

ASPT Program Director Annual Report for 2008-2009

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Botany 2009 report

I attended Snowbird site visit in 2008. At that meeting we examined the venue and discussed program issues with the other societies involved. This will be the first meeting in some time that includes the Mycological Society of America. Our local representative Lynn Bohs and her students have done an excellent job helping with local logistics, including assistance with field trips and morning plant hikes at Snowbird.

The plans for the Botany 2009 meeting are nearly complete. In early April I organized the systematics program and also the Biogeography "topic" submissions (this is the fourth 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 David Spooner (BSA program director) in structuring the overall program balance and scheduling.

We received 252 abstracts for systematics and the biogeography topic category (does not include symposium abstracts). Of these, 40 are systematics posters, 6 are biogeography posters, 184 are systematics oral presentations, and 22 are biogeography oral presentations. This compares with 268 systematics and biogeography abstracts submitted for the Vancouver conference (not 670 which was reported in error in the 2008 report).

Thirteen symposium/colloquium proposals and one workshop proposal were submitted for Botany 2009. Of these, four symposia and colloquia and one workshop are related to systematics. I worked with Eric Roalson (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 three symposia:

- 1) \$500 ASPT and \$500 Systematics Section for "The Greatest Opportunists of all: Celebrating 40 years of Job Kuijt's 'Biology of Parasitic Flowering Plants'"
Organizers: Christopher Randle, Jeffery Morawetz, and David Tank
- 2) \$500 ASPT and \$1000 Botanical Society of America for "The Challenges Posed by Large Data Sets in Assembling the Plant and Fungal Trees of Life" Organizer: Michael Moore
- 3) \$500 ASPT and \$500 Systematics Section for "Genome, Phenome, Environment, and Evolution of Land Plants" Organizer Yin-Long Qiu

Sponsorship in name only (without financial support). The ASPT and/or BSA Systematics Section sponsored one colloquium:

- 1) "Assembling the Tree of Life: Progress and Challenges" Organizer: Michael Moore

2) Workshop- Developing the US National Virtual Herbarium (USVH) Organizer: Mary Barkworth

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 2010 will be held at Providence, Rhode Island, July 31 – August 4. The dates for the site visit have not yet been determined.

The site for Botany 2011 will be St. Louis, Missouri. Details on the venue will be available for distribution soon.