, is much smoother this year than last. There are now 43 Associate Editors. The impact factor for the *American Journal of Botany* rose from 2.438 in 2004 to 2.572 in 2005; however, the journal's impact factor ranking fell from 21 to 22. Prices for color illustrations have been drastically reduced, with discounts available according to length of BSA membership. The cover of *American Journal of Botany* has been redesigned as of July 2006, and the front matter is under revision for January 2007. Judy presented that *American Journal of Botany* publication statistics that are available in her web-based report.

I. Editor, *Plant Science Bulletin's* report (Marsh Sundberg). Marsh's report is on the web. Four issues of vol. 51 were published, with a press run of 3800 copies. These included important feature articles, as well as summaries of the forum and plenary address at the BSA Annual Meeting. Book reviews are a big part of the *Plant Science Bulletin* and 74 books were received for review; and 54 reviews were published. For Volume 52, two issues were published containing 76 pages, containing four feature articles, 35 books were received for review, and 18 reviews were published.

J. Webmaster's report (Bill Dahl). Bill's report is on the web. There were 2,074,114 visitors to the BSA's main websites from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006, a 74% increase from the previous year. For an on-line summary of statistics see <http://www.botany.org/newsite/reporting/webstats.php>. Bill presented charts documenting this dramatic increase. The BSA website is undergoing major development and supporting many of BSA's missions. Much of the website development activities are done by Bill Dahl, and BSA employees Rob Brandt

and Claire Hemingway and through member participation. Bill stressed the importance of web development to the BSA's mission, and made a plea to the membership to help in web development. The Education Committee and Teaching Section are setting up structures for the review of images and educational resources and could use help. On-line subscriptions of the *American Journal of Botany* have greatly increased subscriptions, outreach of the journal, and web hits for articles. Bill reported that the BSA's accounting systems have been improved as well as web-based annual meeting registration, abstract submissions, and program booklet production. The educational outreach mission is rapidly expanding. BSA has 1,634 members, up from 1,404 in 2005. The BSA outreach and educational initiative "Scientific Inquiry through Plants" is especially aided by the web. The web is a major repository of images and over 400 new images were donated last year. Bill stressed the BSA's 3M concept, of Mission, Member Services & Support, and Member Recognition.

K. Business Office/Executive Director (Bill Dahl). Bill's report is on the web. Bill Dahl provided a detailed report of BSA activities and initiatives and a series of recommendations of some of these initiatives that are listed below. Bill acknowledged help of the BSA Executive Committee, the Society members and the BSA Staff Rob Brandt, Beth Hazen, Claire Hemingway, Wanda Lovan, Amy McPherson and Johanne Stogran, as well as contributors to the BSA Endowment fund to which over \$14,000 was contributed this year.

