

PANELLA, LEE^{1*}, LARRY G. CAMPBELL², J. MITCHELL McGRATH³ and JOHN LAMBERT⁴, USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), 1701 Center Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526, ²USDA, ARS, 1605 Albrecht Blvd, Fargo, ND 58102-2765, ³USDA, ARS, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1325 and ⁴Beet Sugar Development Foundation, 800 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203. **The Journal of Sugar Beet Research of the ASSBT; a clearing house for the exchange of ideas.**

ABSTRACT

In 1935, 1936, and 1937, between 37 to 140 sugarbeet researchers met informally as the “Sugar Beet Round Table” to discuss the needs of the industry. At the 1937 meeting, the formation of a more structured national organization was proposed. As a result, the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologist (ASSBT) was officially created on 13 January 1938 in Salt Lake City, UT. T. G. Stewart, an extension agronomist with Colorado State College of Agriculture, is credited with calling the first meeting of the Roundtable at Ft. Collins, CO in 1935. After the second meeting of the Roundtable in 1936, researchers from California were invited to join the 1937 discussions. The process of creating a more structured national organization began January fifth during the closing session of the 1937 meeting. A. W. Skuderna was elected the first president and a committee was assigned the task of drafting a constitution and by-laws for discussion and adoption at the first session of the 1938 meeting (Brewbaker, 1948; Stewart, 1962). Discussions at the Roundtable meetings were limited to breeding, agronomy, or other phases of production research; ASSBT has included chemists and factory technologist as full participants since its beginning (Stewart, 1962). Two years after the formation of ASSBT, (Brewbaker, 1940) the organization had 256 members. Membership had increased to 354 on the tenth anniversary (Cannon, 1946) of the formation of ASSBT and regional meetings were held in Detroit, MI and Salt Lake City, UT. On its twenty-fifth anniversary (Stewart, 1962), ASSBT had 633 members. Membership dropped to 550 on the fiftieth anniversary (Oldemeyer, 1987) of ASSBT and is currently about 300 on the eve of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

Jim Fischer became the first salaried Secretary-Treasurer in 1947, and was a major force behind the 1956 launch of the Journal of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologist (JASSBT); renamed the Journal of Sugar Beet Research (JSBR) in 1988. Prior to 1956 all research reports were published as proceedings of the biennial meetings. The original objective of ASSBT was “to foster all phases of sugar beet and beet sugar research, and to act as a clearing house for the exchange of ideas resulting from such work” (Anonymous, 1940; Oldemeyer, 1987). The wording of the current mission statement (bsdf-assbt.org/assbt) has changed slightly but remains primarily focused upon the original objectives – “The objectives of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologist (ASSBT) are to foster all phases of sugarbeet and beet sugar research, to promote the dissemination of resultant scientific knowledge, to strive to maintain high standards of ethics, and to cooperate with other organizations having objectives beneficial to the beet sugar industry” (ASSBT, 2011). It is in this spirit of the founders that the publications of the ASSBT are now freely accessible to the general public on a recently established web-site (assbt-jsbr.org). This site has all issues of JASSBT, JSBR, and the proceedings of recent biennial meetings. The site is searchable and continues the mission

of fostering all phases of sugar beet and beet sugar research, and acting as a clearing house for the exchange of ideas resulting from such work worldwide.

The interchange of ideas through the Society is credited with breaking down many barriers between companies and leading to a free discussion of mutual problems (Cannon, 1946; Cormany, 1954). On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of ASSBT, President D. Oldemeyer (1987) contended that the value of ASSBT in fostering cooperation among federal, state, and private researchers which, in turn contributes to the cohesiveness and survival of the industry, could not be overemphasized. ASSBT has not only fostered exchanges among its North American members but also has facilitated communication with colleagues in Europe. As early as 1940, the membership rolls included three European researchers (Brewbaker, 1940). Furthermore, a notification of the ASSBT meeting and greetings were sent to the IIRB (International Institute for Beet Research) during the inaugural ASSBT meeting in 1938. The feasibility of a joint ASSBT-IIRB meeting was considered in 1960 and ASSBT sent an official delegation of five to the first joint meeting of the two organizations in London, England in 1961 (Stewart, 1962). The first joint IIRB-ASSBT congress was convened 26 February 2003 in San Antonio, TX (Gebrard et al., 2003).

ASSBT shares many common objectives with and has benefited from a close association with the Beet Sugar Development Foundation (BSDF). BSDF was chartered under the laws of Colorado in July 1945. At that time, it was primarily concerned with mechanizing sugarbeet production (Cannon, 1946). BSDF membership consists of sugarbeet processing companies and seed companies. Its mission statement is focused on education and research: "The BSDF is dedicated to the advancement of sugarbeet production and beet sugar processing through science based research and leading educational programs" (BSDF, 2011). BSDF financed the publication of the proceedings of the 1946 ASSBT meeting (Cormany, 1948) and throughout the years since has provided supplemental funding for many of the research projects managed by members of ASSBT, and others. James H. Fischer was hired as the first paid Secretary-Treasurer of BSDF, originally on a part-time basis, in January 1947 (Oldemeyer, 1987), a position he held for 40 years. Fischer also served jointly as Secretary-Treasurer of ASSBT and is recognized for facilitating the transition of ASSBT to a non-profit corporation under the laws of Colorado in 1985 (Monroe, 1985).

Prior to 1956, all research reports were published as proceedings of the biennial meetings (PASSBT). The first two volumes (1938 and 1940) were distributed to members as mimeographed reports. From 1942 to 1954 the proceedings were compiled in book form. There were no meetings; hence, no proceedings were published in 1944, because of World War II. After its launch in 1956, JASSBT became the principal ASSBT publication for distribution of research results. JASSBT was renamed the Journal of Sugar Beet Research (JSBR) in 1988. A great deal of valuable information is bound within these covers, and by 2000 it was apparent that the bound volumes were comparatively difficult to access. We began then to take the necessary steps to develop a fully integrated, searchable resource to access the sugarbeet research results held within these volumes. It is in the spirit of the founders that the publications of the ASSBT are now accessible without charge to the general public on a recently established website (<http://assbt-jsbr.org/>). This site provides access to all issues of JASSBT and JSBR, and the proceedings of recent biennial meetings. The site allows users to search by topic or

author. This enhancement of communication among sugarbeet researchers world-wide will, in turn, complement a longtime objective of ASSBT, that of “producing more sugar per acre at decreased cost” (Coke, 1942; Oldemeyer, 1985). On the ASSBT homepage - <http://www.bsdf-assbt.org/assbt/assbt.htm> - the link to the JSBR is under the 'Journal' tab. Under the tab 'Library' there are links to both the JSBR and the Proceedings of the 2009 ASSBT meetings. Hard copy proceedings are available back to the 1991 ASSBT Meeting, and we are in the process of putting these on line as well.

The JSBR articles have all been assigned a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) number through the ASSBT Membership in the CrossRef organization. This number gives each JSBR article a unique number that can be used for referencing and to search for each article. This number is assigned in the following format 10.5274/jsbr.Vol.Issue.Page. The DOI for Volume 47, Issue 1 and Page 1 would be entered as 10.5274/jsbr.47.1.1 and is assigned to “Oilseed Radish Effects on Soil Structure and Soil Water Relations”. Authors can use a URL in the following string <http://dx.doi.org/10.5274/jsbr.47.1.1> to reference any of the JSBR articles. All research articles in Vol. 47 and future Volumes will have the references of each of the articles checked for DOI numbers and those DOI links will be added to the references for ease in opening any cited reference.

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