

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 48

Thanks to the tireless efforts of outgoing Editor Kristina Schierenbeck, I have the pleasure of providing this report for Volume 48 less than six months after my report for Volume 47. Yes, Kristina achieved her goal of bringing *Madroño* back onto publication schedule, to the great benefit of the California Botanical Society and to west American botany in general. Return to a normal publication schedule should have a positive effect on subscriptions, manuscript submissions, and article citations, in part by brightening the prospects for inclusion of *Madroño* in more on-line databases (in addition to BIOSIS). On behalf of the Society, I offer heartfelt thanks to Kristina for her hard work, dedication, and accomplishments. She now concludes her outstanding, extended service as Editor with *Madroño* in excellent health.

Our new Editor, John Callaway, is busily handling new submissions to *Madroño* (in coordination with Kristina Schierenbeck) and I am pleased to report that the transition between editorships is proceeding smoothly. John is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at the University of San Francisco, where he researches plant and soil ecology, especially in wetland systems. His role as a university instructor extends well outside San Francisco; John regularly visits Budapest, where he teaches in a Masters program in environmental management. The Society is indeed fortunate to have another conscientious, well-respected, and active scientist serving as Editor of *Madroño*. Many thanks to John for accepting this vitally important responsibility for the Society.

Attendance at our monthly meetings at UC Berkeley continues to rise, thanks in no small measure to First Vice-President Rodney Myatt, who once again organized an exciting lecture series for our program year. This fall, we have heard excellent presentations by Donald Strong, Richard Dodd, and Kevin Rice on research in the areas of plant ecology, evolution, genetics, and conservation biology. We are looking forward to lectures on diverse botanical topics by Bruce Mahall, Ron Amundson, Ingrid Parker, and John Callaway in winter and spring, 2002 (see www.calbotsoc.org). Thanks to Graduate Student Representative Kirsten Johannes, our monthly meetings have been more widely advertised than in past years and continue to be capped by lively post-lecture receptions in the University and Jepson Herbaria.

Second Vice-President Peter Fritsch is organizing the Society's annual banquet for 2002, which will be held at

the U. C. Berkeley campus on 16 February. Our distinguished speaker for the occasion will be the world-renowned plant ecologist Chris Field, who will discuss his extensive research on the effects of global change on California ecosystems. The annual banquet is always a major highlight of our program year and promises to be especially enjoyable and educational in 2002, thanks to Peter Fritsch's efforts and Chris Field's participation.

The Council continues to pursue efforts to increase membership and visibility of the California Botanical Society and our journal, *Madroño*. A major challenge faced by the Council has been to find ways to promote timely membership renewals. Late renewals are much more welcome than lost memberships but do present financial and logistical difficulties for the Society (e.g., mailings of back issues). We can no longer afford to send *Madroño* to unrenewed members beyond the first issue of a new (unpaid) volume and I urge all members to respond as quickly as possible to renewal notices. We have begun offering regular members the option of renewing memberships for multiple years (at a discounted price) as a means of promoting continuity of memberships from year to year. Now that *Madroño* is back on publication schedule, we anticipate fewer late renewals.

Special thanks to Treasurer Roy Buck and Corresponding Secretary Sue Bainbridge for their dedicated hard work attending to the Society's membership services and financial concerns. Roy's and Sue's continual efforts are crucial to the Society and are responsible in part for our growing membership base. I also thank webmasters Curtis Clark and John LaDuke for recent improvements to our web site (www.calbotsoc.org), which no doubt will play an increasingly important role for the Society. Recording Secretary Dean Kelch and Council members Anne Bradley, Jim Shevock, and Bian Tan deserve thanks for their important contributions to planning and guiding the activities and future of the Society.

I welcome nearly 100 new members to the California Botanical Society and thank all members for your contributions and continuing support. I ask all of you to help us recruit new members and to encourage your library to continue or initiate subscription to *Madroño*. On behalf of the Council, I wish all of you a great year for botany in 2002!

—BRUCE G. BALDWIN
28 NOVEMBER 2001



Baldwin, Bruce G. 2001. "PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 48." *Madroño; a West American journal of botany* 48, 303–303.

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