

ASPT Program Director Annual Report for 2007-2008

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Botany 2008 report

I attended the site visit to Vancouver in 2007. At that meeting we examined the venue and discussed program issues with the other societies involved. It will be a straightforward meeting as compared to last year in Chicago where we met together with ASPB. Our local representative Sean Graham has done an excellent job helping with local logistics and in making contacts with local botanists and university faculty and officials.

The conference in Chicago last summer was extremely expensive, with labor costs apparently much greater than anticipated. Also catering events was very expensive, both at the Hilton and elsewhere. As a result the conference was not able to cover its costs and thus there was no profit sharing to participating societies.

The plans for the Botany 2008 meeting are nearly complete. In early April I organized the systematics program and also the Biogeography “topic” submissions (this is the third year in which authors can submit an abstract to a particular topic rather than to a society or section of BSA- I believe this is a good idea). I also worked with Karen Renzaglia (BSA program director) in structuring the overall program balance and scheduling.

Approximately 670 abstracts were received for systematics and the biogeography topic category (does not include symposium abstracts). Of these, 76 are systematics posters, 6 are biogeography posters, 159 are systematics oral presentations, and 27 are biogeography oral presentations.

Fifteen symposium/colloquium proposals and four workshop proposals were submitted for Botany 2008. Of these, five symposia and colloquia and two workshops are related to systematics. I worked with Kathy Kron (BSA Systematics Section Chair) to maximize distribution of financial resources from ASPT and BSA/Syst Sect once ASPT Council had an opportunity to vote on support and sponsorship requests presented to ASPT. Following is a list of symposia sponsored (with funding or in name only) by ASPT and BSA/Syst Sect:

Financial Support. The ASPT and BSA Systematics Section supported two symposia:

- 1) \$600 ASPT and \$600 Systematics Section for “Phylogeography of northern North America with insights from paleontological, geological, and molecular data”
Organizer: Anne Bruneau
- 2) \$600 ASPT and \$600 Systematics Section for “Polyploidy: Genetics, Evolution and Ecology” Organizers: Keith Adams and Jeannette Whitton

Sponsorship in name only (without financial support). The ASPT and/or BSA Systematics Section sponsored five symposia, colloquia and workshops:

- 1) “*Wollemia nobilis*: Modern Studies of an Ancient Plant” Organizer: Susan Murch

- 2) “Colloquium: The flora of Madagascar: research needs and research progress”
Organizer: Wendy Applequist
- 3) “Colloquium: The Utility of Pollen in Systematic and Morphological Studies: A Celebration of the Life of John J. Skvarla” Organizers: Vicki Funk and Melanie DeVore
- 4) Workshop- “Virtual Herbaria: Regional Progress in Organizing, Fundraising, and Delivering Content” Organizer: Alexander Krings
- 5) Workshop- “Encyclopedia of Life and the Botanical Community” Organizer: Chuck Miller

In addition to the symposia, the systematics program will include 2-3 concurrent sessions from Monday morning through Wednesday afternoon, plus the biogeography topic session, which contains many systematics papers.

Future Botany Conferences

Botany 2009 will be held at Snowbird, Utah, July 25 – 30. The dates for the site visit have not yet been determined.

The site for Botany 2010 has not yet been announced. I participated in evaluating approximately 10 possible venues for future conferences, including the 2010 conference. I hope to have details on this by the time of the Council meeting.