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PURPOSE

The purpose of this association shall be to promote the advancement of biology as a science by encouraging research, the imparting of knowledge, the application of knowledge to the solution of biological problems, and the preservation of biological resources. The ASB has representation in Section G Committee of the AAAS. Varying types of membership are available to individuals and institutions. See inside back cover.

TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

2018 March 28-31: Featured Institutions – Baruch Marine Field Laboratory, Georgetown, SC; Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC; Francis Marion University, Florence, SC; University of North Carolina, Pembroke, NC; and University of North Carolina, Wilmington, NC. Meeting site is the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC.

3 ADBC and iDigBio: Advances in Herbarium Digitization

Gil Nelson, iDigBio/Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, 32306

With the National Science Foundation's launch in 2011 of the Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC) initiative, the pace of herbarium digitization in the Southeast has grown exponentially. From early efforts, such as the Deep South Plant Specimen Imaging Project and The GA-VSC Herbaria Collaborative, to the more recent Keys to the Cabinets Thematic Collections Network with over 100 collaborating institutions from the Southeast, the availability of aggregated plant specimen data through the iDigBio and SERNEC portals is opening up new opportunities for research and discovery. This presentation will offer a brief history of ADBC and iDigBio, summarize successes to date, and suggest future challenges in carrying digitization efforts forward

4 Survival at a Small Regional University

Richard Carter, Valdosta State University, Biology, Valdosta, Georgia, 31698

Located at a small state university, the Valdosta State University Herbarium (VSC) is an important regional biodiversity collection. Valdosta State University places heavy emphasis on undergraduate teaching, with normal teaching obligations leaving little time for research and curation. Despite this, VSC has grown consistently over the past three decades. The vouchers accounting for this growth are mostly from floristic and rare plant inventories carried out by the curator through field work supported from diverse sources. During 2011 - 2014, VSC holdings were digitized with support from the National Science Foundation, bringing a new and valuable dimension to the herbarium. Much of the curatorial work and digitization was performed by undergraduates who were also involved in diverse outreach activities promoting VSC and the importance of biodiversity collections in research. VSC outreach involves the campus community at large, K-12 students, local civic groups, and adult learners. In 2015, a high-density storage system was installed through support from the National Science Foundation. In addition to providing much needed space for storage of specimens, this grant has continued processing and digitizing valuable biodiversity vouchers from throughout southern Georgia. Much of VSC's success is attributed to: (1) persistence in pursuing locally and regionally focused research activities that enable accumulation of voucher specimens for the herbarium; (2) networking with botanists and others in the region willing to provide expertise and to collaborate on projects enhancing the herbarium; (3) promoting the herbarium not only as essential in providing the foundation for biological research but also as a valuable teaching and learning resource; and (4) aggressively seizing opportunities that advance the mission of the herbarium.

5 The Dynamic Herbarium: Add some Zest to your Presentations!

Wendy Zomlefer, University of Georgia, Plant Biology Department, Athens, Georgia, 30602

Herbarium curators often give presentations about their facilities to the general public (including potential donors!), various stakeholders, and others with little background in biology. These service activities are wonderful opportunities to educate laypeople about the importance of natural history collections. This talk will highlight suggestions for enlivening a presentation to convey most effectively the dynamism of herbaria that are so much more than just collections of flattened dried plants. Humorous and appealing herbarium lore will set the stage for an entertaining demonstration, followed by images or actual specimens that are unique or odd: every collection has some! Field stories coupled with photographs of real plant collection pursuits emphasize the source of the specimens and the time and effort