

Paleobotanical Section
Botanical Society of America
2007 Business Meeting
July 11, 2007

Minutes

Chair Kevin Boyce called the meeting to order at 4:35 p. m.

Minutes of 2006 Meeting

The secretary reported that the 2005 minutes were regrettably lost due to a computer malfunction.

A motion was seconded to accept the 2006 minutes. The motion passed.

Report from Chair

The chair thanked Ian Glasspool for organizing the field trip to Mazon Creek, Ruth Stockey for organizing the Paleobotany Banquet, section presiders Diane Erwin, Kevin Boyce, Gene Mapes, Will Taylor, Brian Axsmith, Lisa Boucher, and Rudy Serbet, and symposium organizers Gar Rothwell, Adrienne Nicotra, and Pam and Doug Soltis. Witt Taylor and Selena Smith, organizers of the Carlquist symposium, were given special recognition for being the first graduate students to organize a symposium at the BSA meetings.

Report from Secretary

Currently we have 237 total members, which is up by 10. The membership list is being updated, so these numbers may be changing.

Report from Treasurer

The budget was presented from the BSA office and from the treasurer's fund. There was not auction this year. The button ("Compressions Rock, Nodules Roll") sales raised \$213.00.

The treasurer's fund (Wachovia Bank account) has a balance of \$613.75 as of 7-11-07.

The BSA accounts have total available funds of \$85,789.67.

Cash	\$11,205.31
Allotment	\$300.00
Endowment	\$23,268.67
Becker	\$9,803.46
Cichan	\$14,892.71
Cookson	\$17,264.05
Remy & Remy	\$9,055.47

Report on Executive Council Meeting

Reports on the web at www.botany.org, under Conferences, Botany 2007

1. Section member Karl Niklas is president elect
2. Young Botanist Awards – March deadline, information on web
3. AJB impact factor up from 22 to 16; recommended that institutional rates up \$50, members rates up \$5 for print (students no increase); Karl Niklas discussed that AJB will now be printed by Sheridan Press due to better printing quality, better electronic submission and editing mechanisms, and lower cost
4. Future BSA Meetings: 2008 Vancouver July 26 – 30 w/Canadian Bot. Soc.; 2009 Snowbird, UT, July 25-31, with Mycological Society of America
5. Education committee, 2009 year of plants, number of initiatives, for more information contact Gordon Uno
6. Finance: endowment is in very good shape, 1.3 million in assets, 16% return
7. Development of a Strategic Plan that has these areas: collaboration, promotion, public policy, outreach, and membership including international and student. If you are interested in being on the Strategic Planning Committee, contact the section secretary/treasurer and chair.

Report on Bibliography of North American Paleobotany

Walt Cressler, editor, is soliciting entries for 2006 until July 31. The bibliography will be completed and sent out after that time.

Reports on Meetings

1) Recent meetings

Bonnie Jacobs reported that the 2007 MPC was held at Southern Methodist University. It was well attended and included a field trip to Permian localities in Texas.

2) Upcoming Meetings

1. 2008 Midcontinent Paleobotanical Conference – Brian Axsmith

The 25th Midcontinent Paleobotanical conference will be March 14-16 at the University of South Alabama at Mobile, Alabama. Registration begins September 1, 2007 at www.southalabama.edu/mpc25. Contact Brian Axsmith at baxsmith@jaguar1.usouthal.edu.

2. 2008 International Organization of Palaeobotany – Gar Rothwell

The IOP meeting will be Aug 29 – Sept. 5 in Bonn, Germany, organized by Hans Kerp and Thomas Lipp. Requests for symposia will be honored until August 5. More information will be forthcoming in the IOP Newsletter to be sent out shortly.

3. 2008 Botanical Society of America, jointly meeting with the Canadian Botanical Society

July 25-31 at Vancouver, British Columbia

Field trip information:

The McAbee Forest, a window into the Early Eocene of the Okanagan Highlands
R.M Dilihoff, T.A. Dilihoff , R.A. Stockey

This is a two-day trip to visit the McAbee fossil deposit near Cache Creek, British Columbia. Participants will have the opportunity to collect finely preserved Eocene fossil plants at the site, as well as experience the geology and natural beauty of inland British Columbia. An episode of island arc volcanism in the Early to Middle Eocene left silica rich, lacustrine deposits stretching from north central Washington State to central British Columbia. These sediments record mixed coniferous/broadleaved temperate forests, in contrast to roughly coeval Northwest lowland forests which were dominated by tree ferns, palms and warm climate angiosperms. Well preserved fossils from the Okanagan Highlands provide early records and document evolution of important modern temperate families such as the Betulaceae, Fagaceae, Rosaceae and Ulmaceae. The McAbee site near Cache Creek, B.C. lies in the approximate center of the Okanagan Highlands. The fossils at this locality are preserved in diatomite which can preserve fine features important to taxonomic study and include indentifiable pollen. A diverse temperate forest with one hundred twenty recorded morphotypes grew in the watershed surrounding the lake, dominated by angiosperms but including at least seventeen conifer morphotypes. *Fagus*, *Betula*, *Alnus*, *Ulmus* and *Sassafras* are the most common angiosperms but the rarer morphotypes reveal the true diversity of the flora. The conifer pollen rain was dominated by Pinaceae including *Abies*, *Pinus*, *Picea*, *Pseudolarix* and *Tsuga*. With the exception of *Tsuga* these genera are also common as megafossils, along with *Chamaecyparis*, *Thuja*, *Sequoia* and *Metasequoia*. Besides the plants, abundant insect fossils and the fish *Eohiodon rosei* are commonly found.

