AC318 AGROSYSTEMS, GEOSCIENCES & ENVIRONMENT EDITORIAL BOARD

The Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment Editorial Board met on Monday, 5 Nov. 2018 in Baltimore, MD. Jerry Hatfield, editor and chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Those present introduced themselves and the meeting began.

1. Scope of AGE | Jerry Hatfield

Dr. Hatfield began discussion regarding the scope of AGE. This new journal will capture articles that are not typically published in other ASA-CSA-SSSA journals. This includes articles with 1 year of data, articles with limited scope, confirmatory papers, papers with negative results, data papers, and transfer papers.

The meeting continued with discussion of paper withdrawal, finding reviewers, editorial board rotation, adding additional associate editors, the editorial board model, and enhancing the journal.

Dr. Hatfield reported on a published paper that has been withdrawn. It was discovered that issues exist with the quality of the data used to comprise the analysis in this article. The quality of the data prevents the results from being valid. These issues are of a nature that the article has been withdrawn from AGE with the agreement of the author.

Because the journal is new, there will have to be some AEs and senior editor(s) who do not complete full terms, so that we can achieve a rotation of the board members. The board structure was set up with an editor, two senior editors, and several associate editors, and is working as planned. We will continue to assess the performance and make any changes that are necessary.

2. Managing Editor’s Report | Susan Ernst

Production Summary. A summary of papers published and article length for 2018 is presented in Table 1.

Submissions. Table 2 shows the number of submissions in 2018 (January–September), location of corresponding author (US, international), and number of paper types.

Online Usage Statistics. Table 3 shows the online usage statistics for 2018 (January–September).

Social Media and Promotion. There have not been any AGE articles promoted this year, but this information is presented for your information. Article promotion in the magazines (CSA News and Crops & Soils) includes feature stories and 200-word summaries. All of the CSA News content promoting research is posted to the Digital Library (DL) News site and Society social media accounts (Facebook/Twitter). Select features from Crops & Soils are also posted to the DL News and social media. A summary of magazine promotions is shown in Table 4.

Webtrends and Social Media. We have been tracking traffic to the DL News stories and social media postings since August 2016. We see a clear spike in traffic to promoted content on the day stories are posted to social media. The number of visits to a DL News story page (Jan.–Sept. 2018) range from zero to 1440, with an average of 128 visits (median value 79).

Although the numbers have high variance, the social media promotions are a useful tool and generate the majority of traffic to the DL News stories. The Facebook and Twitter accounts for the societies are also constantly growing and are a platform to engage with an audience beyond membership.

Discussion regarding how to enhance AGE brought up the following ideas:

- Make sure the AEs and reviewers are aware of the scope of the journal.
- It would be helpful to be alerted somehow, by the submission system, which reviewers are busy with other society journals.
- AGE would be a great outlet to publish special sections. Many times symposia topics fit our scope.

Table 1. Summary of papers published in AGE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>2018†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrosystems</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geosciences</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Articles</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total pages</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length/paper</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Submissions report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total submissions</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% International</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper type</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Usage statistics for ASA, CSSA, and SSSA journals (2018):†

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Full-text downloads</th>
<th>Abstracts</th>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural &amp; Environmental Letters</td>
<td>21,989</td>
<td>10,944</td>
<td>4,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agronomy Journal</td>
<td>422,198</td>
<td>718,772</td>
<td>51,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrosystems, Geosciences &amp; Environment</td>
<td>2,329</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>1,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Science</td>
<td>493,768</td>
<td>718,911</td>
<td>45,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop, Forage and Turfgrass Management</td>
<td>9,178</td>
<td>9,667</td>
<td>2,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Environmental Quality</td>
<td>399,255</td>
<td>667,535</td>
<td>36,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Plant Registrations</td>
<td>20,829</td>
<td>24,475</td>
<td>5,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences Education</td>
<td>15,670</td>
<td>15,165</td>
<td>4,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Science Society of America Journal</td>
<td>442,410</td>
<td>859,182</td>
<td>37,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Plant Genome</td>
<td>93,437</td>
<td>44,584</td>
<td>6,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Agriculture</td>
<td>2,796</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vadose Zone Journal</td>
<td>96,740</td>
<td>99,914</td>
<td>18,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Data through October 2018.

† Data through September 2018.

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Additional Promotion. Recommendations for promotion are also used to identify papers for promotion to the media or public by the Public and Science Communications Department. The flowchart in Fig. 1 provides a simple overview of how recommendations are used. If you have any questions about the promotion information provided here, please contact Tracy Hmielowski at email thmielowski@sciencesocieties.org.

Contact Information for AGE. Matt Wascavage, director of publications: mwascavage@sciencesocieties.org. Sue Ernst, managing editor: sernst@sciencesocieties.org. Lauren Coleman, submissions manager: lcoleman@sciencesocieties.org. Abby Morrison, publications systems assistant: amorrison@sciencesocieties.org.

