1. **The meeting was convened** at 5:30 pm by President-Elect Douglas Ladd, for President Catherine La Farge who was unable to attend the meeting due to a recent injury from which she was recovering well. Members expressed wishes for a speedy full recovery.
2. **President-Elect Ladd introduced** and recognized present EC members and others, and summarized the meeting so far. He conveyed thanks and recognition to all EC members and to the local 2018 meeting organizing committee from President Catherine La Farge who wished she was here – see the list of recognitions after the formal meeting minutes.
	1. Other EC members present: Treasurer Steven Leavitt (also Lichen Exchange Director), Susan Wil-Wolf (Secretary), Jessica Budke (Member-at-large), Emily Holt (Member-at-large), and Klara Scharnagl (Student Member-at-large). All helped organize and manage the meeting.
	2. Special recognition was given to Erin Tripp, the ABLS 2018 Local Meeting Organizer, for excellent field trips and to Emily Holt for arranging meeting transport.
	3. Sixty-four attended the ABLS 2018 annual meeting; most stayed onsite at MRS. Several members expressed appreciation for the meeting venue, field trips, and program.
	4. Field trips were mornings 13-15 August: eight guided trips to six sites for few to many people, plus Niwot Ridge on their own. All were reported as interesting and satisfying.
	5. The scientific program comprised eleven contributed talks per afternoon 13-15 August, two posters (little display space), and two invited evening talks by post-doctoral fellows Matt Johnson on 13 August and Rob Smith on 14 August. The meeting program and abstracts will be posted on the society web site.
3. **A Summary of EC Annual reports** was requested by President-Elect Ladd
	1. Treasurer Leavitt reported on financial matters and the exchanges. The treasurer’s report emphasized that the society is in good shape financially right now. Costs to produce journals exceed subscription fees at steadily increasing rates; subsidies from BioOne are increasing at a faster rate than increases in BioOne revenues. The Financial Advisory Committee report from Chairman James Bennett, presented by Leavitt, emphasized that the society’s endowment is doing well and should reach the goal of one million dollars within a few years. The EC will begin discussion this year about how to begin spending endowment interest. Leavitt reported that the moss, hepatic, and lichen exchanges are all currently little used; explaining them better on the updated society web site might generate more use.
	2. Secretary Will-Wolf summarized the Secretary’s report and reports from editors of the two society journals. Membership is now 501, increased over the previous year for the first time in 10 years. Two contributing factors were a successful campaign to attract lapsed members, and several people joining or rejoining specifically to attend this ABLS 2018 meeting. The majority of the Secretary’s time this year was spent on ABLS 2018 meeting planning. The Bryologist (James Lawrey, editor) had an impact factor of 2.264 this year, the highest ever. The main drivers were citations of two papers in the new category of classifications, with citations of several ecological papers also contributing. Accepted papers numbered 49, with 19 rejected; submissions and number of pages were similar to recent years. Evansia (Scott LaGreca, editor) published 19 papers and one commentary, and all issues appeared on time. Hard copy subscriptions to both journals continue to decline. Member discussion generated requests for more Evansia articles of a general nature, and more color figures in both journals.
	3. Student Member-at-large Klarnagl presented the Webmaster’s report for Peter Nelson. She, Nelson, President La Farge, and Member-at-large Budke have been collaborating to move the web site to a new platform and update it. A beta version is being tested now and the move should be completed soon. After that, web page updating will be crowd-sourced to members, with the Webmaster reviewing each updated page before it goes live. Goals for the updated web site will be wider coverage of member interests and opportunities for interactive discussions, as well as continuing to provide important information about the society to all.
