

**CANADIAN BOTANICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**ASSOCIATION BOTANIQUE DU CANADA**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2012**

**Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 12:00 to 14:00 pm, Columbus, Ohio**

**Those Present:** Sarangi Athukorala, Katya Boudko, Thomas Braukmann, Paul Catling, Courtney Clayson, David Clements, Mihai Costea, Adrian Dauphinee, Art Davies, Tim Dickinson, Jennifer Doubt, Rodger Evans, Bruce Ford, Moira Galway, Claire Gilmore, Frédérique Guinel, Arunika Gunawardena, James Jones, Brenda Kostruk, Christian Lacroix, Christina Lord, James Macklin, Christine Maxwell, John McNeill, Marian Munro, Zoe Panchen, Stephanie Riviere, Anuar Rodrigues, Vipen Sawhney, Wayne Sawtell, Santokh Singh, Julian Starr, Saša Stephanovic, Linda Tackaberry, Brinda Timsina, Liette Vasseur, Michael Wright, Jane Young, Erin Zimmerman. President Hugues Massicotte was in the Chair.

**Recognition:** The President recognized three members: Jane Young for her Collaborative Research Award at UNBC, Arunika Gunawardena, for her Teaching Award at Dalhousie, and John McNeill as a distinguished member attending the meeting.

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda.** The Agenda was adopted unanimously on a motion by Marian Munro, seconded by Liette Vasseur.
- 2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM.** The minutes were adopted with some minor word changes, on a motion by Frédérique Guinel, seconded by Vipen Sawhney. The Acting secretary would send out the corrected minutes to the members.
- 3. Matters arising from the minutes.** Any matters would be covered in the President's report.

**4. Reports of Officers**

**a. President's report.**

**i. Past and Future Meetings.**

**2011. Halifax, Plant Canada.** The financial report for this was not yet available.

**2013. Thompson Rivers University.** Cindy Ross Friedman and team have progressed significantly with the arrangements, financial support and theme: there is an advertising poster on display in Columbus. The meeting is scheduled **for June 1<sup>st</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> 2013**. This is a CBA only meeting as there was no interest from the CSEE to have a joint meeting.

**2014. Montreal.** The President had contacted Anne Bruneau, Denis Barabé and Luc Brouillet and they have confirmed that they will hold the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting in 2014. Given the significance of this gathering, we hope to have an historical flavor (symposia, special lectures, academic genealogy tree) in addition to the academic proceedings. Un Congrès à ne pas manquer! More details will be forthcoming over the coming year.

**2015.** The President had been contacted by Johanne Stogran, conference organizer of the Botanical Society of America in April, to ask if we would consider a joint meeting with BSA, three years from now, as it is their turn to come to Canada and the venue (Edmonton) had just been secured. This would also be a Plant Canada year and therefore a unique opportunity to have a joint Plant Canada-BSA meeting. The PC members present for the organizational conference call (April 25) were in general in favour of this idea.

A motion to hold a joint meeting of the BSA and Plant Canada in Edmonton in 2015 was proposed by Rodger Evans, seconded by Paul Catling, and passed unanimously.

**ii Canadian Science Publishing.** The President briefly reminded members that the CBA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) in the summer of 2011, to provide an agreement of cooperation between our organizations, for mutual benefit. Now, we are now asked to consider being a member of the CSP, as it is a logical step to be a participatory member of CSP functioning.

In addition the CSP would like to sponsor a symposium, within the field of plant sciences, held during a meeting of a Canadian society in 2013. CSP already provides some support for CBA's annual meeting, in accordance with the MOU between CSP and CBA. The idea of the symposium is to provide the society with additional funding that might enable them to expand their meeting program (e.g., invite a few additional speakers) beyond what they might otherwise be able to do. They would like to publish papers arising from the symposium in the journal Botany. The objective is to support Canadian societies and their members' research through enhanced opportunities for collaboration and publication. They have suggested sponsoring a symposium of up to one half-day, on a topic within the scope of Botany. A selection committee consisting of CSP staff and the Editor-in-Chief of Botany will choose a proposal from among those it receives, likely sometime in August. Proposals (which can be simply an e-mail) should include: - the topic or theme of the symposium, - possible speakers, - the level of funding requested from Canadian Science Publishing, - proposed recognition benefits for Canadian Science Publishing (e.g., corporate logo on conference website, etc.), - size of symposium (time, number of speakers), - estimated size and composition of audience, if known. All manuscripts submitted to Botany will undergo the journal's usual peer-review process.

**Liette Vasseur moved that the CBA/ABC will become a participatory member of the CSP. Seconded by Christian Lacroix. Unanimous.**

**iii Not-For-Profit Corporation Act.** A small committee has been established to review the Association "letters patent" and related documents, including the bylaws. Carrying out this task will be a priority for the new Board. The committee currently consists of Frédérique Guinel, Rodger Evans, Marian Munro, and Jane Young. The president asked whether there were others who wished to join the committee. Michael Wright and Liette Vasseur volunteered.

