



# INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 10, No 2/3, June 2006

## Letter From the President

I hope all members and your families had a very wonderful and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!! This date signifies not only a great deal to our country but also to each individual! It is a wonderful time for us to celebrate and reflect. It is also a time to realize that our next PAA Annual Meeting is not far away. Soon we will assemble in Madison for a truly excellent conference with many exciting opportunities and activities. The annual meeting is a good opportunity to obtain meaningful professional interactions. It is also an important time for keeping our association strong and growing!!

This year's annual meeting will be a first as we partner with the Solanaceae Genomics Workshop and Conference. This will provide unique and wonderful new opportunities for valuable new acquaintances and exchange of information, ideas, plans, etc. In addition to our symposium, workshops, task groups, and contributed papers, we will discuss items affecting the future of our association. Please read again the suggested constitution changes published in the previous newsletter. We will consider issues related to our journal and editor positions, executive committee composition, membership, website, and vision. Be sure you are a part of these vital discussions and decisions.

Another idea to consider is a \$100+ donation to the PAA Endowment Fund in your name! You will be credited in the Newsletter, have the satisfaction of helping a good cause, and be an example for your colleagues. It is also tax deductible!! Proceeds of the Endowment Fund are used for a good cause – support the Grad Student Outstanding Paper Award at our annual meetings!! With sufficient funding we could even help defray Grad Student travel expenses to our annual meetings!!

Finally, I would encourage everyone to consider active participation in our society to help it grow and become stronger. This could be through our sections, committees, seeking new members (individual, corporate, or sustaining), or strengthening partnerships and links to achieve truly world-wide representation of our goals and programs. Our annual meeting provides an important opportunity to review past activities, report results of current projects, and strategize for the future. As always, I welcome your ideas, advice, and suggestions for the benefit of The Potato Association of America!!

Larry K Hiller  
PAA President 2005-2006

## Dates

### July

**18: "Famous Potatoes" Field Day**, Blackfoot, ID. Contact: Bryan Hopkins 208-529-8376. [See inside for more info]

**23-26: 8th Intl Conf on Precision Agric.** Info: [www.precision.agri.umn.edu](http://www.precision.agri.umn.edu)

**26: Hancock Field Day**, Hancock Ag Res Sta, Chuck Kostichka, 715-249-5961.

### August

**Jul 30-Aug 4: The XXII Mtg of the Latin Am Potato Assn (ALAP)**, Toluca, Mexico, a tribute to John Niederhauser. Info: Hector Lozoya [lozoya@correo.chapingo.mx](mailto:lozoya@correo.chapingo.mx)

**Aug 20-26: 6th World Potato Cong**, Boise, ID, [www.potatofoundation.com](http://www.potatofoundation.com). Info: Llyod Palmer, [info@potatocongress.org](mailto:info@potatocongress.org)

**24-26: WPC Farm Show**: Held in conjunction with the WPC in Boise, ID. Contact Henry Robitaille or Mark Randall at [contact@potatofarmshow.com](mailto:contact@potatofarmshow.com)

### September

**30-Sept 2: IGSA Ann Mtg**, 78th Ann Mtg of the ID Grw Shippers Assn, Sun Valley, ID. Info: Dave Smith 208-529-4400; [www.idahoshippers.com](http://www.idahoshippers.com)

**4-6: Int'l Potato Congress** Weserbergland Zentrum, Hameln, Germany. Info: [www.kartoffeltage.de/](http://www.kartoffeltage.de/)

PAA 2006  
 “Solanaceae - Genomics meets Biodiversity”  
 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America  
 Joint Meeting with VI International Solanaceae Conference  
 and  
 Solanaceae Genomics Network  
 July 23-27, 2006  
 Madison, Wisconsin  
 Monona Terrace Convention Center

Our annual meeting is fast approaching! This year, the PAA will meet with the International Solanaceae Conference and Solanaceae Genomics Network. At the close of early registration there were 503 registrants from 46 countries representing all continents, and we expect 50 more registrants by conference time. Both the potato and closely related tomato genomes are being sequenced, providing new genomics tools that are rapidly changing all aspects of potato science. Many of our PAA members are active participants in projects arising from these initiatives. Our potato and genomics colleagues will provide us many opportunities to make new collaborations and friendships. The conference has 417 abstracts covering a wide range of topics that range from breeding to DNA sequencing, and many topics in between. On-line registration has been new to our members, but it is providing wonderful advantages such as complete on-line searches of the program. Please see the main conference website and click on “Conference Program.”