4. **Membership issues**: The EC passed a motion to increase rates for some membership categories and member rates for hard copy journal issues. For 2019 regular membership will increase to $25/year and family membership will increase to $35/year. All other membership categories, including students, will remain the same. The 2018 member subscription rates for both journals will in 2019 apply just to online-only subscriptions. The 2019 rate for hard copy of The Bryologist will increase to $60 plus postage, for Evansia it will be $25 plus postage. This will be announced to the full membership 30 days before the first 2019 renewal call, as per the constitution. Renewal this year will emphasize contribution to supporting understanding and conservation of lichens and bryophytes, as well as services to members. The rate increases were to explicitly reflect and advertise that costs for membership services continue to increase, and production costs for hard copies of journals are higher than for online subscriptions, rather than to address a current financial need. Both membership services and membership subscription rates remain heavily subsidized by BioOne revenues. Most costs are about twice what members pay at the new rates; hard copies of The Bryologist cost about five times the new member rate. Many EC members, including both journal editors and both financial members, feel maintenance of hard copy journals is financially unsustainable in the long run; The EC is considering a switch to online-only journals within 3-5 years (published note in The Bryologist 119no4). Discussion at this meeting covered all these topics, plus that both membership and subscriptions are still great bargains compared to other societies, and a suggestion that journals reconsider the policy of no page charges for members. There will be a member survey this fall covering how many still want hard copy journals, how much members would be willing to pay, and the issue of journal page charges.
5. **Future ABLS meetings ABLS 2019** - Tucson Arizona with BSA.
	1. ABLS 2019 will meet with BSA in Tucson, Arizona, July 27-31.
	2. ABLS 2020 will meet with BSA in Anchorage, Alaska, July 18-22
	3. President-Elect Ladd (meeting organizer) is seeking local hosts and field trip organizers for both meetings.
6. **Annual Meeting EC travel support:** Ladd presented for review the option for limited support for EC members to attend next year’s annual meeting. After discussion members voted to support this option for next year.
7. **Officer Elections**
	1. Following the success of the 2016-17 election online via Allen Press - we will use the same online option for the 2018-19 elections.
	2. The Fall 2018 election will be for these offices below; those elected will assume their duties at the end of the 2019 annual meeting. President La Farge will set up the nominating committee early fall 2018 and will send a call for nominations to members.
		1. President-Elect (Bryologist)
		2. Secretary
		3. Member-at-large
8. **Other Business**
	1. Representation of ABLS to BSA is needed; members of both organizations should contact President La Farge.
	2. Brent Mishler announced that Tom Nash is seeking a bryologist to take over the bryophyte portal (CNABH) of the virtual herbarium set up through the Symbiota project. Contact Tom Nash <tom.nash@asu.edu> for more information. The NSF grant to set these up will end and the bryophyte portal will languish at best after that (might disappear???) unless someone else takes it over. Frank Bungartz at ASU <frank.bungartz@gmail.com> has already taken over the lichen portal (CNALH) and is willing to share his experiences.
9. **Announce Award Recipients:**
10. Going forward the Elizabeth G. Britton & Chicita L. Culberson Lifetime Achievement Awards will honor a recipient every other year alternating between Bryology and Lichenology. The 2019 nomination committee with the EC will determine which of the two will be awarded next year in Tucson.
11. **Sullivant Award** for best paper on bryology for 2017 (volume 120):
	1. L. R. Stark. 2017. Ecology of desiccation tolerance in bryophytes: a conceptual framework and methodology. The Bryologist 120(2): 130–165.
12. **Tuckerman Award** for best paper on lichenology for 2017 (volume 120):
	1. Z. M. Muscavitch, J. C. Lendemer & R. C. Harris. 2017. A review of the lichen genus *Phlyctis* in North America (Phlyctidaceae) including the description of a new widespread saxicolous species from eastern North America. The Bryologist 120(4): 388–417.
13. **Anderson-Crum** **2018 Field Research Award** winners:
	1. **Riley Butler:** Understanding Ecophysiological variation in *Syntrichia* across a precipitation gradient.
	2. **Daniel Palmer:** Calcicoles and Calcifuges of Tejon Ranch.
14. **Culberson-Hale** **2018 Field Research Award** winners: **-**
	1. **Joel A. Mercado-Díaz.** Ecological and evolutionary aspects of lichenized fungi species diversity in the Caribbean (Lumbsch advisor, Univ. Chicago)
	2. **Tegan Padgett.** Macrolichen Community Structures of Newfoundland’s Forested Wetlands (Yolanda Wiersma advisor, Memorial Univ, St. Johns)
15. **Sharp Award** **2018** winner (best student talk): **Theresa A. Clark** for her co-authored presentation: Summer stress signatures and simulated winter recovery; a story of hope for *Syntrichia caninervis* in the Mojave Desert.
16. **The ABLS general business meeting was adjourned** at 6:00 pm, followed immediately by a special combined awards ceremony.