**iv.** A suggestion had been made that compensation should be available for travel and accommodation for the Elliott award winners in future. Vipen Sawhney moved that the amount available should be up to \$1000.00 for 2013. Seconded by Linda Tackaberry. Unanimous.

- b. Past President's report.** Rodger Evans announced that the following had agreed to serve on the Board. He proposed:  
John Markham as President-Elect for a two year term.  
Santokh Singh as Secretary for a two year term.  
Jane Young had agreed to serve as Treasurer until 2014  
Christine Maxwell had agreed to continue as Bulletin Editor until 2014, but now is the time to start looking for a replacement.  
Four directors were required to replace those who had completed their terms. Nominations were received for Marian Munro and Julian Starr, representing the east, and Bruce Ford and Melanie Jones representing the west.  
Two student representatives were nominated: James Jones for the west and Adrian Dauphinee for the east.  
In an unusual situation, Art Davis had volunteered to become President Elect starting in 2014. All were in favour
- c. President-Elect.** Frédérique Guinel reported that an extensive search for archival CBA/ABC materials had been going on during the past year. She requested that anyone having or knowing of the location of additional materials should contact her. There would be an article in the next Bulletin about the Archives.
- d. Treasurer's report.** Jane Young presented her report to the members. (see attached), and briefly reviewed the current financial status of the Association. The report was accepted by the members unanimously on a motion by Liette Vasseur, seconded by Marian Munro.  
Two auditors were appointed to review the financial records, Art Davis and Vipen Sawhney.
- e. Bulletin Editor's report.** Christine Maxwell reminded everyone that the deadline for the September Bulletin was August 6<sup>th</sup> 2012. She welcomes articles and especially would like to receive articles and profiles from student members of the Association.

## **5. Section Reports.**

### **Ecology and Conservation. Liette Vasseur.**

Liette gave an overview of the conservation initiative which had appeared in the Bulletin in March (Vol 45(1)). Paul Catling and others proposed that this would bring members of CBA together to work with others on the designation of areas of special conservation concern. The concept is to increase awareness of lands that should be better protected against human development or degradation. The designation should generally follow the following outline with these essential elements: (1) An account of species at risk, threats and time period or urgency of threats; (2) References; (3) A map; and a few photographs of the habitat and the plants. The following motion was proposed by Hugues Massicotte, seconded by James Jones and passed unanimously.

**Motion: To approve this initiative and process to designate on a regular basis, by the CBA/ABC, areas of special conservation concerns.**

The specific case of the Tusket River Watershed had also been given as an example in the Bulletin article.

The Tusket watershed in southwest Nova Scotia is home to a complex of nearly a hundred wetland

plants with affinities to the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The Tusket, by virtue of its intact shoreline habitats, climate and great seasonal water level changes, houses 8 of the 14 COSEWIC listed plant species in Nova Scotia, including three globally rare coastal plain species, two of which are found nowhere else in Canada and are disjunct from wetlands in Massachusetts by more than 300 km. This is Canada's premier coastal plain river and it stands out in the Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Recovery Strategy (Environment Canada and Parks Canada Agency 2010) as the area of concentration of species at risk. It is, however, threatened by cottage and other types of development.

Marian Munro proposed the following motion, seconded by Liette Vasseur. Unanimous.

**Motion: To approve the designation of the Tusket River and its wetlands by CBA/ABC as an area of "special conservation concern" for plants in Canada.**

**Teaching. Santokh Singh**

The members of the teaching section had proposed establishing a CBA/ABC teaching award, with the first award being given at the 2014 meeting in Montreal. A motion to this effect was proposed by Christine Maxwell, seconded by Frédérique Guinel. Carried unanimously. For next year, the section was planning a session of contributed papers.

**Development. Moira Galway.**

The Section had discussed having a symposium at the 2013 meeting, possibly with a title "New Frontiers in Botany", and specifically inviting young faculty members and post docs from across Canada, to contribute. If people had ideas of other topics they should send their proposals to Jane Young before August 31<sup>st</sup>, and then a selection would be made.

**Systematics and Phytogeography Paul Catling.**

Paul was standing in for Hugo Cota Sanchez, who was not at the meeting and planned to step down as section chair. Jeff Saarela had been suggested as a new chair, but could not be contacted at this time.

The section was suggesting a symposium for the 2013 meeting titled, "Phytogeography of Southern British Columbia".

**6 AOB.** Hugues Massicotte handed over a paper replica of the CBA/ABC seal to Frédérique Guinel as the incoming President. In return, Frédérique thanked Hugues on behalf of all those present for the tremendous time and effort that he has devoted to the Association during the past two years. There was a round of applause and a standing ovation.

**7. Adjournment .** The meeting adjourned at 1.50pm, on a motion by Liette Vasseur, seconded by Art Davis.

Respectfully submitted

Christine D. Maxwell  
Acting Secretary.