

ABLS Annual General Business Meeting - Minutes

July 29, 2015

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

President Jon Shaw presiding, ~40 members attending
The meeting was convened at 5:30pm by Jon Shaw

Introduction

President Jon Shaw congratulated the members on a successful meeting, and thanked Catherine La Farge for a successful pre-meeting field trip.

The Bryologist

James Lawrey (editor): Thanked the Associate Editors. After three years with Academic Press, the journal's impact factor has risen substantially. Submissions are steady; the revised format works well. Lawrey will remain editor of *The Bryologist* for another 5-year term.

American Journal of Botany

Pam Diggle (editor): *AJB* accepts and would like more papers on lichens and bryophytes. They advertise highlights of papers and they accept essays of up to 1200 words.

Awards

Best 2014 papers in *The Bryologist*:

Sullivant award – best bryology paper: Stemomein et al. Adaptive radiation

Tuckerman award – best lichenology paper: Moncado et al. Hawai'ian *Pseudocyphellaria*

Field research awards:

Anderson-Crum for bryology: Theresa Clark (Stark), Meryom Patillo (Freeman/Woods)

Culberson-Hale for lichenology: Jessica Allen (Buck), Kathleen Thompson (Colbert)

Member Larry Giles was thanked for a generous donation of \$22K to support field research awards.

Best student presentation: Manuela Dal Forno (Lawrey)

Student travel awards: Awards for travel to Botany 2015 were given to nine student ABLs members.

Treasurer Report

Scott Schuette: The ABLs endowment is now above the 2007 (before the recession) level. Net gain in fiscal year 2014-15 was \$1K. Royalties (especially from BioOne) and subscriptions support journal costs. There has been no increase in membership or subscription numbers. Long-term planning for journals, with member discussion, will include the option to phase out paper issues. Lifetime membership has been reinstated; it is \$1K with no age limit, and not including journals.

Future meetings

Meeting dates: ABLs will meet with BSA in Savannah, GA, 28 July-Aug 3, 2016. ABLs will co-sponsor with \$1K the Botany 2016 colloquium proposal "Seed-free

Plants at the Genomic Scale” by Matthew Johnson & Erin Segal. ABLIS will meet with BSA in Fort Worth, TX, 24-28 June, 2017.

ABLIS meeting alone: Discussion points – (1) ABLIS alone meetings have a congenial atmosphere with usually more amateur member participation; (2) ABLIS meetings with BSA have good logistic support and provide good networking opportunities, so more attractive for graduate students and grant funding support. Members generally supported meeting alone every 4/5 years. An email notice will be sent to the membership, soliciting opinions and requesting volunteers to host an alone meeting.

BSA meeting symposium process: The EC supports the new structure for BSA meeting symposium proposals. Proposals are due July 1 of the year BEFORE the meeting. Participating societies will decide on support at the previous year meeting; only 6 will be accepted. Symposia will need to be cross-disciplinary to make the 1st cut. Members also pointed out the need for gender balance.

Support for officer travel to meetings: Discussion supported the EC decision to occasionally allow this, with limits and with the two past presidents reviewing requests and making recommendations to the EC.

Support from members needed

Shaw called for more support from members: for more student field research awards applicants, and by voting in elections. There should be more advertising for both. If possible, field research awards should be for higher amounts.

Evansia

Larry St. Clair (for editor Scott LaGreca in absentia): Evansia should become more attractive to all ABLIS members, including amateurs. Free color online is available. Solicitations for news items from members/subscribers should be sent out. Discussion notes will be forwarded to LaGreca.

Thanks and change of officers

Jon Shaw thanked Catherine La Farge for being the local ABLIS meeting host and field trip organizer. Then he handed the meeting to Larry St. Clair, who becomes President. Catherine La Farge becomes President-Elect and meetings organizer for the next 2 years.

Larry St. Clair thanked Jon Shaw for his excellent service to ABLIS for the past 4 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm by President Larry St. Clair.

Minutes by Susan Will-Wolf, Secretary, as edited by Executive Committee members.