

# 2020 Membership Survey Highlights

2871 Members emailed at time of the survey: 406 participated (14%)

2016 - 89% are satisfied, but only 62% are very satisfied which indicates our level of churn or recidivism rate

2020 - Satisfaction with BSA remains high – 88% are satisfied, Highly satisfied is now 67%.

## Reasons to Join 2020

- 1) Conference participation
- 2) Connect with Peers/Networking
- 3) Publish in journals
- 4) Access to journals

\*students first two reasons are the same, then 3) gift membership/recommendation and publish and apply for awards are tied for fourth

## Why Maintain/Renew Membership? 2020

- 1) Connect with Peers/Networking
- 2) Conference participation
- 3) Access to journals
- 4) Publish in journals

\*students/PostDocs first two reasons are the same, then 3) publish and 4) conference Discount

## Your Top Enhanced/New Benefit

- 1) More travel funding for Students/Postdocs
- 2) Increase number of GSRA and amount given per award
- 3) Mentoring program for students/early career
- 4) Early career research grants for assistant profs

\*students rated all of these in the same order

## Your Top Education and Outreach Activities for BSA to lead

- 1) PlantingScience (K-12 teacher and student outreach)
- 2) Educational resources at [www.botany.org](http://www.botany.org)
- 3) Botanical careers information

## Educational and Outreach Activities as ranked by Students/Postdocs

- 1) Botanical careers information
- 2) Scicomm training
- 3) REU Summer internships

**Is Open Access important to you?**

Yes – 53%

No – 13.5%

Remainder are neutral

**Reasonable Amount to pay for Open Access:**

40% - do not have funds for open access

35.7% - \$500 or less

16.5% - \$500-\$1000

**Positive Comments:**

The BSA is a highly active scientific society with outstanding colleagues in all fields of Botany and Plant Evolutionary Biology.

BSA is the membership fee that I never regret paying each year--it is my community!

I LOVE the society and you have been a HUGE support during my time as a student and now in my early-career. Thank you so much!

At this time, I'm really not sure how BSA could improve. I feel like the organization has been doing a tremendous job. I would say, continue to listen to your members and adjust when needed. You're doing great so far!

It is wonderful you are asking this! I think the society is great and does a lot to meet my needs and those of my grad and undergrad students, esp. with research awards and PLANTS program. I have seen the BSA evolve to now have Diversity and Outreach as important aspects, the only way we will get greater diversity in the field of botany!

**Negative Comments:**

The selection process of society leadership positions is not transparent, biased and rigged, especially at the individual section level. This is a shame given that the society wants to cater to all its members. All selection positions for the officers, representatives should be a transparent, fair and just process.

Provide appropriate and equitable support to all members. We are all cash-strapped, over-worked and underpaid. Catering to one group (this past year it became people with kids) is off-putting to people who can't tap into the financial support offered to 'families'. Also, the society is really becoming an old-boys/girls club, where committee memberships appear to be passed down to friends of the hotshots. I've really stopped prioritizing attending the annual meeting for several reasons, but these two have really annoyed me.

Not enough focus on the work or needs of the consulting botanist

It is a scam to ask for publication fees. The society should be able to support open access for all its members without charging the researchers that give their work to the Journal. It should have its own fundraising process to cover the costs of maintaining the journal without charging unbearable amounts for publishing which these days is simply putting content online...

There are many botanists that work in government now, state and federal, but few of the botanical societies seem to recognize this as the emphasis is on academics which isn't bad, but much of the work of government botanists seems to be over-looked.

There's a big disconnect between professional botanists in the public/non-profit/botanical garden sectors and academia, especially in field botany. I don't know how to bridge that gap, but I think we should try. Conferences tend to be cost prohibitive and sometimes difficult to get permission to attend. Perhaps making a call for field practitioners to organize a session, or a special issue in the journal could help?

**Suggestions:**

Keep cost of meeting down

Travel assistance needed

Outreach and more interaction for international members

Outreach to the young and the general public and use citizen science, fight plant blindness, cultivate a love for plants

Making BSA more accessible for non-academics

Integration and coordination with other societies

Educate young people on how important botanical knowledge is to conservation and protecting the planet's biological diversity.

The entire discipline of botany as taught within American universities needs an advocate. There are so few departments of botany remaining and the numbers of people who identify as 'botanists' rather than biologists or plant biologists is shrinking. I'd like to see the society generate some data that faculty can use to defend botany/botanists when Deans and administrators come around proposing cuts and restructuring.

I hope you decide to direct support efforts toward students rather than faculty, as the money can positively affect more individuals. Supporting undergrad and grad students helps all research programs. And creative outreach to K-12 education will keep people excited about studying and conserving plants!

I think the BSA would benefit from more open dialogue with its members and outwardly to the public on the role of the BSA in the current global political climate. For example, members should know what the BSA has to say about declining biodiversity or the impacts of

globalization on environmental health (if we even have a formal position on these matters). I also believe the BSA would benefit from diversifying the participants and membership of its society in terms of recognizing and encouraging international collaborations and non-US expertise.

I think providing an opportunity for students to attend annual conferences at a reasonable price and offering more travel support for them, as well as updating the award amounts to 21st century levels.