



Dr. Karen Sue Renzaglia
President, ABLS
Dept. of Plant Biology
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901-6509

3 December 2010

Dear Fellow ABLS Members:

Before we all become enthralled in end of semester and holiday activities, I want to catch you up on ABLS activities during 2010.

The meeting in Rhode Island was a success on all fronts from contributed presentations and symposia to field trips. Student presentations were numerous and outstanding. We honored our respected colleagues, Barbara Crandall Stotler and Ray Stotler, and Tom Nash, for their extensive and important contributions to bryology and lichenology, respectively. A special issue of *The Bryologist* dedicated to Drs. Stotler and Crandall-Stotler and an issue of *Lichenologica Bibliotheca* recognizing Dr. Nash are forthcoming. Thank you everyone for making the 2010 meeting a memorable one.

The 2010 Society Awards were announced in Providence and they are:

Sullivant Award for 2009: Amelia Merced-Alejandro and Ines Sastre-de Jesus for their article “A developmental sequence for paraphyses in *Neckeropsis* (Neckeraceae),” *The Bryologist* 112(2): 342–353.

Tuckerman Award for 2008: Soili Stenroos, Seppo Huhtinen, Anne Lesonen, Zdenek Palice & Christian Printzen for their article “*Puttea*, gen. nov., erected for the enigmatic lichen *Lecidea margaritella*,” *The Bryologist* 112(3): 544–557.

This year’s Sharp Award went to Juan Carlos Villarreal for his provocative tale of “Thousands of years without sex: the case of the Southern Appalachian *Nothoceros aenigmaticus*.”

The winners are highly deserving of these awards and are to be heartily congratulated!

With the guidance and insight of a thoughtful and dedicated Executive Committee (EC), we have made considerable progress this year. Because the finances of the Society are in good shape, the EC approved three important actions related to how and when to spend our funds. Although difficult, these decisions (below) were made based the best interest of the membership, including students, and with long deliberation about the future needs and direction of the Society.

1) The ABLS Executive Committee allocated \$9800 from the non-investment portfolio funds to secure a one year contract with Allen Press for implementation of their member services program. Our Secretary/ treasurer, Jim Bennett, advocated for this service, which is subject to further analysis in regards to effectiveness and sustainability. The EC approved this *one time*

commitment on the condition that Dr. Bennett provide analyses of the cost, functionality and feasibility of long-term sustainability of the service. In January 2011, the EC will review the data and through one to several conference calls will discuss, and vote on renewal of this automated membership services program. Your input in the interim is welcomed.

2) The EC voted to commence spending funds from the investment portfolio at the rate of up to 4% of earnings annually. A one-time investment in a virtual flora web project called Symbiota, with expansion into bryophytes (see #3), was also approved. The EC unanimously agreed that future spending from the endowment will focus on supporting students, enhancing the Bryologist and the maintaining the general good of the society. Although subsequent spending decisions will be made by the EC, input will be solicited from the membership prior to voting.

3) In Providence, the EC seized upon the opportunity presented in a proposal by Tom Nash the year before to support the development of Symbiota and to expand this effort to include five large bryological herbaria databases. These lichen and bryophyte databases are 21st-century equivalents of journals, and are central to ABLS's mission. The Committee saw the immediacy of a decision and voted to take advantage of the available expertise to establish a similar suite of data access technologies for all bryologists that will provide taxonomic and environmental information for thousands of specimens. We viewed this investment as one that not only benefits the Society but also expands our visibility and enhances future efforts to obtain outside funding.

In an effort to enhance student involvement in the ABLS, I am seeking volunteers for a three-five member Student Committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee and are a current student and a member of ABLS, please put Student Committee in the subject line and write me an e-mail ASAP. We have much work to do before June, 2011.

Future meetings:

In 2011, the ABLS will *not* meet with the BSA but will have a separate meeting. Tennessee. We hope you will attend our 2011 annual meeting in Roan Mountain, Tennessee, June 20 – June 24. Information is available on our website.

In 2012 meeting we will meet with the BSA in Columbus, Ohio. The 2013 meeting location is undetermined.

I hope I have clarified any concerns the membership may have in regards to EC actions. I welcome any comments and insight and I look to another prosperous year.

Mark your calendars for Roan Mountain in June 2011. Can't wait to see all of you there.

Sincerely,

Karen Renzaglia
President
ABLS
renzaglia@plant.siu.edu