Acknowledgments. Thanks to Jerry Hatfield, editor; Bill Raun and David Baltensperger, senior editors; the associate editors, and the reviewers for all your hard work and dedication in helping to start up this publication, and to publish important science in a great, new journal.

### Table 4. Summary of magazine promotions (October 2017–October 2018).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Total papers promoted</th>
<th>CSA News Feature</th>
<th>200 Word summary‡</th>
<th>Crops &amp; Soils Feature§</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AJ†</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Sci.†</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JPR†</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JEQ†</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSSAJ†</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSE†</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VZJ†</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEL</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPG</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFTM</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UARF</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Indicates journal has a Science Communications Editor.
‡ Summary is approximately 200 words, usually written by the corresponding author.
§ Feature articles range from 800 to 2500 words.

3. Director of Publications | Matt Wascavage

- We have devoted significant resources to researching the benefits of outsourcing journal production, sales, and marketing. In January, we solicited proposals from five commercial publishers, responded to their requests for data, and worked with each of them to ensure we obtained accurate proposals. In March and April, we eliminated three of the respondents, and in May we decided to pursue Wiley further. We have been through several iterations of financial projections and contract terms. At the Baltimore meeting in November, we will present a proposal with financial projections to a meeting of the combined boards and request them to approve moving forward with a contract with Wiley.
- In January, we launched our newest journal, *Agrosystems, Geoscience & Environment*, edited by Jerry Hatfield, Bill Raun, and David Baltensperger. This is an Open Access journal and is designed to capture content that has been submitted to one of our other journals, but has been released for lack of relevance, because it is out of scope or other editorial reasons. The journal aims to publish valid science,
including research limited in space or time and research resulting in negative results.

- We launched an English language editing service in June to help authors polish their manuscripts and to relieve our volunteers and staff of excessive copy-edit burdens. This system is modeled on the system we designed and established for ASAS in 2016.
- Through September 2018, there have been over 2.3M journal article and book chapter downloads. That compares to 3.5M through October of 2017. The decrease is due to the exit of the ASAS journals from the Digital Library in 2018.
- We had a very successful Editors’ Conference in Madison where we provided an update on AGE (see above) and on the progress of outsourcing production and sales (see above). Harry Vereeken, EIC of VZJ, provided an update on the “flip” of that journal to Open Access. The editors discussed the proper use of maps provided by authors and reached the consensus that the journal editors will not require maps to be adjusted for political purposes. The editors discussed a common policy on data availability and continue to work to create a generally accepted policy. The next conference will be in 2019, also in Madison.
- We implemented a policy that each corresponding author has an ORCID to submit a research article. ORCID identifiers help to disambiguate authors with common names and serve as useful links to information such as affiliation and email/phone information that can change over time.
- We are developing a unified training program to provide our editorial boards with a strong foundation of support throughout the year. The training program includes documentation of processes and procedures, best practices, and video resources for editors at all levels. Training will begin in November 2018 and continue through the end of January 2019.
- We have developed journal templates to help authors structure their papers correctly for submission. We will continue to update and improve author resources in 2019.
- We are also working to update manuscript submission web sites to ensure all journals have a system that is functioning to the highest level. Site updates will begin in December and conclude in February of 2019.
- Additionally, we are reviewing the Digital Library web pages and completing updates and making corrections to clarify and clearly communicate access to the content. In conjunction with the refresh of the web pages, the marketing materials for the journals, books and magazines have been updated and provided to all of our worldwide sales agent partners.

- Podcasts: Staff, led by Abby Morrison, designed and created a program to promote the science published in our journals through podcasts. These are now available on iTunes and other services and thousands of downloads have been made. We aim to upload a new podcast approximately once per month.
- Books: The books program continues to draw readers in to the Digital Library, with just under 356,000 books, TOC, and chapter downloads in 2018 alone. This past years’ releases, *Precision Agriculture Basics* and *Practical Mathematics for Precision Farming*, both have debuted well. *Precision Agriculture Basics* has already brought around $14,000 in hard copy sales since its release in May. Fall has proven to be a very busy time for books, with 5 new books slated to debut before the end of 2018. They are:
  - *Applied Statistics in Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Sciences* (recently debuted in September)
  - *Precision Conservation: Geospatial Techniques for Agricultural and Natural Resources Conservation* (scheduled to debut at the ASA and CSSA Annual Meetings)
  - *Bridging Among Disciplines by Synthesizing Soil and Plant Sciences* (scheduled to debut at the ASA and CSSA Annual Meetings)
  - *Fescue Toxicosis, Second Edition* (scheduled to debut at the ASA and CSSA Annual Meetings)
  - *Soil-based Wastewater Treatment* (scheduled to debut in November and be available at SSSA meeting)
- Advertising: After many years of decline in advertising pages and revenue, we terminated the contract with our advertising consultant and brought the work in house. Eric Welsh, who is responsible for selling space at the annual meeting and is the corporate liaison, is combining this responsibility with his other duties.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.