American Bryological and Lichenological Society

2021 Annual membership meeting (virtual), Friday 27 August 2021, 5-6 PM EDT

Meeting Notes

26 participants

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions (Doug Ladd)
2. Guest announcement re: American Journal of Botany (Pamela Diggle)
   * + Reminder that American Journal of Botany wants to be welcome home for bryology/lichenology papers. Just started a new reviews section, hoping to publish 1 synthetic review in each issue, and also short essays on up-and-coming topics. Will share her contact information via the listserve. Publication is free for members of the society. Cost for open access is quite low, like $500 for members.
     + Question from James – could the AJB digests be shared over the ABLS listserve? We will look into it. Anyone can also subscribe to their table of contents.
3. News and updates
   * Membership (Diane Haughland)
     + Listserve, feel free to communicate with ABLS members, moderated
     + The new Emeritus and Retired memberships have been well received, with 38 and 41 members respectively taking advantage of the discounted rates. Emeritus members are retired members that have belonged to ABLS for at least 25 years; they receive free membership. Retired members receive a discounted rate of $15 as of 2020. This represents a discount to our members totaling approximately $1,360.
     + Overall membership has dropped since 2012, from 597 to 457 members. The biggest drop is in individual membership, which is down to 265 from 461, and family memberships. After accounting for the 79 emeritus and retired members that likely switched membership categories, we’ve lost 117 individual memberships, largely since 2015, and with a more precipitous drop during COVID. We’ve also lost most of our family members.
     + Action item - lapsed member campaign?
     + Most of EC activity this year around helping members, covering costs for students at annual meeting, providing funding to ABLS members to attend IAL
     + Also highlight that we are giving out a total of 4 field grants to students worth $1000 now - undersubscribed in 2021.
     + Upcoming poll around what you would like to see from ABLS, and how you feel about transitioning to online only or print on demand journal services
       - Option 1: increase cost of print to cover costs
       - No longer offer print: and also stop charging royalties for papers? Royalties are covering much of journal costs.
       - Offer print on demand?
   * Treasurer (Steve Leavitt)
     + Overall, in good shape with ~1 million, mostly in portfolio account
     + Our expenses exceeded income by ~5K this year, both are in decline, most of costs for both journals are printing and distribution, passed that threshold in 2018 so expenses exceeding income for last 3 years
     + Discussion/questions from members:
       - Current lack of administrative support for formatting and work that the editors put in; still a lot of work provided by Allen Press to format Bryologist.
       - Do editors get compensation? Small honorarium, some sentiment that we should do more.
       - Some support spoken for going online only and the inevitability of it; some question about whether we’re worrying unnecessarily because we’re in a good overall position as a society.
       - Questions around how online would work, but deferred until we know what our target format is
       - Steve mentioned that we could be using that portfolio money more creatively, perhaps providing research grants or more student grants.
     + Update from Doug: Investments/finance committee transition – problem that we have a committee but we can’t recruit to it. Just got signatures in place so that the portfolio is now under a professional manager rather than a committee, with a new minor expense. Major challenge in next few years is to plan for that portfolio so we can actually use it to help the members. Cash holdings in there are around 5% up from 1%. Thanks to Jim Bennett for his work on this portfolio and for delaying his resignation. Brent remarked that we shouldn’t touch the body of this investment, just the income generation by it.
   * Bryologist (Jim Lawry)
     + Highlights: journal doing fine, holding steady on submissions and acceptances, impact factor declined a bit after blip from some high-impact papers. Some resignations and replacements in editorial board. Have a new open access policy with associated fee.
     + Contract with Allen Press up at end of year, need to decide who and how we want to move forward, expires at end of 2021.
   * Evansia (Scott LaGreca)
     + Highlights: good equity in publication, still receiving high quality floristic work, also have open access possibility and author copies.
     + New requirement – floristic papers have to put their checklist online through the CNALH or CNABH, included in author instructions.
     + Questions/Discussion from members: any progress on long-term digitization of back issues? Proposed to happen through Troy and CNALH? Or Suzy and Steve L as all back issues are at BY? Scott will add to action item list.
   * Website (Klara Scharnagl)
     + <https://ablsociety.wixsite.com/abls> address for new website, is being used, largely by folks linking through old website, some folks are finding independent of that
     + Want to close down old website, but dealing with some logistics in moving the domain name which we want to retain for the new site.
     + Previous website on google sites, now on wix platform; Klara will continue to improve useability and function for members
   * Awards (Doug)
     + Field Research Awards are made each year for student researchers. The Anderson-Crum award is made for bryology and the Culberson-Hale award is made for lichenology. There were no applications this year for the Anderson-Crum Award, but there were 5 applications for the Culberson-Hale Award, and based on the recommendations of the judges, the awardees were: Zach Muscavitch (University of Connecticut): “The search for Niebla and Trebouxia: a lichenologist heads south.” & Angelia Romano (University of Colorado): “Lichen-invertebrate interactions in the Great Smoky Mountains.”
     + SULLIVANT AWARD for best paper on bryology for 2020 (volume 123): VIGALONDO, B., I. DRAPER, V. MAZIMPAKA, J. A. CALLEJA, F. LARA & R. GARILLETI. 2020. The Lewinskya affinis complex (Orthotrichaceae) revisited: species description and differentiation. Bryologist 123(3): 455–482.
     + TUCKERMAN AWARD for best paper on lichenology for 2020 (volume 123): LENDEMER, J. C. & J. L. ALLEN. 2020. A revision of Hypotrachyna subgenus Parmelinopsis (Parmeliaceae) in eastern North America. Bryologist 123(2): 265–332.
   * Meetings (Scott Schuette)
     + 2021 meeting highlights
       - 23 oral and 5 poster presentations
       - Supported 13 students by paying for their registration
       - Abstract book will be published so its citeable and will be available online
       - The 2021 A. J. Sharp Award for the best paper presented by a student at the ABLS annual meeting was announced after the meeting, selected by a team appointed by the Executive Committee. The winner for 2021 is:

