

2017 ABLs General Membership Business Meeting
June 27, 2017
Minutes 6-29-2017 revised 7-10-17

1. President Larry St. Clair convened the meeting at 5:30 pm and introduced the incoming Executive Council (EC) members: President-Elect Douglas Ladd, Treasurer Steven Leavitt (also Lichen Exchange Director), Member-at-large Emily Holt, and Student Member-at-large Klara Scharnagl. They will assume their responsibilities at the end of this business meeting.
2. St. Clair thanked Dale Kruse for organizing and leading a great field trip that included 21 participants, and thanked Wayne and Jeanne Erickson for graciously hosting the field trip at their property.
3. The 2017 ABLs award recipients were announced:
 - A. **Sullivan award** winner, Bryologist v119, 2016: LLOYD R. STARK, JOHN C. BRINDA AND JOSHUA L. GREENWOOD. 2016. Propagula and shoots of *Syntrichia pagorum* (Pottiaceae) exhibit different ecological strategies of desiccation tolerance. The Bryologist 119(2): 181–192.
 - B. **Tuckerman award** winner, Bryologist v119, 2016: ROBERT LÜCKING, BRENDAN P. HODKINSON AND STEVEN D. LEAVITT. 2016. The 2016 classification of lichenized fungi in the Ascomycota and Basidiomycota – Approaching one thousand genera. The Bryologist 119(4): 361–416.
 - C. **Anderson-Crum** 2017 field research award winners: Jenna Baughman, UC Berkeley (Mishler); Theresa Clark, UNLV (Stark)
 - D. **Culberson-Hale** 2017 field research award winners: Jordan Hoffman, CUNY/NYBG (Lendemer); Todd Widhelm, UIC/Chicago Field Museum (Lumbsch)
 - E. **Sharp award** winner for best student talk: Jessica Allen, for her talk “Population Genomics of the Rock Gnome Lichen (*Cetradonia linearis*) Characterized by Low Rates of Recombination and Strong Isolation by Distance.” Honorable mentions went to Dinah Parker and Todd Widhelm for their presentations.
4. St. Clair summarized EC reports and proposals accepted:
 - A. ABLs finances (both royalty income and the endowment) are in good shape, while memberships and journal subscriptions continue to decline (similar to other professional plant societies).
 - B. Membership and subscription fees are heavily subsidized by revenues from Bio-One and JSTOR to cover the full cost of membership services and publishing the journals, though donations to student research awards and student travel funds were higher this year.
 - C. The EC voted to evenly distribute \$50,000 from the checking account between two interest-bearing funds, a spendable account in the investment portfolio and the Anderson-Crum student research support fund (a fund generously supported by 2 donors – Larry Giles and Ernie Brodo).

- D. The Bryologist impact factor was 1.270 for 2016 (well up from before), submissions to both journals remain stable, and The Bryologist editorial board alerted the EC to some administrative changes to be proposed soon.
- E. As published in notes in both The Bryologist and Evansia earlier this year, the EC is looking at options to increase fees and reduce subsidies to membership and journal subscription costs from income and will provide feedback to the membership soon.
- F. Accepting a proposal from Bernard Goffinet and Tom Nash, the EC has established a member lifetime achievement award (non-student, no cash) to be given every two years, alternating between a late-career distinguished bryologist and lichenologist – details will be sent out to the membership soon. An ad hoc committee will be appointed to receive nominations.

Discussion: Barbara Crandall-Stotler asked why, if ABLS finances are in good shape, the EC is considering raising membership and subscription fees. A discussion ensued, including these points: costs for membership services and journal publication continue to increase each year; member rates have remained the same for many years; Bio-One and JSTOR revenues are increasing more slowly than costs, and may be stabilizing; membership is declining, so increasing costs too much might further erode membership; it would be good to better advertise membership advantages and recruit more students; the EC wants to adjust income while society finances are healthy, rather than waiting for a crisis.

- 5. In addition to the Anderson-Crum and Culberson-Hale student field research awards, St. Clair announced two additional awards each with a \$1,000 honorarium – one for a bryologist post-doc and one for a lichenologist post-doc who are ABLS members to attend and give an invited lecture at the 2018 meeting in Colorado. Funds will come from the augmented Anderson-Crum fund. Support and recognition for post-doc members will be considered for future years from this fund.
- 6. Specimen exchanges are being underused; a member survey about them will be sent in the Fall. Steve Leavitt (Lichen Exchange) will work with the Secretary to design the survey.
- 7. St. Clair reported that ABLS supported and actively participated in the BSA-sponsored undergraduate event this year. It was a great success; Klara Scharnagl and Jessica Budke did a wonderful job of representing ABLS and sharing 50 copies of a full color trifold brochure prepared by Theresa Clark.
- 8. President-elect Catherine La Farge discussed the ABLS web site: The EC will request bids for contracts to revise design and routinely manage the society web site on a new platform. Members will likely be sent a survey in the fall relating to the revised web site.
- 9. St. Clair reviewed plans to meet alone in 2018. ABLS will meet alone August 12-16, 2018 at the University of Colorado Mountain Research Station west of Boulder. The MRS can sleep 75 persons, and accommodate more for forays and meetings. Total

meeting cost will be ~\$550/person for registration, onsite lodging, and meals. Expressions of serious interest will be requested in fall, with calls for presentation abstracts and registration to follow. We will rejoin BSA in 2019 at the Tucson meeting.

10. St. Clair reviewed the option for and requested comment on limited support for EC members to attend the annual meeting - no more than \$2,000 total for all support. Members agreed the practice was reasonable.
11. Leadership responsibilities were transferred to the new EC. Incoming President Catherine La Farge thanked outgoing EC members Larry St Clair for his service as president and lichen exchange director, Scott Schuette for his service as treasurer, Peter Nelson for his service as a member at large, Theresa Clark for her service as student member at large, and Shirley Tucker as a member of the Financial Advisory committee
12. No other business was brought forward. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.