

**Minutes of the General Business Meeting
ABLS
Merrill Hall, Asilomar Conference Center,
Pacific Grove, California
July 15, 2008**

9:00 p.m. Ted Esslinger, President presiding.

1. Minutes of the Xalapa Meeting. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.
2. Future Meetings. The EXCOM has decided to meet with BSA at Snowbird, Utah, in 2009 and Providence, Rhode Island, in 2010. Exact dates will be announced later.
3. Treasurer's Reports. Bob Egan reporting. Bob distributed a financial summary. The society is in good shape and no changes are needed in the dues or subscription structure at this time. Institutional subscriptions are down, but income from BioOne and JSTOR easily offset the loss. This is Bob's last year as Secretary-Treasurer, and a new individual needs to be elected in the spring 2009. Please **forward nominations** to Ted Esslinger or contact Bob Egan for details of the job.
4. Business Manager/Web Master Report. Jim Bennett. There is little activity on the Society News and Bulletin Board sections of the web site and these may be merged or eliminated unless we have more submissions. Be sure to send information to Jim for these sections.
5. Editor's Report. Bill Buck reported that there is no shortage of manuscripts and we have moved from about 600 pages to about 800 pages a year. Our "impact factor" is up from last year. Bill is in his last year as editor, and **the EXCOM needs to appoint a new editor.**
6. Evansia report was distributed by Larry St. Clair. Upgrades to the journal are now complete, and he is starting to enter manuscripts for Volume 26 already. Trevor Goward is doing a short series of essays as a new feature. BYU will be digitizing all past issues and these will be available on the ABLs website in the future. Larry is in his last year as editor, and **a new editor needs to be appointed by the EXCOM.**
7. Lichen Exchange is up and running from BYU now. The exchange will be developing an on-line "shopping cart" system. Reports from the Hepatic Exchange and the Moss Exchange were received from the directors.

8. Society Awards are listed below. Bob will send \$500 checks to the winners. *[Because of complexities caused by the combined ABLs/IAL meeting, two Sharp Awards were given this year. The winners were not announced until after the meetings, since presentations were not concluded until the last day.]*

Sullivant Award: Duff, R. J., J. C. Villarreal, D. C. Cargill & K. S. Renzaglia. 2007. Progress and challenges toward developing a phylogeny and classification of the hornworts. *Bryologist* 110(2): 214-243.

Tuckerman Award: Lücking, R., W. R. Buck & E. Rivas Plata. 2007. The lichen family Gomphillaceae (Ostropales) in eastern North America, with notes on hyphophore development in *Gomphillus* and *Gyalideopsis*. *Bryologist* 110(4): 622-672.

A. J. Sharp Award for 2008 (bryophytes): Scott Schuette (Southern Illinois University). "Ultrastructure, immunocytochemistry and bioinformatics: an interdisciplinary approach to elucidating genetic control of spore wall development in *Physcomitrella patens*"
Honorable mention: Kirsten Coe.

A. J. Sharp Award for 2008 (lichens): Todd Widhelm (University of Nebraska at Omaha). "Testing species delimitations in the *Parmotrema perforatum* group in eastern North America"
Honorable mention: Steven Leavitt.

9. President Ted Esslinger will appoint a Nominating Committee for the next election which will include candidates for Member-At-Large, President-Elect (a lichenologist) and Secretary-Treasurer. Persons interested in any of these positions should contact Ted Esslinger for now.
10. Digital copyright issues. Should we have a specific policy? Bill Buck will find out how many actual .pdfs are purchased from Allen Press *[later in the meetings, he reported that there are very few actually purchased.]* The EXCOM has decided to leave things as they are for now. We do not see any particular abuse of our ABLs copyright on articles from The Bryologist.
11. Ted Esslinger noted that we need new members for the Financial Advisory Committee. **Please contact him** if you are interested.
12. Should we reinstate a Conservation Committee? EXCOM has decided not to at this time. However, it was noted by some of the members present that it might be good to develop a "Code of Practice," especially as it relates to collecting. Ted and others will look into this.

13. Lichenology position at the Smithsonian. It was recommended that President Esslinger get together with the IAL President to send a letter to the administration of the Smithsonian urging that a full-time curator in lichenology be appointed to replace Paula DePriest who has moved to a different Smithsonian position.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by Bob Egan
Secretary-Treasurer