

**2016 ABLs General Membership Business Meeting**  
**August 3, 2016 – 6-7 pm**  
**Minutes – 8-5-2016 revised 9-25-2016**

Attending: EC members Larry St. Clair, Scott Schuette, Jessica Budke, Susan Will-Wolf, 11-16 additional ABLs members.

1. The 5:45 start time for the meeting was delayed to 6 pm to allow for arrival of members attending the last presentation sessions. President Larry St. Clair welcomed attendees, and reviewed the newest EC members. Theresa Clark, the new student member-at-large, attended the Executive Committee meeting. The reconstituted Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) of chair Jim Bennett and members Shirley Tucker and Dale Vitt were thanked for their production of a formal financial investments policy; Vitt presented their report at the EC meeting. Larry thanked Malcolm Hodges for leading the field trip with the help of Sean Beeching, and The Nature Conservancy for supporting Malcolm Hodges for this purpose. Attendees rated the field trip a great success despite the heat, humidity, and chiggers.
2. Larry thanked all members for their contributions to a successful meeting, anonymous student presentation (Sharp) award selection committee members for their time, and announced award recipients.
  - a. The Sullivant award for best paper on bryology for 2015 (volume 118): Klips, Robert A. 2015. DNA microsatellite analysis of sporophytes of the short-lived moss *Physcomitrium pyriforme* reveals a predominantly self-fertilizing mating pattern. *The Bryologist* 118(2): 200–211.
  - b. The Tuckerman award for best paper on lichenology for 2015 (volume 118): Cleavitt, Natalie L., James W. Hinds, Richard L. Poirot, Linda H. Geiser, Alison C. Dibble, Bennet Leon, Ralph Perron and Linda H. Pardo. 2015. Epiphytic macrolichen communities correspond to patterns of sulfur and nitrogen deposition in the northeastern United States. *The Bryologist* 118(3): 304–324.
  - c. The 2016 Sharp award for best student presentation went to James Wood (University of Georgia) for “Organic matter retention and insect utilization of seasonally inundated bryophytes in a mid-order Piedmont river.”
3. Treasurer Scott Schuette summarized the FAC, Treasurer, and Journal reports. The ABLs investment portfolio is healthy, with a current value of \$685K after average 2016 growth of 10%. The ABLs operating budget still shows income > expenses by \$26K, but journal subscriptions continue to decline, publication costs continue to increase, and royalty income (Bio-One and JSTOR responsible for the current positive balance) appears to have reached a plateau. The *Bryologist* had fewer submissions in 2015 and the impact factor dropped a bit; *Evansia* has remained stable. *Evansia* publication time has declined from 1 year to 9 months.
4. Jessica Budke reviewed suggestions from Theresa Clark to increase student interest and membership. This generated much discussion from attendees.

- a. Subsidize for students the cost for meeting-associated field trips. Interacting with bryologists and lichenologists in the field is an excellent avenue for drawing in students. Discussion – use endowment income (above 5% earnings) for this as available. if feasible consider subsidizing student member costs for Botany 2017 ABLS FT by 10% or more. Advertise widely to meeting participants; still require student membership to receive subsidy. Subsidy needs to be notably larger than the \$10 membership to be attractive.
  - b. Increase amount for field research awards. Increases could be sustainable given recent and promised donations to the field research award endowment.
  - c. Add links on BSA web site to ABLS and provide information about ABLS on the BSA web site.
  - d. Include on ABLS web site pictures, brief bios, and contact information for all current student members that are interested. Other students including undergraduates can use this as a resource to find out information about graduate schools and research.
  - e. Contribution from floor: Introduce to journals a young scientist option and/or a student section.
  - f. Contribution from floor: Better advertise and expand social media options; might need volunteers from the membership to facilitate this suggestion.
  - g. Contribution from floor: ABLS should contribute to meeting teaching sessions, or perhaps sponsor a ½ day workshop, in conjunction with BSA meeting, on how to teach including information about basic tools for teaching lichenology and bryology.
  - h. Contribution from floor: Add to the ABLS website links to and/or content on modules for teaching exercises that feature bryophytes and/or lichens.
  - i. Budke and Clark will work to implement some of the above suggestions and facilitate EC discussions toward implementing others. Realistically, several of these suggestions will require contributions of time and materials from members to facilitate them. Peter Nelson and Will-Wolf will assist with communications to members.
5. Susan Will-Wolf summarized reports from the exchanges, the Webmaster, and the Secretary.
- a. The Hepatic, Moss, and Lichen Exchanges continue to have low activity. Steven Leavitt has agreed to take over the Lichen Exchange from Larry St. Clair starting September 1, 2016. Larry will discuss with other exchange directors the possibility to convert the Lichen Exchange web site hosted by BYU to a combined website for all ABLS exchanges. Leavitt is willing to manage this and BYU is willing to host a combined website.
  - b. Peter Nelson, the ABLS webmaster, has had limited time in the past year. His first priority next year is to solicit bids for an improved web site platform and function.
  - c. Membership continues to decline; the Secretary keeps busy communicating with EC and members, and managing sales of archived publications.

6. Will-Wolf also summarized planning and the schedule for nomination and election of new officers to take office at the end of the 2017 annual meeting. Two nominating committees, one for president-elect, another for Treasurer and 3 members-at-large, will be convened and then announced in late summer/early fall. Each committee will call for nominations and will develop a slate of nominees by late fall. Election will be by electronic vote in winter 2016-17.
7. St. Clair presented plans for the 2018 ABLS annual meeting: ABLS will meet alone at the U of Colorado Mountain Research Station in mid-August, with Erin Tripp as local host. There will be a mix of field excursions in the morning and talks in the afternoon with time for lab ID of specimens. Full cost for lodging, food, and meeting facilities for a 4-5 day meeting is estimated at about \$400. An organizing committee will be set up this fall. We will poll members about exact dates, likelihood of attending, and need for microscopes.
8. ABLS will meet with BSA in Fort Worth, Texas, 24-28 June, 2017.
9. St. Clair reviewed the option for limited support for EC members to attend the 2017 annual meeting. Members agreed that repeating the 2016 option - \$2000 total for all EC members requesting support – is reasonable.
10. No other business was brought from the floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

Minutes by Secretary Susan Will-Wolf with input from attending EC members.