Despite this diversity of new topics and people, the local organizing committee has made every effort to

make this a typical PAA meeting. While all three groups will be meeting in the same conference center, the PAA meetings and sectional schedules are unchanged, and the PAA will maintain its own individual banquet. This combined meeting simply provides everyone the opportunity to move among meetings to suit their individual interests. All registrants will meet together as one group for the Monday morning plenary session, and thereafter split into individual meetings. All registrants also will meet together for the Sunday general reception, the Tuesday evening poster viewing session, and the Wednesday tours and barbeque. As well there is a pre-conference fishing trip and golf outing organized for all registrants.

Many people have worked very hard for this conference; please see the list of conference leaders on the website. Fundraising committees have raised about \$85,000 that has been used for invited speakers, attendance awards, and to help defray expenses for the state of the art conference center. The Madison and southern Wisconsin area offers many wonderful sights for accompanying persons. The accompanying person registration allows entry to all social events (Sunday evening general reception and Tuesday evening poster sessions with drinks and snacks), and to the Monday, Tuesday and Thursday breakfasts and lunches offered as part of registration to all participants. In addition, we have

hired people to work in an area adjacent to the registration desk to suggest day walking and driving tours, and provide easy to follow directions and maps.

We look forward to hosting the PAA meeting this summer and making this a scientifically memorable and socially satisfying conference.

David Spooner, Shelley Jansky &  
 A.J. Bussan  
 LAC Co-Chairs

Important website addresses at a glance:

PAA Meeting website:

<http://www.horticulture.wisc.edu/PAA-Solanaceae/>

For those wondering what the weather is going to be like the week of the meeting so will know what to pack:

<http://www.wunderground.com/US/WI/Madison/KMSN.html>

Go to the ‘Visiting Madison’ link to see what there is to do around the area when you’re in meetings and the family wants to do something besides sit in the hotel Or once you’re out of your meetings and want to check out the city as well. There will also be a person in the registration area to ask for assistance, but this will give you a chance to make plans before you even get there.

<http://www.visitmadison.com/>

## The Potato Association of America 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Silent Auction

100% of the proceeds will benefit the PAA Endowment Fund

- **Location:** Grand Terrace Area
- **Bidding Starts:** Monday at Noon
- **Bidding Ends:** Tuesday, July 25, 8:30P

Donated items will be accepted at the Registration Table Sunday (7/23/06) and continuing through Noon on Tuesday (7/25/06) in the Grand Terrace Area.

Don't forget....**all donations are tax deductible!**

Some item ideas (and past hits) are: "potato" related items, quilts, crafts, books, artwork, hats, regional items, and anything really cool, BUT it DOESN'T HAVE TO BE "potato" related!

If you are not planning to attend the meeting, send it with someone you know who is coming or send it directly to:

David Spooner, PAA LAC  
c/o the Hilton Madison Monona Terrace  
9 East Wilson Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Please share this information with family, friends, and sponsors who would like to support the Auction and the PAA Endowment Fund.

Questions? Jan Mosley, 541-737-9711,  
janet.mosley@oregonstate.edu

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## PAA and EAPR Presidents Meet in Madison

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**P**AA president Larry Hiller will meet with Sorin Chiru, President of the EAPR during the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the PAA held in Madison, Wisconsin in July. Other EAPR board members in attendance will be Mike Storey, VP and Anton Haverkort, secretary, as well as members of the PAA/EAPR liaison committee. This is a continuation of a process initiated in Hamburg, Germany in 2002 to increase interactions and cooperative efforts between these world leading potato organizations. The last meeting of this committee was held in

Bilbao, Spain, 2005, during the 16<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of the EAPR. Considerations for joint involvement and interactions (e.g., joint membership, meetings, newsletter, etc.) will be presented to the PAA executive committee and general membership as part of the weeks' activities.

Respectfully Submitted  
PAA/EAPR Liaison Committee  
Joe Guenther, Ed Lulai and Joe Sowokinos

## Notes from Lori's Desk

Hi All, Well, the move into the new office is over..at least as far as on the University campus. Please make note of the new address at the end of this column so we won't have to worry about the post office loosing your payment. It's surprising how much stuff can get gathered in 9 years and the new office is so small that most of it is sitting in my garage, glad it's not snowing. I have finally finished getting the office set up, but haven't found everything Once the meeting is over I will go about setting up the office at home.

