

**American Society of Plant Taxonomists
Report of Awards and Honors Committee for 2009**

I. Committee Membership

The membership of the 2008–2009 Awards & Honors Committee is as follows.

Larry Hufford, Chair and Council Representative

Mark Fishbein, Council Representative

Alexander Krings

Peter Stevens

Steve Weller

Ad hoc members were solicited to assist in evaluating graduate student research proposals and judging talks for the Cooley Award.

II. Graduate Student Research Grants

The following committee, consisting of appointed and ad hoc members, served to evaluate and rank the proposals submitted by graduate students for research grants:

Larry Hufford, Chair

Tina Ayers

Mark Fishbein,

Alexander Krings

Shawn Krosnick

Kathleen Pryer

Peter Stevens

Steve Weller

We received 72 proposals from eligible graduate students. Three members of the committee reviewed each proposal. The committee chose to rank proposals in three categories: MS, early PhD (within first two years of project), and late PhD (at least two years of research conducted). Scores of reviewers were summed to provide a final score for each proposal. The highest ranking proposals in each category based on final scores were selected for funding.

After review of the proposals, we recommended 17 proposals for funding (23.6% of submitted proposals were funded). A total of \$12,150 was awarded, including \$3000 for endowed, named awards and \$9150 from ASPT funds. Our funding rate was comparable to 2008, when 26% of the submitted proposals were funded (13 of the 52 submitted proposals).

The funded proposals, including funded amount, proposal title, student name, research institution, and project advisor, follow:

Shirley and Alan Graham Graduate Student Research Grant \$1000: The Evolution and Systematics of the *Opuntia humifusa* complex (Cactaceae). Lucas Majure, Dept. of Botany and Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, PO Box 117800, Gainesville, FL 32611-7800. Advisers: Doug Soltis and Pam Soltis.

William R. Anderson Graduate Student Research Grant \$1000: Phylogeography of the Central Florida Scrub. Charlotte Germain-Aubrey, Dept. of Botany, University of Florida, Dickinson Hall 301B, Gainesville, FL 32611. Advisers: Pam Soltis and Matthew Gitzendanner.

Rogers McVaugh Graduate Student Research Grant \$1000: A Molecular Phylogeny of *Hastingsia*, Serpentine Endemics of Southwest Oregon and Northern California. Kate Halpin, Dept. of Biology, Portland State University, P.O. Box 751, Portland, Oregon 97207. Adviser: Mark Fishbein.

\$750: Integrating Morphology, Molecules, Geography and Ecology in the Neotropical Plant Genus *Triplaris* Loef. ex L. (Polygonaceae). Adriana Sanchez, Wake Forest University, Rm. 126 Winston Hall, Winston-Salem, NC 27106. Adviser: Kathy Kron.

\$750: The molecular evolution of selenium hyperaccumulation in *Stanleya* (Brassicaceae). Jennifer J. Cappa, Colorado State University, 518 Tyler St. Ft. Collins, Co. 80521. Adviser: Mark Simmons.

\$750: Using causal mutations to infer *Aquilegia* (Ranunculaceae). Nathan Dereig, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara, 93106-9610. Adviser: Scott Hodges.

\$750: Tracking Migration, Diversification, and Gene Losses Across North and South America in *Agalinis* (Orobanchaceae). Maribeth Latvis, University of Florida, Department of Botany, Dickinson Hall, Museum Road, Gainesville, FL, 32611. Advisers: Doug Soltis and Pam Soltis.

\$750: Adaptive diversification in woody plants: mechanics, storage and conductivity in stems of the simaruba clade (*Bursera*, Burseraceae). Julieta Rosell, Institute of Biology, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Adviser: Mark Olson.

\$600: *Tilia americana* s.l.: intraspecific evolution across a heterogeneous landscape. Diane McCarthy, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL 60607. Adviser: Roberta Mason-Gamer .

\$600: Systematics and Evolution of Pollinator relationships in the 'Mirandea Clade' (Acanthaceae). Carrie Kiel, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. Adviser: Lucinda McDade.

\$600: Systematics of the Mesoamerican *Cuscuta erosa* complex. Michael Wright, 134 Erb St. W Apt. 4, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 1T8. Adviser: Mihai Costea.

\$600: Systematics and Biogeography of North American *Lappula* (Boraginaceae). Susan Rolfsmeier, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-4901. Adviser: Carolyn Ferguson.

\$600: Mechanisms and Patterns of Evolutionary Diversification within the bluestars (*Amsonia*, Apocynaceae). Chris Doffitt, Department of Biological, Mississippi State University, P.O. Box GY, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Advisers: Lisa Wallace and Gary Ervin.

\$600: Functional evolution of the *API/FUL* gene lineage outside the core eudicots. Natalia Pabon-Mora, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458. Adviser: Amy Litt.

\$600: Taming the *bête noire* of ferns: A synthetic approach to unraveling polyploidy and reticulation in the Mexican *Cystopteris fragilis* complex (Polypodiopsida: Woodsiaceae). Carl Rothfels, Department of Biology, Duke University, Durham, NC. 27708. Adviser: Kathleen Pryer.

