IT Summer Report, 2019

Submitted by Rob Brandt

This report covers the time period between the Spring Board Meeting and mid-July 2019.

Awards App

Our contractor "completed" and I implemented and demonstrated the Awards Management Application that was desired by the BSA, SSE, and ASPT. "Completed" is in quotations because it has not yet gone through an entire cycle of use for an award – from application to evaluations to scoring – and during that time we would anticipate some issues. Indeed, we are currently rolling out SSE's Rosemary Grant award, and we are finding some things that need addressing. These things are all part of the contract to while it takes some effort it doesn't represent an additional cost. Overall it looks very good.

SEB web site redesign

We have employed a different contractor to come up with a new design for the SEB's web site. This was undertaken primarily in April and May, and a preliminary design was shown for the SEB board at their meeting during their annual conference in early June. Here is a sample:

http://themes.startbootstrap.com/previews/econbot/

SEB came back with praise and requests for some tweaks. Because of summer schedules, the design has been stalled for about a month but should be finishing up shortly.

Botany.org

We have a new home page! This is a milestone that means, roughly speaking, that all of our prominent web site pages are now in a content management system. There remains many pages that are bookmarked or linked externally that we will need to deal with, but the transition of killing off our old content has officially begun. Soon, we will be going through a design process similar to what SEB just went through, and SSE did last year.

Botany Conference

Botany 2019 required a more than normal amount of attention this year. Launching the mobile app was fraught with issues. I also implemented a new visual calendar scheduling tool that allows data from the conference site to be synced between them. This allows for greater accuracy during scheduling time.

Miscellaneous

In the meantime, I have also worked with new Membership Manager Amelia to get her familiar with everything she needs to do, managed the GSRA and Triarch award processes (using the old software), and everything else needed to keep the Botanical Society running.

Coming Up

There are a few noteworthy projects on the table for the coming months:

- Evaluation of X-CD Software's conference management system as a replacement for our existing system
- Complete the SEB's migration to CiviCRM
- Upgrading SSE's and SEB's main web site software to new versions
- Continuing the overhaul of botany.org (as mentioned above)
- Various server and system upgrades.