1. Financial Report. As of July 17, BSA's total cash position in the St. Louis and Columbus accounts are \$688,476, an increase of \$541,174 in 2005. Bill projected a surplus of \$30,000 for 2006. Membership numbers are down 2.7% on 2005 levels, and members ordering print subscription to the *American Journal of Botany* are down 5.1% and institutional subscriptions are down by 3.9%, with print-only subscriptions showing a 6.4% drop. Bill reported initiatives to build incentives into BSA membership classes designed to encourage a life-long relationship. This included increasing the free page quota and lowered color image costs for *American Journal of Botany*. Bill stressed the need to retain emeritus members for life. He suggested the creation of a new membership class designed to encourage students from around the world to join the BSA.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended the membership committee discusses and provide recommendations in revising BSA membership categories to better fit the needs of the BSA and to provide opportunities to better serve the BSA mission
- **RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended we move membership fees up \$5 across the board.
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Bill detailed the decrease in print subscriptions to *American Journal of Botany* down 18.2% over the past five years (6.9% last year), but there are more on-line subscriptions. *American Journal of Botany* is the major asset and income earner for the BSA and the future of the society is very much dependent on its financial health. Bill suggested that the best defense against this financial pressure is to build the BSA endowment.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended we increase *American Journal of Botany* member subscriptions by \$5 for students/emeritus and \$10 for professional members. This will reflect consistency in BSA's policy for subscriptions to members and institutions alike.
 - **RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended we remove the requirement of BSA membership as criteria for publishing in the *American Journal of Botany*. That we establish a "cost per page charge", plus a "color plate charge" for non-member published articles. Charges will be reviewed annually. In 2007 these costs will be \$225 per page and \$500 per color signature.
- 2. BSA Conference Planning.** The on-line abstract submission and registration process has improved considerably. This is the responsibility of Rob Brandt. Bill announced the upcoming conferences (see Program Director report above).
- 3. BSA Awards.** Over \$8,000 was provided for support to students to attend the conference and many awards were given at the conference that are discipline and section-based. Bill thanked the Cheadle family for ensuring sustainability for the Vernon I. Cheadle and Paul Conant Award for support of the Conant Botanical Images Award. See the following for 2006 awardees:
<http://www.botany.org/newsite/awards/2006awardrecipients.php>.
- 4. BSA Office Developments & Functions.** The society is developing many projects to serve the members and society mission, and the BSA will ask member support in several of these initiatives.
- **RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended money be budgeted and allocated to BSA projects in an effort to accomplish specific mission-related tasks. A staff member will operate as an ex-officio member of each committee/project that is allocated funds to support project development and completion.
- 5. Web Developments.** See webmaster's report above.
- 6. Education & Outreach.** Last year completed the first full year of development in the Scientific Inquiry through Plants project and closed off the pilot program in late May. Over the life of the pilot BSA worked with over 700 students, comprising roughly 200 teams, from twelve different schools all around the country. Over 50 scientists were involved in the program. The program is renamed "Planting Science."
- RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended we continue to develop and expand the "Scientific Inquiry through Plants" project.
- 7. Relationships & Collaboration.** The BSA is forging collaborations with the American Society of Plant Biologists (joint meeting in 2007), the Mycological Society of America (joint meeting in 2009), the Ecological Society of America (possible joint meeting in 2010 or 2011), the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP; Ed Schneider, Chris Haufler and Bill Dahl attended the CSSP meeting in Washington DC in 2005).

4. Reports of Committees, Sections, and Representatives

A. Standing Committees (Administrative)

1. **Executive Committee (Edward Schneider)**. See President's report above.
2. **Annual Meetings Program Committee (Karen Renzgalia)**. See Program Director's report (above).
3. **Archives & History Committee (Shirley Graham)**. The BSA archives continue to be stored at the BSA Business Office in St. Louis, Missouri. Betty Smocovitis completed her study utilizing the archives for her history of the BSA. Many books that make up part of the archives were in disrepair. Amy McPherson and others worked on restoration of the holdings.
4. **Committee on Committees (Christopher Haufler)**. The committee list is posted on web.
5. **Conservation Committee (Kathryn Kennedy)**. No report.
6. **Education Committee (Gordon E. Uno)**. The committee list is posted on web. The Education Committee members have been working on several long-term BSA education projects. Interactions between the Teaching Section and the Education Committee continue to develop and are working on Scientific Inquiry through Plants. Claire Hemingway and Bill Dahl have been key in the development of Scientific Inquiry through Plants, and funding for this initiative is being sought. The Scientific Inquiry through Plants committee has been expanded to include teachers, members of the ASPB, and project evaluators. The committee organization contains members from a Steering Committee: Gordon Uno, Jeff Osborn, Mary Williams, Larry Griffing, Barb Schulz, and Valdine McLean. Also are members from a Inquiry Development Committee: Paul Williams, Marsh Sundberg, Susan Singer, Valdine McLean, Carol Packard, Peggy Skinner; Web Development Committee: Patrick Sweeney, Beverly Brown; and Evaluation Committee: Carol Stuessy, Sandy Honda, Barb Schulz. In addition to SIP3, the Teaching Section and Education Committee is reviewing teaching slides and images.
7. **Election Committee (Allison Snow)**. See Past President's report (above).
8. **Financial Advisory Committee (Jack Horner)**. Members of this committee include Joe Armstrong, Jack Horner (Member and Chair), Bill Dahl (ex officio, Executive Director), Kent Holsinger (ex officio, Treasurer), Ed Schneider (ex officio, President). The FAC has monitored the BSA Endowment Fund invested with Smith Barney (SB) and reconfigured the BSA portfolio. As of June 30, 2006 the Endowment Fund value was \$3,097,239. As of June 30, 2005 the Endowment Fund value was \$2,814,182, an increase of \$283,057 for the fiscal year. The FAC

