

**DRAFT—MINUTES OF THE
2009 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS &
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA SYSTEMATICS SECTION
BUSINESS MEETING**

Snowbird, UT, Ballroom 3, Cliff Lodge, Tuesday, 28 July 2009

- I. Call to order—5:32 pm, Bruce Baldwin, President, American Society of Plant Taxonomists
- II. Minutes of the 2008 Business Meeting in Vancouver, BC. Approved.
- III. Report of the ASPT President—Bruce Baldwin. ASPT remains healthy, with more members than ever before. We are in good financial health, which provides us more funds for new initiatives. This year for the first time we had a successful lottery for graduate student travel grants to attend the annual meeting. We made awards to 20 students and many more applied. We're increasing the number of awards for next year. Thanks to Lynn Clark, chair of the Membership Committee for organizing the lottery. Austin Mast, chair of the Public Relations Committee, put together a number of well-stated recommendations about how we can move forward and improve our web resources and make research from our members more widely known. Over the next year he will work with the webmaster over next year to implement those strategies.
- IV. Report of the ASPT Secretary—Alan Prather. During the past year we had our second online election and the number of returns remains strong. Richard Olmstead was elected as President-elect and Allison Miller and Chelsea Specht were elected as Council-Members-at-Large. The reports to the Council from the 2009 Council Meeting are accessible on the ASPT website.
- V. Report of the ASPT/BSA Systematics Section Program Director—Pat Herendeen. This year a number of symposia were sponsored and supported with \$500 each from ASPT. One colloquium was sponsored at no cost. Submission numbers are stable for abstracts for the Annual Meeting. Next year we will be meeting in Providence, RI, and in 2011 we will be meeting in St. Louis. The St. Louis meeting will be held earlier than usual. The BSA Systematics Section began this year helping students attend field trips at the Annual Meeting. Up to \$50 was provided for any student member of the section to attend a field trip. A total of 15 students were supported. The society would like to entertain volunteers interested in serving as an auctioneer so that we can have another benefit auction in the future. Bruce Baldwin added that we owe thanks to Lynn Bohs and her students for setting up field trips and other events at the 2009 Annual Meeting.
- VI. Report of the Business Office—Linda Brown. Neil Harriman is no longer going to be distributing back issues, so any issues from volumes 1-30 are offered to members for the cost of postage. Email will come in the near future. The hard-copy membership directory will be ready later this year. Bruce Baldwin: Recognized Linda Brown for an incredible job. She and Linda Watson worked up plans for insurance for ASPT and our BioOne and Ingenta contracts. We also have new anti-discrimination policies in place thanks to Linda Brown and Linda Watson.
- VII. Report of the Treasurer—Linda Watson. ASPT is doing great financially. Income exceeds expenses, and membership is up (100 over last 5 years). Institutional Subscriptions to the journal continue to decline, but the BioOne income greatly exceeds the losses. Council voted to increase the number of student travel grants and increase the budgeted amount for research grants.
- VIII. Report of the Newsletter Editor and ASPT Webmaster —Eric Roalson. The next newsletter will be released next month. Please send him material for newsletter. Web site is being upgraded based on Public Relations Committee report. Ideas were requested ideas about how to improve website.
- IX. Report of the Editor-in-Chief, *Systematic Botany*—Alan Whittemore. *Systematic Botany* on schedule, the submission rate is increasing and will probably set a new record this year. International submissions are growing. Reviews are done almost entirely electronically so we can now have some non-US associate editors—the first was appointed last year. Whittemore announced that this is his last year as Editor-in-Chief and Tom Ranker will take over. Eric Roalson: supplemental data for *Systematic Botany* is now on the ASPT website. Question from a member: Now that submissions are going up, how does this affect the journal. Answer from Alan Whittemore: The journal is gradually increasing in terms of page numbers. Also the journal has decreased the amount of wasted space and increased the size of the pages in the journal. Rejection rate has not increased. Bruce Baldwin: Thank you Alan for all your service. Applause. *Systematic Botany* was recognized as one of the Top 100 Journals in Biology and Medicine by the BioMedical & Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association.

