

The Forum - Botanical Outreach and Education

The Botany 2002 conference in Madison, Wisconsin included the inaugural education/outreach Forum. Approximately 1,000 plant biologists attended the overall conference, and 300 of these traveled to Madison early to attend the Forum. The Program Committee was delighted with the attendance and with the Forum program. Attendees completed evaluation forms of the Forum program, and they also found it to be very valuable and a refreshing addition to annual scientific meeting. Therefore, Botany 2004 will include the third Forum.

"...Teaching students about plant biology is as critical to the future of the field as is research and must take its proper place as an equally laudatory endeavor for botanists. Equally vital are activities that communicate the excitement of plant biology to students and teachers involved in K-12 education and to the general public..."

This passage from the *Botany for the Next Millennium* Report (BSA, 1995) emphasizes the important role of education and outreach, at all levels. However, there continues to be a reduction in the number of Botany courses taught at the undergraduate level and many Botany Departments and programs have been eliminated nationwide. Despite this, the global significance of plants continues to grow. It is therefore vital that botanists and their professional societies work to ensure that plants are represented in the undergraduate and graduate curriculum, as well as in science outreach initiatives.

The Forum will begin on Friday evening with early registration and an informal, welcoming reception. The main sessions will occur on Saturday, July 31st. Although some informational sessions will be included, the program will primarily include interactive panel and roundtable discussions, as well as breakout groups focusing on a range of topics. Sunday's offerings will include a variety of hands-on workshops. Two-hour, half-day, and full-day workshops will be organized so that attendees can participate in more than one workshop, and/or participate in field trips, also planned for Sunday.

Six Topical Themes, or "Threads," of the Forum:

- 🌸 **Emphasizing Botany across the Curriculum**
- 🌸 **Designing Investigative Laboratories**
- 🌸 **Engaging Undergraduates in Research**
- 🌸 **Developing Effective Teaching and Mentoring Skills**
- 🌸 **Supporting Effective Teaching and Learning**
- 🌸 **Reaching Out beyond the Ivory Towers**



Overview Forum Schedule

Friday, July 30	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Registration and Informal Welcoming Reception
Saturday, July 31	8:00 am - 6:00 pm	Registration
	8:00 am - 11:00 am	Concurrent Sessions
	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Keynote Address – Dr. Eugenie C. Scott
	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions
	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Reception
Sunday, August 1	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Concurrent Workshops and Field trips (Register for these separately)



Dr. Eugenie C. Scott

**Executive Director
National Center for Science Education**

Title

Location TBA

Dr. Scott, a former university professor, is the Executive Director of NCSE. She has been both a researcher and an activist in the creationism/evolution controversy for over twenty years, and addresses many components of this controversy, including educational, legal, scientific, religious, and social issues.

She has received national recognition for her NCSE activities, including awards from the National Science Board, the American Society for Cell Biology, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the Geological Society of America, and the American Humanist Association. A dynamic speaker, she offers stimulating and thought-provoking as well as entertaining lectures and workshops.

**Education and Outreach Forum
Saturday, August 1, 2004
11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Please visit the conference website for more details about the Forum, including a listing of presenters, session titles and etc.

www.botanyconference.org