believes the Endowment Fund is growing at a reasonably steady rate but needs infusion by the membership to reach the 5 million mark it established a year ago. **Recommendation:** The FAC recommends that \$30,000 be provided from the EF to the EC and Council to be used during 2006-2007.

9. **Membership and Appraisal Committee (Ruth Stockey).** The committee suggests that changes in numbers of free pages in the *American Journal of Botany* for members and lower color image costs should be good incentives to members to continue a long standing relationship with the BSA. The committee sent out a letter to long-standing members asking them to encourage their students to join the society and outlining the benefits of membership. Membership numbers this year are down slightly from last year, mostly in the categories of Emeritus and Professional members. However, an email message sent out by the Membership and Appraisal Committee increased student category membership by about 30 members and professional membership is up about 100 members. The increased BSA visibility on the web has helped to increase its profile and bring BSA to the attention of plant lovers.
10. **Publications Committee (Patrick Herendeen).** The committee list is posted on web.
11. **Webpage Committee (Bill Dahl).** See webmaster's report (above).

B. Standing Committees (Awards and Prizes)

12. **Corresponding Members Committee (Allison Snow).** See past President's report (above).
13. **Bessey Award Committee (Gordon Uno/Beverly Brown).** Given to Dr. W. Hardy Eshbaugh, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and Dr. David W. Lee, Florida International University, Miami, Florida.
14. **Cheadle Award Committee (Larry Hufford).** A \$500 award each given to Tania Hernandez-Hernandez, UNAM; Purbasha Sarkar, Miami University; Richard Tate, Humboldt State University; Ramona Walls, SUNY Stony Brook.
15. **Darbaker Prize Committee (Martha Cook).** Given to Charles Delwiche at the University of Maryland, College Park.
16. **Esau Award Committee (Cindi Jones).** Given to Heather Sanders of Ohio University.
17. **Karling Awards Committee (Ranessa Cooper).** Joshua Clayton was awarded the 2006 J. S. Karling Award (\$500). The following students were selected to receive the BSA Graduate Student Research Award (\$500): Monica Carlsen, Kate Hertweck, Jamie H. Howard, Gretchen M.

Ionta, Aaron Jenks, Gabriel P. Johnson, Suzanne Joneson, Marcela Martinez Millan, and Cynthia Skema.

18. **Merit Awards Committee (Edie Taylor).** Dr. Barbara Webster is recognized for her many contributions to plant development and structure, and Dr. Ruth Stockey is recognized for her contributions to paleobotany.
19. **Moseley Award Committee (Kevin Boyce).** Erika Edwards won the Moseley Award in 2005 for her presentation “*Pereskia* water relations reflect deep ecophysiological conservatism in the Cactaceae.”
20. **Pelton Award Committee (Judy Jernstedt).** The Award was given to Dr. Tobias Baskin, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

C. Ad hoc Committees

21. **BSA Centennial Planning Committee (Harry (Jack) Horner).** Many activities are planned, and 100 BSA Centennial Awards will be presented.

