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Dear Fellow ABLS Members:

It is with great pleasure that I assume the responsibilities of the new President of the ABLS. I have had the honor as past President-Elect of organizing the program for our last two annual meetings with the assistance of a dedicated and skilled executive team.

As ABLS President, I intend to build upon the diverse interests and talents of our membership. Key to our future is our student membership and thus I will facilitate dialogue and advance initiatives that expand and support student participation in all societal endeavors. I look forward to working with Roger Rosentreter, President-Elect, and the newly elected officers to continue to support the mission of the ABLS while remaining receptive to the concerns and needs of each of you.

Let me start by welcoming the new Executive Committee members:

Bernard Goffinet, Editor of *The Bryologist*
Michele Piercey-Normore, Editor of *Evansia*
Jim Bennett, Secretary-Treasurer
John Atwood, Business Manager
Brent Mishler, Chair, Financial Advisory Committee
Katie Glew, Judy Harpel, Jim Hinds, Executive Committee Members-at-Large

Thank you all for agreeing to these new responsibilities.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the past Executive Committee members, including Ted Esslinger, outgoing President; Bob Egan, outgoing Secretary/Treasurer; and Bill Buck and Larry St. Clair, our excellent journal editors. Your efforts were tireless and the Society has prospered because of you.

Now for some updates...

2009 Annual Meeting: The ABLS met in Snowbird, Utah with the Botanical Society of America (BSA) and the Mycological Society of America (MSA) in July, 2009. Two field trips took place in the beautiful Uinta Mountains. If you would like to look over the sessions, abstracts of papers and posters are still online at <http://2009.botanyconference.org/engine/search/index.php>. Well over half of the 39 presentations were made by students. Thus, it was very difficult to select the **2009 recipient of the A. J. Sharp Award**. Congratulations to Jillian D. Bainard for receiving this honor. Her paper, co-

authored with Steve Newmaste, was titled: "Using Flow Cytometry to Estimate Genome Size in Bryophytes: A Closer Look at Methodology."

The 2008 Society Awards also were announced in Snowbird and they are:

Sullivant Award for 2008: Eric S. J. Harris for his article, "Ethnobryology: Traditional Uses and Folk Classification of Bryophytes." *The Bryologist* 111(2): 169–217.

Tuckerman Award for 2008: Anja Amtoft, François Lutzoni and Jolanta Miadlikowska for their Article, "*Dermatocarpon* (Verrucariaceae) in the Ozark Highlands, North America." *The Bryologist* 111(1): 1–40.

The winners of all these awards are to be heartily congratulated!

Future meetings: July 29-August 4, 2010, we will meet with the BSA in Rhode Island. Watch the BSA web site for details at <http://2010.botanyconference.org>. Also, Roger will be soliciting ideas for symposia (deadline to submit to the BSA is November 1, 2009) and field trips (deadline to BSA December 1, 2009) in the very near future. Would anyone like to be the local representative for ABLS at Botany 2010? We are in desperate need of someone to arrange the events and field trips in the Providence area.

In 2011, the ABLS will *not* meet with the BSA but will have a separate meeting at the Conference Center in Roan Mountain, Tennessee. New cabins, each with one queen, two doubles, and one fold-out bed, rent for about \$100 per day. The scenery is spectacular and the lichen and bryophyte habits are diverse. We are not allowed to reserve the Conference Center more than a year in advance. So, I think we should try for the end of June when the rhododendrons are in bloom. What do you think?

I intended to make this a short letter, so let me close for now. I welcome your thoughts and input, and I look forward to an exciting year working with you.

Sincerely,

Karen Renzaglia
President
ABLS