Christina Rinas (Université de Sherbrooke) for her presentation, “Diversity and composition of arboreal bryophytes and lichens along a temperate to boreal elevation gradient at Mont Mégantic National Park, Québec. Co-authors were Troy McMullin, François Rousseu, and Mark Vellend. Honorable mentions to: Giovanna Bishop (Eastern Washington University) for “The impacts of rock climbing on lichen and bryophyte cliff communities in northwestern North America” Georgia Harrison, Krisztian Magori,- Robin O'Quinn, and Jessica Allen were co-authors. Daniel Tucker (University of Alberta) for “Bryophyte Communities in Quercus garryana ecosystems on south east Vancouver Island: Preliminary mesohabitat assessment.” Catherine LaFarge was co-author.

* + - * Generated ~ $2K in revenue, should get some money back because of that next year
    - 2022 meeting (will be the best one ever!)
      * Anchorage Alaska – spread the word, get your colleagues and students out; we will again provide student financial support.
  + 2022 subscription rates (Doug)
    - * Staying the same as in 2021 in recognition of COVID and declining membership, and until we renegotiate our new contract

1. Action item – membership vote: revisions to ABLS constitution and bylaws
   * Voted via chat storm – passed unanimously 24 in favor, 0 against
2. Officer and Executive Committee transitions (Doug)
   * Congratulations to our new President elect: Daphne Stone, Treasurer: Klara Scharnagl, Members at Large: Jessica Allen & James Lendemer, and Graduate Student Member at Large: Giovanna Bishop
   * Continued welcome and thanks to incoming president Scott Schuette
   * Thanks to outgoing president Doug Ladd, outgoing members at large Klara Scharnagl and Emily Holt, and outgoing Treasurer Steve Leavitt for their invaluable contributions.
3. Membership items/discussion
   * Covered in above reports
4. Closing remarks and adjournment (Doug)
5. Member issues & comments
   * Kudos to Scott for a readable journal – let’s promote it more and get more subscriptions going! Scott said going online will allow us to expand the journal even further, perhaps with some inspiration from the British lichen and bryophyte societies.
   * More discussion around moving online and providing more benefits to members – discounts (maybe shared memberships across societies)
   * Formal round of applause for the outgoing executive.