D. Sections

22. **Bryological and Lichenological Section (Paula DePriest).** No report.
23. **Developmental and Structural Section (Larry Hufford).** David Lee (Florida International University) was elected as the new treasurer. Three symposia were approved for sponsorship by the section: 1) International Botanical Exchange Delegations: lesson from twentieth century China Exchange (1978-1979), with application to the twenty-first century, 2) Bringing together the living and dead: integrating extant and fossil biodiversity in evolutionary studies, 3) The comparative phylogenetic method of reconstructing evolutionary history. At Botany 2005, 21 contributed papers and 12 posters were presented to the section, which also was the sponsor/cosponsor of symposia.
24. **Ecology Section (Janice Coons).** At Botany 2005 in Austin Texas, the business meeting of the Ecological Section was attended by 35 people. Awards were given to student talks and posters. Margaret Devall began her term as Secretary and Program Director for the Ecological Section. Jeff Walck will begin his term as vice-chair for the Section following the Botany 2006 meetings in Chico, CA. The Ecological Section will provide Student Travel Awards. For Botany 2006 to be held in Chico, CA, the section had 33 papers and 27 posters. The section also are co-sponsors for one symposium entitled “Human Transformation of California: Botany, History, and Sociology” with \$1,000 support. In addition, Carol Baskin will present an overview of the history of the Ecological Section as part of the Section’s business meeting, since 2006 marks the thirty year anniversary for the section.

25. **Economic Botany Section (David Spooner).** The Economic Botany Section presented five papers and one poster at the 2005 annual meeting. They had a luncheon and annual sectional meeting to discuss future symposium initiatives, and discussed the possibility of participating in BSA Scientific Inquiry Through Plants. They co-sponsored the BSA Symposium: Biology of Dryland Plants.
26. **Genetics Section (Randall Small).** Two Graduate Student Research Awards of \$500 were presented: one to a PhD student (Nicole Hardiman), and one to a M.S. student (Amy Stillman). The Margaret Menzel Award for the best contributed paper was presented to Mitchell McGlaughlin, and the award for best poster was presented to Jennifer Cruse-Sanders. A Genetics Section Business Meeting was conducted on Aug. 15, 2005, with 13 individuals in attendance. At the Botany 2006 meetings in Chico, CA, the Genetics Section will have 5 contributed papers sessions over two days with a total of 44 papers, as well as contributed posters session. The Genetics Section will also co-sponsor a symposium entitled “Hybridization as a Stimulus for the Evolution of Invasiveness in Plants” with seven papers. Chair Randall Small, Vice-Chair Vance Baird, and Secretary-Treasurer Theresa Cully will remain in their current positions for the 2006-2007 year. At the end of the Business Meeting at Botany 2007 Randall Small will step down as Chair, and Vance Baird and Theresa Culley will rotate up. During the next year the section will initiate the process of identifying individuals to take on the responsibilities of Secretary-Treasurer for the 2007-2008 year.
27. **Historical Section (Lee B. Kass).** Lee Kass, Chair of the Historical Section has been the representative on the Centennial Planning Committee. Lee will attend Botany 2006 in Chico and will give a paper on the contributions of Cornell to American Botany. Lee will step down as Chair of the section this year. Larry Davenport will succeed Kass as Chair of the Historical Section, as provided in the section by-laws. A new Vice-Chair should be elected at the Annual Business Meeting. Carol Kelloff is currently Secretary/Treasurer of the Historical Section and her term is also up this year. If she does not wish to continue in this office, the section should elect a new officer for this position. In last years report the section suggested using some of the Historical Sections funds to support the archival research of Dr. Betty Smocovitis for her project on writing a history of the Botanical Society of America in honor of its Centennial Year, and \$600 of the current balance was proposed for this. The section sponsored two papers and one poster for Botany 2005. Two historical abstracts were submitted for Botany 2006; one was scheduled for the Historical Section contributed papers and the other has been placed in contributed papers for the Economic Botany Section. The 2005 BSA Directory lists 78 members of the Historical Section.