The new address is:

**PAA**  
**The UNIV OF MAINE**  
**5719 CROSSLAND HALL,**  
**ROOM 218-220**  
**ORONO, ME 04469-5719**

The phone and fax numbers stay the same for now. Once I'm set up there will be a phone "For Member's Only."

On another note, I'm still receiving checks with no invoice attached, please, I'm begging, get after your accounting dept. to attach ONE of the TWO copies I send to you with the check so I don't have to spend so much time guessing and hope I guess right. Thanks!

Hope to see a lot of you in a few weeks, but for those I don't, take care until the next time we meet!

Lori Wing

2005-2006

## PAA Background

### Executive Committee

**President**  
Larry Hiller

**President-Elect**  
Sam Thornton

**Vice President**  
Alex Pavlista

**Secretary**  
Steve James

**Treasurer**  
Al Bushway

**Past-President**  
Rob Davidson

**Directors**  
Chuck Brown  
Bill Campbell  
Don Halseth  
Phil Nolte  
Susie Thompson

**Editor-in-Chief**  
John Bamberg

**Technical/Business Editor**  
Barbara Harrity

**Annual Meeting:**  
July 23-27, 2006  
Madison, Wisconsin

PAA Insider is published quarterly starting in January. Contact: Lori Wing, Admin. Asst./Editor, The Potato Association of America, 5719 Crossland Hall, Rm 218-220, The University of Maine, Orono, ME, 04469-5719 USA. Phone: 207-581-3042; Fax: 207-581-3015; Email: [umpotato@maine.edu](mailto:umpotato@maine.edu); Web: <http://www.umaine.edu/paa>

## Members in the News

Ron Knight, our Business Editor for over 32 years, passed away suddenly from heart failure on April 4, 2006. He was out to his camp enjoying the water and peacefulness where his wife, Vie, said he spent many a day there. The PAA was going to honor Ron and Vie at the Annual Meeting this year for his many years of service as he retired from the position. She and I had been talking the morning and when he didn't come home that night, she called the police and they found him. When I spoke to her the next morning, she said he couldn't have passed at a better place because that's where he loved spending his spare time and relaxed the most.

PAA member Mahesh Upadhya from Edmonton, AB, Canada passed away on Monday, March 20th. Mahesh had just returned to Edmonton from India on Saturday and was looking forward to planting his seedlings in both the field and greenhouse. He had not been ill and it was very sudden.

Ken Rykbost, after 33 years of field research experience with potatoes, it has come to an end with the harvest of the 2005 trials at the OSU Klamath Experiment Station. Ken did potato research at the Cornell Univ L.I. Veg Res Farm at Riverhead, NY from 1973-1975; at McCain Foods Ltd at Florenceville, NB, Canada from 1976-1986; and at the Klamath Exp Sta from

1987-2005. Development of new varieties, defining optimum cultural management practices, and evaluating products and practices for disease and pest management were among his favorite activities. He played an active role in the development of the Shepody variety for French fry production while in Canada. He enjoyed the close working relationship with the Oregon and Western Regional variety development team which has released over 20 new varieties in the past 15 years.

In 1976, Ken joined McCain Foods Ltd. in Canada and moved his family to a small town near the Maine border to take an applied research and extension position with the world's largest manufacturer of frozen French fries. Ken and family returned to Oregon, the birthplace of Shirley and their sons Ron and Jim, to assume administrative and potato research responsibility for the OSU Klamath Experiment Station in May, 1987.

Ken and Shirley plan to remain in Klamath Falls after retirement. They hope to do more traveling to visit family and friends in South Carolina, Arizona, Wyoming, New York, Florida, Massachusetts, and eastern Canada. Ken plans to spend more time fishing and shooting varmints, and is looking for new populations of ground squirrels and rock chucks needing control.

Kerry Locke

## "Famous Potato Field Days"

WHEN: Tuesday, July 18, 2006 Tours start at 9:00 a.m.; end at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: 7 miles SW of Blackfoot, ID; exit 89 off 1-15; turn west; immediate right going north on Riverton Rd. for 0.5 miles and then west for 2.3 miles; field is located across from the Riverton LDS church building.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Potato Equipment Field Demos  
Potato Insect Management  
Small Grain Variety Demos  
Water Management  
Cutting Edge Fertilizers

Potato Disease Management  
Potato Variety Demos  
Potato & Small Grain Herbicide Demos  
Planting Uniformity