- X. Report of the Editor, *Systematic Botany Monographs*—Christiane Anderson. Last year two monographs were published, and there are three in press. Two will be published later this year (vols. 88 and 89). Volume 90 will go to composition in August. Four new submissions have been received since last year. The turn-around time is 12-18 months from submission to publication. Past volumes are finally up on JSTOR. There is a five year moving wall for JSTOR publication. The monographs are still in the black, financially. Walter Meagher, who has supported publication of SBM for 15 years, was recognized for another generous contribution. Bruce Baldwin: Recognized Anderson's continued leadership of SBM. Applause.
- XI. Report of the Awards and Honors Committee—Larry Hufford. The 2009 Asa Gray Award recipient was Alan Graham and the 2009 Peter Raven recipient was Sandra Knapp. A very high number of proposals (72) were received for the graduate student research grant. The Awards and Honors Committee requested and received additional funds from ASPT for additional awards. Seventeen awards were made. The ASPT Council also committed more money next year for student awards. Judges at the 2009 Meeting were considering 47 talks for the Cooley Award. An amplified committee was assisting with judging Cooley nominations as well as the graduate student research awards. Vicki Funk: We should consider an award for posters at the Annual Meeting. General consensus that this was a good idea. Pat Herendeen: There have been improvements this year to increase the traffic at the posters (cash bar, etc). Bruce Baldwin: Thanks to Larry as outgoing chair. Chairing this committee is a huge amount of work. Applause.
- XII. Report of the Finance Committee—Warren Wagner. The overall market is down this year but we held a lot of money in cash last year which turned out great. In the last quarter things have improved. Generally ASPT is in good shape. Council voted to split equity/income 60/40. This year Council earmarked about 1/3 of the unrestricted funds (about \$100K) to be held for *Systematic Botany Monographs*. Wagner is stepping off the Finance Committee and Jun Wen will become chair. Bruce Baldwin: Thank you Warren. Applause.
- XIII. Report of the BSA Systematics Section—Eric Roalson, Pat Herendeen: nothing to add.
- XIV. Open discussion/questions from members. Vicki Funk: Where in St. Louis will we have the 2011 Annual Meeting. Pat Herendeen: Chase Park Plaza. On another note, he is working with David Spooner (Program Director, BSA) to try to change the Call for Symposia and Colloquia to be more explicit about the diversity desired in symposia. They recognize the need to increase diversity in symposia. Suggested running symposium proposals past council before inviting participants. Question from a member: Why is the business meeting at the same time as the poster session? Pat Herendeen: All Systematics posters were presented on Monday so they don't conflict with our business meeting. Sent out an announcement to try to eliminate the issue. Vicki Funk: Why not have business meeting earlier? Pat Herendeen: Then it would conflict with oral presentations. This year we are trying something new with the poster presentations in the late afternoon after paper sessions are done, with refreshments including a cash bar. There is too much going on for people to get to everything they want to do. David Spooner: Pat and I worked hard to avoid conflicts but some are unavoidable. We looked at all of these things. Vicki Funk: Scheduling anything over a poster session sends the message that posters are not important. Pat Herendeen: this is why we moved the poster sessions this year.
- XV. Remarks from the President-Elect—Warren Wagner. I have been involved in a number of organizations and ASPT is much more of a team than many of these other groups. More people are involved and involved in a collegial way. Increasing number of standing and ad hoc committees are giving us new ideas and questioning the status quo. We will be more innovative and more efficient and more relevant. I am looking forward to working with the Council to develop an online submission system for *Systematic Botany*, which will decrease the burden of the associate editors and managing editor, including copyediting. The Public Relations Committee's ideas to improve website and promote the society are also on my agenda to promote. I am very pleased at the trend in increased financial support for students. We have just doubled the amount of funds in the lottery for students to attend the meetings. We plan to study a separate award for increasing diversity among our student members. We also plan to get younger members more involved through adding more ad hoc student members to committees and we request ideas about how to improve the society from members.
- XVI. Adjournment