28. **Mycological Section (Darlene Southworth).** The Mycological Section has been inactive for several years. This year the section will revive the section with a breakfast meeting, one paper, several posters and one student travel award. For next year, the section will propose a symposium on plant-fungal interactions.
29. **Paleobotanical Section (Diane Erwin).** No report.
30. **Phycological Section (Martha Cook).** The Phycological Section co-sponsored a symposium with the Physiological Section in 2006, honoring the work of algal physiologist L. R. Blinks: "Legacy of L.R Blinks: Algae, Ions, and Light". The general funds were used to continue the student travel award initiated last year. This year was to have been Martha Cook's last year as Chair of the section but to date no replacement has been found. Discussions are underway in ways to revitalize the section.
31. **Physiological Section (Anitra Thorhaug).** The Physiological Section in 2005 sponsored a symposium on Dryland Biology which was co-sponsored by the Ecological, the Developmental and Structural, and the Economic Botany Sections. Two student prizes for best papers as well as one for the best poster presentation will be given. Planning is underway for a symposium in Tribute to Lawrence R. Blinks.
32. **Phytochemical Section (Tadeusz Aniszewski).** A discussion on future activities of the section has been initiated. Three papers and two posters are submitted to the Botany 2006 meeting in Chico. No award by the Section of Phytochemistry was granted this year.
33. **Pteridological Section (Warren Hauk).** At the Botany 2005 meetings in Austin, TX, the Pteridological Section of the BSA had 15 contributed papers, three contributed posters, and one field trip. The Edgar T. Wherry Award, for best paper presented as part of the contributed papers sessions, was given to James E. Watkins, Jr. A well-attended field trip was sponsored entitled "Ferns of the Central Texas area" led by Jim Blassingame, Jack Stanford, and Laura Sánchez. The Pteridological section contributed \$400 to the publication of the Annual Review of Pteridological Research, Volume 18 (2004). A new student travel award program was initiated and provided to six students: Michael S. Barker, Joshua Der, Amanda Grusz, Chad E. Husby, Annabelle Kleist, and Eric Shuettpelz.
34. **Systematics Section (Wayne Elisens).** During the 2006 fiscal year, the BSA Systematics Section supported three symposia with funds and sponsored four symposia without funds for the Botany 2006 conference: 1) \$500 for "Botanical cyberinfrastructure: issues, challenges, opportunities, and initiatives," 2) \$500 for "The evolution of Ericales: Recent Insights using both morphology and molecules," 3) \$500 for "Bringing together the living and dead: integrating extant and fossil

biodiversity in evolutionary studies.”. The Systematics section sponsored four symposia (without funds) for the Botany 2006 conference: 1) “The comparative - phylogenetic method of reconstructing evolutionary history,” 2) “Evolution, ecology, and floristics in northern California: current knowledge and unexplored realms,” 3) “Flora of North America: synergy with other botanical projects,” 4) “New insights into the biogeography of Australian plants.”

35. **Teaching Section (Beverly Brown).** The Teaching Section has undertaken the following projects and actions: 1) At the upcoming Botany 2006 meeting sponsoring one symposium (Human transformation of California: botany, history, and sociology); and one discussion session (Teaching non-major students about plants), 2) Continues to support proposed guidelines submitted to the Education Committee for the submission and review of visual resources and curriculum resources, 3) Minor changes in the image database have been made by volunteers in the past year, 4) Revising the Section Offices and job descriptions and will be considering changes to out bylaws at the upcoming business meeting, 5) Supporting Scientific Inquiry Through Plants.
36. **Tropical Biology Section (Susana Magallon).** The Tropical Biology Section presented four papers and three posters at the 2005 BSA annual meeting. This year, the Tropical Biology Section will present six papers and one poster at the 2006 BSA annual meeting. The section will co-sponsor the symposium entitled “Bringing together the living and the dead: integrating extant and fossil biodiversity in evolutionary studies.”
37. **Northeastern Section (Frank Knight).** No report.
38. **Pacific Section (Nancy Morin).** No report.
39. **Southeastern Section (Lytton Musselman).** The Southeastern Section of the Botanical Society of America meets jointly with the Association of Southeastern Biologists. This was the second year of the award and the winner was Brett McMillan of Old Dominion University.

E. Representatives to other Organizations

40. **AAAS (Christopher Haufler).** See President Elect’s report above.
41. **AIBS (Kent Holsinger).** See Treasurer’s report.
42. **Biological Stain Commission (Graeme Berlyn).** The annual meeting of the Biological Stain Commission was held June 2-3 at the Wyndham Milwaukee Center Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Graeme Berlyn attended as a representative of BSA. She will be succeeded as President next year, having served a three year term. The Scientific Session was held on Friday, June 2, 2006.

43. **CSSP (Edward Schneider)**. See President's report.

44. **Natural Science Collections Alliance (Larry Skog)**. No report.

5. Adjournment 3:30 PM.