The **Combined awards ceremony for William A. Weber** 6:00-6:30 pm, was introduced by Doug Ladd. Weber, who will turn 100 later this year, was accompanied by his granddaughter Heidi Alina, three of his great grandchildren, and a good friend, to the awards ceremony followed by dinner. After dinner Weber recounted stories of his career for a good half hour to delighted meeting participants before departing for his home in Boulder.

**Elizabeth G. Britton and Chicita L. Culberson Lifetime Achievement Awards 2018:**

* 1. **William A. Weber** was the first recipient for both new ABLS Awards, to honor his long career contributing to both fields, including ABLS President 1969-1970, as well as to vascular plant taxonomy and conservation.
	2. Erin Tripp, William A. Weber’s successor as curator for the University of Colorado at Boulder lichens collections, presented the Britton and Culberson Award certificates on behalf of ABLS.
	3. Tim Hogan, long-time collections manager in the University of Colorado at Boulder herbarium who worked with Weber, recounted Weber’s long career and contributions to both lichenology and bryology. Weber responded with some comments of his own and a song!

The **Erik Acharius medal for lifetime achievement in lichenology**, awarded by the International Association for Lichenology (IAL):

1. **William A. Weber** received this award at the International Mycological Congress in Puerto Rico, USA the week before this meeting.
2. Frank Bungartz, who attended both meetings, presented the medal to William A. Weber on behalf of IAL. Bungartz recounted Weber’s contributions to lichenology in general and specifically Weber’s first collections of lichens in the Galapagos Islands and his generous help to Bungartz toward completion of a modern lichen flora of the Galapagos Islands.
3. Weber again responded with comments and another song, this time in German!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and OTHER RECOGNITIONS FROM THE ABLS PRESIDENT 2018

* 1. **Doug Ladd** continues as President-Elect and has done a superb job in organizing the Colorado 2018 meeting program;
	2. **Steve Lawrey –** Treasurer **-** guides the financial spending and ensures that the society can support upcoming researchers through the awards, grants, and journal publications; we are ever grateful for his efforts in dealing with the ever changing Allen Press personnel;
	3. **Susan Wil-Wolf** - Secretary: thanks for her innumerable hours and unrelenting dedication to the position and behind-the-scenes organizer of details for the Colorado meeting; her knowledge and attention to detail of the Society have been invaluable to the EC;
	4. Many thanks **to Jim Bennett, Dale Vitt** and **Larry St Clair** who help to keep the society’s financial investments in the black that enable ABLS to engage in long-term planning and support to the membership;
	5. Special thanks to **Emily Holt** (Member at large) who has generously supported the transportation needs of this stand alone meeting – no small feat given the distances and remoteness of the MRS;
	6. Extra special thanks to **Erin Tripp** our 2018 Host - who has organized the diverse field trips, arranged the access to the Mountain Research Station, organized details of accommodation and catering, and been on site to field questions during organization and the Meeting itself;
	7. Journal Editors
		1. **Jim Lawrey (The Bryologist) –** A superb year has been accomplished with new avenues being pursued by the Bryologist to the advantage of the society. We are all deeply indebted to your efforts with the journal;
			1. **Associate Editors (10)** – A special thank you to all of the associate editors and their continued response to issues that have been discussed over the past year.
		2. **Scott La Greca (Evansia)** – And a special thank you to Scott, for continuing as editor despite his move to Duke. Evansia continues to fill a niche in publications that are valued by the membership;
	8. Exchange Directors: We are grateful for the directors who continue to provide the exchange program for the society
		1. **Jim Shevock (mosses)**
		2. **John Atwood (hepatics)**
		3. **Steve Leavitt (lichens)**
	9. **Klara Scharnagl** (Student Member at Large) **& Peter Nelson** (Webmaster) A special thank you to Klara and Peter for their efforts to revitalize the ABLS website. We all look forward to seeing the new platform that Klara has designed with new content and ability for the members to contribute their cryptogamic interests to the site as well. Also thank you to **Jessica Budke** (Member at Large) for her input on website development;
	10. Award judges: Thank you to two “anonymous” judges of student presentations for the Sharp Award. Thank you to four anonymous judges for evaluating applications for the Anderson & Crum and Culberson & Hale Field Research Awards. The Sullivant and Tuckerman Awards for papers in The Bryologist were judged by **James Lawrey** (editor), **Bill Buck**, and **Bernard Goffinet** – thank you.
	11. A special thank you to our Invited Speakers: **Matt Johnson & Robert Smith** for enriching the meeting with their respective research interests (phylogenomics in bryophytes & coordinated networks for lichen ecology)