4. The 2009 Botanical Society of America will be at Snowbird, Utah. Dates are yet to be announced.

Old Business

1) Award/Recognition Committee

At the 2006 section business meeting, Tom Taylor proposed that the section explore developing a new award. A committee was appointed consisting of David Dilcher, Lisa Boucher, Bill Schopf, Kathleen Pigg, and Gary Upchurch (chair).

The committee recommended:

1. An award be developed.
2. The award be called the Paleobotanical Section of the Botanical Society of America Award for Contributions to Paleobotany
3. Recommended that the criteria be broad: contributions to paleobotany, service or outstanding scholarship.
4. Recommended by the secretary/treasurer
5. That typically two per year be awarded but more could be available in exceptional circumstances
6. Secretary/treasurer review possible candidates each year
7. A committee form as needed to decide recipients of the award
8. That the award be accompanied by a plaque
9. The award does not have to be given every year but can be yearly as needed

Discussion: The members of the section were supportive of the recommendations and that the secretary treasurer and a committee should decide recipients. The section as a whole felt that only members of the section should be recipients.

2) Isabel Cookson Award Criteria Committee

Tom Taylor reported for the Isabel Cookson Award Criteria Committee. The Committee consisted of Tom Taylor, Ruth Stockey, and Pat Gensel. The purpose of the committee was to develop criteria that would provide guidance for both the students and the judges in their preparation and evaluation of talks for the Isabel Cookson Award.

A few minor changes were made to the committee's recommendations and these are reflected in the minutes below.

Acceptance of the criteria was moved and seconded. The vote was in favor of acceptance.

The revised statement of the committee [suggested deletions are struck out; additions are underlined]:

The Isabel Cookson Award was established in 1976 by a bequest from Isabel Cookson. The award supports the Isabel C. Cookson Paleobotanical Award, which is given to the student who delivers an outstanding contributed paper in the Paleobotanical Section at the annual meeting.

The following criteria are used by the Cookson Award Committee in selecting the best student paper.

1. The award recognizes a contribution by an undergraduate or graduate student at any stage in her/his career in the form of an oral presentation at the annual meeting. The award is not intended for a body of work (MS thesis or PhD dissertation), but rather research on some aspect of paleobotany.

2. The award is given for a student research project in which the student is the sole or first author. The project should have well defined goals, offer questions that were addressed, fit into the larger theme of the discipline, and judged to be a significant contribution.
3. The project research should be professionally delivered and not read in total, with appropriate visual aids, and have an introduction, objectives and conclusions. The presentation should strictly conform to the time limit, with an opportunity for questions. The student should be professionally dressed.
4. The presentation should be more than the report of a new technique, although such a report if presented in the context of answering a specific question, and/or addressing a new set of objectives is acceptable.
5. To be eligible the student must be a member of the Botanical Society of America and the Paleobotanical Section.
6. In determining the Cookson recipient, the selection committee should in no way be biased by the subject area of former Cookson prize winners, age or subject matter of the material studied, or any other factors that might be deemed peripheral to the research and presentation, such as the student's level in their education.
7. If called upon, the student should be able to respond to questions in a professional manner.
8. There may be instances where the quality of the presentations in the Cookson competition is judged to be less than meritorious. In those instances it is appropriate that no award be given that year.

New Business

- 1) No Cichan Award was presented this year.
- 2) No Remy Award was presented this year.

Based on a BSA new student member initiative, it was proposed that gift membership to students, for new student members only, be \$10 instead of \$15 for BSA. The BSA asked that we vote to waive section dues for the first year. In subsequent years, students will pay \$15 BSA dues and all section dues. This was moved and seconded, and on vote passed.

3) A motion was made by Pat Gensel to allow the section to vote by email between business meetings on important matters. The motion was seconded. A motion to amend the proposal was made by Edith Taylor that all email votes require a motion and a second. The amendment was seconded. On vote on the amendment passed. On vote, the motion passed as amended.

4) An email from Bruce Tiffney requested travel funding for John Perlin, an author, to interview Charles Beck about the evolution of trees. The section expressed its support but did not feel that monetary support was appropriate.

5) David Dilcher propped that Sun Ge be nominated as a corresponding member of the section. The section expressed its general support if the number of corresponding members is being increased.

6) Tom Taylor moved that the section commit up to \$7500 for 15 student travel awards of \$500 each for student members of the section for the upcoming 2008 IOP meetings in Bonn, Germany. The motion was seconded and passed by vote of the section. The chair will appoint a committee to administer the awards.

7) A motion was passed to supply up to \$2000.00 to fund expenses for field trip planning for Vancouver 2008 and if possible to reduce participation costs for students.

Report by Isabel Cookson Award Committee

The Isabel Cookson Award Committee consisted of Will Taylor, Genaro Hernandez-Castillo, and Caroline Stromberg. Heather Sanders of OhioUniversity, is the recipient for 2007 for the paper titled "Upside down auxin suggests the evolutionary origin of isoetalean rhizomorphs" Her co-authors were Gar W. Rothwell and Sarah Wyatt

Report by Section Chair Nomination Committee

The Section Chair Nomination Committee consisted of Brian Axsmith, Bonnie Jacobs, and Kathleen Pigg. The committee nominated Alexandru Tomescu. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed and that the candidate be elected by acclamation. The motion passed.

Report by Secretary/Treasurer Nomination Committee

The Secretary/Treasurer Nomination Committee consisted of Pat Gensel, Steve Manchester, and Elisabeth Wheeler. The committee nominated Michael Dunn. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed and that the candidate be elected by acclamation. The motion passed.

Adjournment at 6:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Mickle
Secretary/Treasurer