\$600: Phylogenetic and phylogeographic analysis of the *Lupinus lepidus* species complex: Implications for the biogeography of the Cascade mountain range. Kevin Weitemier, 433 N.E. Graham St. #4, Portland, OR 97212. Adviser: Mark Fishbein.

\$600: Phylogeny and Evolutionary History of *Anticlea vaginata* Rydb. (Melanthiaceae): A Hanging Garden Endemic. Emily Palmquist, P.O. Box 23624, Flagstaff, Arizona 86002. Adviser: Tina Ayers.

III. Asa Gray Award

The Awards and Honors Committee received nominations for two individuals for the 2009 Asa Gray Award. The committee proposed **Alan Graham** (Professor Emeritus at Kent State University and now at Missouri Botanical Garden) as the recipient of the Award. Dr. Graham was nominated by Peter Raven. Highlights of Dr. Graham's many accomplishments include the following.

- Author of the books *Late Cretaceous and Cenozoic History of North American Vegetation* (1999) and *Late Cretaceous and Cenozoic History of Latin American Vegetation* (2009).
- Editor of and contributor to the two books *Floristics and Paleofloristics of Eastern Asia and Eastern North America* (1972) and *Vegetation and Vegetational History of Northern Latin America* (1973)
- Author of 118 scientific papers and presenter of 120 contributed or invited research talks.
- Faculty member at Kent State University for 38 years, where he received the university's awards for excellence for both his teaching and research and where he served as the major advisor for 16 graduate students.
- Taught for 14 years a five-week course in Mexico entitled "Biological Field Studies in Mexico and the American West" that was taken by over 350 students.

- Served on the editorial board of *Systematic Botany* as well as other journals.
- Donated a 25,000 slide reference collection of modern pollen and an associated collection of literature, consisting of nearly 17,000 reprints, to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

The committee's recommendation that the Asa Gray Award be given to Dr. Graham was approved by the Council.

IV. Peter Raven Award

The Awards and Honors Committee received three nominations (a fourth nomination arrived too late to be evaluated) for the Peter Raven Award. . The committee proposed **Sandra Knapp** (Natural History Museum [London]) based on an exceptional nomination package prepared by David Spooner. Highlights of Dr. Knapp's accomplishments include the following.

- Author of three books that communicate science to the general public: 1) Knapp, S. 1999. *Footsteps in the forest: Alfred Russell Wallace in the Amazon*. NHM, London; 2) Knapp, S. 2003. *Potted histories: an artistic voyage through plant exploration*. Scriptum Editions/NHM. [translated and released internationally in French and German; 3) Knapp, S. & B. Press. 2005. *The gilded canopy: botanical ceiling panels of the Natural History Museum*. NHM Press, London.
- Regular contributor to the Natural History Museum's 'Nature Live' program at which scientists meet the public (see <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/naturelive>).
- Developed exhibitions at the Natural History Museum, especially associated with the Darwin Centre (see <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/darwincentre>).
- Regular invited guest on radio and television (BBC, commercial stations and internationally) to discuss topics of taxonomy and evolution. [A letter of support from BBC Radio Science Unit Editor Deborah Cohen states: "Over the last fifteen years or so Dr Sandra Knapp has become one of the UK's leading popularisers of the botanical sciences. . . She has a rare skill amongst researchers of being able to explain concepts simply and with huge enthusiasm. Sandra Knapp is in great demand by radio producers as she is always keen to talk about the wider aspects of biology."]
- Led development of public outreach activities and dialogue for EU-SOL (an integrated project funded by the European Commission to improve food quality in Europe) – see <http://www.eu-sol.net>
- Founding contributor to Encyclopedia of Life (<http://www.eol.org>).
- Regular book reviewer for wide variety of publications from scientific (e.g., *Nature*) to general (e.g., *Times Literary Supplement*).

- Presented over 20 invited public lectures of taxonomic and evolutionary topics.

The committee's recommendation that the Peter Raven Award be given to Dr. Knapp was approved by the Council.

V. Corresponding Members

The ASPT bylaws state that the number of corresponding members shall not exceed 1% of the Society's membership. Because the number of corresponding members (13) equaled 1% of the number of members for 2008—2009 (1346), the Committee did not recommend new corresponding members for approval this year. In addition, the Committee did not receive any nominations for corresponding members.

VI. George R. Cooley Award

The number of aspirants for the Cooley Award at the 2009 annual meeting Snowbird is 47 (up substantially over the 15 aspirants from last year).

The following individuals, including willing members of the Awards and Honors Committee, have agreed to serve on a committee to judge talks for the 2009 Cooley Award (additional members will be solicited):

Larry Hufford, Chair

Travis Columbus

Mark Fishbein

Kathy Kron

Rachel Levin

Aaron Liston

Molly Nepokroeff

Steve Weller

Submitted by Larry Hufford, Chair, Awards and Honors Committee

14 July 2009; revised 22 July 2009