The Paleobotanical Section of Botanical Society of America is the oldest organization of Paleobotanists in the world and was organized between 1934-1936 by Loren C. Petry of Cornell University to:

(a) Arrange a suitable program on paleobotanical subjects in connection with the annual meetings of the Botanical Society of America, Inc.

(b) Promote general interest and encourage research in paleobotany.

(c) Stress the importance of fossil plants in relation to botanical and geological problems.

(d) Establish closer contacts between botanists and geologists concerned with paleobotanical research and teaching.

(e) Assist in the dissemination of paleobotanical knowledge.

(f) Cooperate whenever desirable and possible with other organizations in achieving these ends.

(g) Act in whatever capacity it may find expedient as an organization of paleobotanists.

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FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It was great to see many of you at the Vancouver Meetings. We had a great time, with many excellent presentations and posters, a field trip that was enjoyed by all, a lively banquet and auction, and a productive business meeting. I would personally like to thank Rick and Tad Dillhoff and Ruth Stockey for putting together the field trip, Sean Graham and Ruth again for helping with banquet organization, Willy Taylor for emceeing the auction, and everyone else who pitched in to help. All of your efforts made my job easy, and I really appreciate your support.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you with comments and suggestions that will make the Section more productive and successful. My address is below.

THE 2008 BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

The joint meeting of the Botanical Society of America, The American Fern Society, and the Canadian Botanical Association, met July 26-30 2008 at Vancouver, British Columbia. The Paleobotanical Section submitted three posters and 37 contributed papers including 13 talks by students. The eight sessions sponsored by the Section were chaired by Steve Manchester, Rudy Serbet, Peter Wilf, Willy Taylor, Patty Ryberg, Mihai Tomescu, Bruce Tiffney and Stefan Little. In addition Judy Skog and Tom Taylor hosted a Discussion Session calling attention to the fate and curation of fossil collections that resulted in the formation of a Committee that will lay the foundation for the organization of a Plant Fossil Unified Collections Network (pun intended).

More than 70 people attended the Annual Paleobotanical Section Banquet at the Sage Bistro on the University of British Columbia Campus. The bi-annual auction was a great success and raised over $3000.00 that will be used in part to pay for Banquet tickets for students that present their work in the Isabel Cookson sessions at this years and next years Annual Meetings. The slogan on this years Paleobotany Button was “Paleobotanists do it with hard data”.

The Isabel Cookson Award recognizing the best student paper presented in the Paleobotanical Section was presented to Cyrille Prestianni for the paper titled “Xenotheca and Pseudosporogonites: two Belgian aculate seeds?”

The Michael A. Cichan Award for 2008 was presented to Dr. Maria A. Gandolfo, Cornell University, for her paper titled: “Fossil Nelumbonaceae from the La Colonia Formation (Campanian-Maastrichtian, Upper Cretaceous), Chubut, Patagonia, Argentina”. Co-author on the paper is N.R. Cuneo. This Award was instituted to encourage research at the interface of evolutionary and structural botany in honor of Michael A. Cichan.

Next years meetings will be held at Snowbird, Utah, 25-29 July 2009 and will be Chaired by Genaro Hernandez-Castillo, Instituto de Recursos, Universidad del Mar, Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, México.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

2008 GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of The Geological Society of America will be held 5-9 October 2008, at Houston, Texas.

9th NORTH AMERICAN PALEONTOLOGICAL CONVENTION

The 9th North American Paleontological Convention, will be held 21-26 June 2009 at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio. Proposals for Symposia are due 15 September 2008. The webpage can be found at http://www.uc.edu/geology/faculty/miller.html

For more information please contact:

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The Botanical Society of America 2009 Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with The Mycological Society of America, The American Fern Society, The American Bryological and Lichenological Society, and The American Society of Plant Taxonomists at Snowbird, Utah 25-29 July 2009. The Paleobotany Banquet will be held Monday, 27 July. The menu and details will be announced soon but there will not be an auction this year. The date and time of the Business meeting has yet to be determined.

A post-meeting field trip is being discussed. Details and cost will be announced soon.

The deadline for the submission of symposia is 15 October 2008.

The deadline for the submission of workshops is 15 November 2008.

The deadline for the submission of field trips is 15 November 2008.

The deadline for the submission of discussion sessions is 1 April 2009.

At the 2008 Business Meeting the criteria for submission of nominations were established and include:

1. A call for submissions will be issued by the Secretary/Treasurer with the September Newsletter.
2. Nominations will consist of an up to one page letter of recommendation.
3. Nominations are due to the Secretary/Treasurer by 1 February of the following year.
4. If more than two nominations are received, a committee will be formed by the Section Chair to decide recipients of the award.
5. The nominee does not need to be present to receive the award, however weight will be given to nominations, if the nominator will be present to read the recommendation at the Business Meeting.
6. The award, that includes a plaque, will be given at the Annual Business Meeting.

I know there are numerous deserving members out there so I hope to see lots of nominations. Please send them to me at the address below.

**CALL FOR NEWS AND NOTES**

The next Paleobotanical Section Mailing is scheduled for December 2008. Please submit news and notes about paleobotanists, paleobotany, and related issues by 30 November 2008 to:

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