

Publications Report for the BSA Spring Board Meeting, February 28, 2020

This report updates progress for BSA publications since the BSA Board meeting on November 6, 2019.

Publication Highlights

We continue to build on the goals from our Strategy Day a year ago: To raise the profiles of the journals while supporting our mission and our members.

How are we doing?

To help increase our **Impact**:

Launching of “AJB Reviews”: We launched the new Reviews series for AJB in late 2019, anticipating that publishing good, timely Reviews will help garner citations. The first review has been submitted and is being evaluated by referees. Seven other authors have agreed to submit a Review, and additional authors have submitted proposals. The Reviews team, led by Jannice Friedman, with support from Emily Sessa, Pam Diggie, and Amy McPherson, has invited a number of potential contributors, and we have several received unsolicited proposals as well.

Highly cited papers: Sean Graham, former Director-at-Large for Publications, ran reports for AJB through Web of Science, and is cautiously optimistic about the IF for 2019. For papers within the IF-factor window, we have 31 papers that have been cited 10 or more times (the top paper has been cited 49 times), and fewer papers overall with 0 citations than 2 years ago.

ECAB: The Early-Career Advisory Board is up and running, thanks to the leadership of our Director-at-Large for Publications, Emily Sessa. Current members of the ECAB are listed here: <https://cms.botany.org/home/publications/ecab.html>. They will be helping with social media and recommending papers from BioRxiv for AJB and APPS; helping with highlights and recommending topics and authors for Reviews and special issues; developing and contributing content for PSB; and potentially editing Wikipedia articles to cite AJB/APPS articles as appropriate.

Discontinuing Primer Notes for APPS: This was discussed at Strategy Day 2019 and at the APPS editorial Board meeting in Tucson—and was officially implemented as of November 1, 2019. This is positive for the journal, but the editors are concerned about an anticipated decrease in overall manuscript submissions. We are hoping to address this through marketing efforts and organizing special issues.

Special Issues in 2020 and 2021:

Both AJB and APPS, along with IJPS, collaborated on a cross-journal special issue

titled “Plant-Environment Interactions: Integrating across levels and scales” for February 2020. Beth Parada is working with science writer Alex Taylor on a press release for this project.

APPS: “Conducting botanical research with limited resources: Low-cost methods in the plant sciences”: scheduled to publish April 2020

“Machine Learning in Plant Biology”: either May + June or June + July 2020.

“Advances in Plant Phenology”: next issue after Machine Learning, late summer 2020

2021: AJB: “Life Without Water: Research on plant life in water-limited habitats,” organized by Karolina Heyduk, Michael McKain, and Olwen Grace.

Joint AJB and APPS issues on Angiosperm353 and [potentially] other large-scale probe-set approaches to understanding plant phylogeny. Headed up by Bill Baker and colleagues.

APPS: DNA/RNA extraction methods special issue led by Eric Tepe

To engage our community and support international outreach:

New Associate Editor for AJB: Ignacio Escapa (CONICET-MEF, Argentina), replacing Ruben Cuneo, who retired in January. The full AJB Editorial Board is listed here: <https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/journal/15372197/homepage/editorialboard>.

New Associate Editors for APPS: Michael McKain (University of Alabama) and Susann Wicke (University of Münster, Germany). The full APPS Editorial Board is listed here: <https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/journal/21680450/homepage/editorialboard>.

Marketing—We have a marketing plan for 2020 that builds on the ideas from Strategy Day and other Wiley initiatives to increase accessibility/discoverability, submissions, and reach.

- Targeting authors through email campaigns and social media
- Virtual issues and outreach at other conferences
- Improved Search Engine Optimization on our site

Social Media presence:

- We use Facebook, Twitter, and now Instagram (thanks to our Social Media liaisons) to promote papers in the journals, our authors and other BSA members, and items we think will be of interest to our followers. We reach >40K followers across these three platforms.
- Facebook: 32,680 followers (15% increase over last year)
- Twitter: 7863 followers (16% increase over last year)
- Instagram: 296 followers (89% increase over last year)

Plant Science Bulletin

The Society's newsletter of record is now in its 66th volume. Mackenzie Taylor, the PSB's Editor-in-Chief, completed her first 5-year term in 2019 and has graciously agreed to serve another 5-year term. She receives staff support from Richard Hund and Johanne Stogran, and Emily Sessa is working with the ECAB to help generate content moving forward. Mackenzie welcomes article and special issue ideas, so please contact her at psb@botany.org if you have suggestions or would like to submit an article.



Other Items

Our next Wiley-BSA Publications Strategy Day is April 25, 2020.

Reorganization at Wiley—To support researchers and the Open Research movement worldwide, Wiley has moved its publishing teams to a global organization based around research subjects and disciplines, instead of regional groups (e.g., North American Society journals). BSA and its journals are now part of Wiley's "Whole Organism" team. We keep Gillian Greenough as our Executive Editor, but have a new Senior Editorial Director (Vicky Johnson, who replaced Colette Bean) and a new Publisher (Paul-André Genest, who replaces Steven (Otto) Ottogalli).

Open Access: The move toward "Open" continues apace and should be discussed with the Board, especially what Gillian can share with us about Wiley's plans moving forward. To facilitate discussion and some of the terminology that may arise, here is a Primer on **"Transformative Agreements"**: <https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2020/02/06/revisiting-transformative-agreements-a-primer/?informz=1>