



INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 5, No. 4 October 2001

Letter From The President

Where were you when you found out that President Kennedy was shot?

For those old enough to know, that question was sort of a touchstone of our generation. Like many others I clearly remember that shocking day – November 22nd, 1963 – when I was a sixth grader. I remember the TV news, things my family and friends said and how I felt.

September 11th, 2001 is a new touchstone. For the rest of our lives we will remember events and emotions of that tragic day. We will remember acts of heroism, Americans bonding as a nation and hands extended in friendship. Some of our friends in other countries sent kind messages to PAA headquarters. They are published in this issue of The Insider.

PAA Vision Statement:

The new PAA Vision Statement includes a goal about strengthening links with national and international organizations. The two items below are related to that goal.

State/National Potato Organization Workshop

I was invited to represent PAA at a workshop for leaders from state and national potato organizations. This year's event was scheduled the week after the terrorist attacks. Like many fall meetings it was postponed. Past President Pete Weingartner or I will attend the re-scheduled meeting in Key Largo, Florida in December, with expenses covered by the National Potato Promotion Board. If I don't fly to the meeting, Pete offered to drive there from his Florida home.

World Potato Congress

As PAA President, I chair a 10-person steering committee that is developing a US proposal to host World Potato Congress 2006. Committee members represent three national potato organizations, three state potato organizations, industry and academia. We have narrowed the list of potential sites to Seattle, Denver and Boise. We expect to know later this fall if our proposal is accepted.

Joe Guenther
President, 2001-2002

Dates

October

26-30: PMA FRESH SUMMIT, Pennsylvania Convention Ctr, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: PMA 302-738-7100

November

6-8: NPC SEED SEMINAR, Scottsdale, Ariz. Hosted by RRVPGA. Info: Amy Sherman, NPC at 303-773-9295 or Tamara Myhre, RRVPGA at 218-773-3633 or rrvpga@corpcomm.net

8-9: 36TH ANNUAL MONTANA SEED POTATO SEMINAR, Holiday Inn Parkside, Missoula, Mont. Kelly Wendland (406) 994-3150 or potatocert@montana.edu

14-16: 2ND EUROPEAN POTATO PROCESS CONF, Lausanne, Switzerland, The 1st conference was held in 1998 in Doorwerth, NL. The conference is organized jointly by FNK, ESA and EAPR. For more info: Prof. Dr. Felix Escher, felix.escher@ilw.agrl.ethz.ch

December

6 - 8: 20TH ANNUAL POTATO COUNCIL SEED SEMINAR. Radisson Resort, Scottsdale, AZ. For info: RRVPGA, 218-773-3633. The PAA seed cert section will meet in Scottsdale on the afternoon of Dec 6th.

Inside Information

News From Headquarters

Well, it looks like fall has come to Maine bringing beauty everywhere as the leaves change into glorious colors of reds, oranges, yellows and a vast array of mixed colors. However, it also means that it's time to get the garage cleaned so I can park the car inside if I don't want to scrape the windshield in the morning.

As always I've been working on our website trying to make it easier for everyone to find the information they're looking for. If you have any suggestions or know of any address changes, especially e-mail, please let me know.

I need to remind everyone that as you renew your membership, starting July 1, 2001, there is going to be a charge of \$5/year if you wish to receive this newsletter by mail. This cost is to help the PAA cover shipping and handling expenses. If you do not include the payment and I have an e-mail address for you, I will be sending it this way. If you do not have an e-mail address, I will send it by mail but come next renewal, without payment you will not receive it.

With the added pressure going on in the world. I hope we all remember that we need each other now more than ever and not to be afraid to tell someone you care..."I Care!"-- Lori

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First Calls for PAA 2002

Nominations for Honorary Life Membership

One of the highlights of each annual meeting of PAA is the recognition of persons who have contributed to the betterment of the potato industry. This recognition is made by awarding Honorary Life Memberships (HLM) in The Potato Association of America. This is the highest award bestowed by PAA.

Members of PAA are encouraged to nominate candidates for Honorary Life Membership which will be awarded at the 2002 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada. Honorary Life Memberships are awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the potato industry and/or to The Potato Association of America. Contributions may be for activities related to research, extension/education, production, processing, marketing, utilization or any other facet of the potato industry.

Nominations must be submitted on the official HLM nomination form, which is available from the PAA Secretary (steven.james@orst.edu), or from the Website: <http://www.maine.edu/PAA/hlmform>

Nomination information should include details of the nominee's education, career highlights, contributions to the potato industry and any participation in PAA. In addition, nomination information must include letters of recommendation from five supporters of the nominee. These letters must be submitted with the HLM Nomination Form. Supporters of the nominee may not be immediate associates of the individual. Selection of individuals for Honorary Life Membership will be made by the Honorary Life Membership Committee. This committee is composed of the PAA President, President Elect, Vice President, the PAA Directors and the two most recent, living Past Presidents. The immediate Past President serves as chairperson.

This is the **FIRST CALL** for Honorary Life Memberships. Completed HLM Nomination Forms (signed by the Nominator) and supporting letters must be submitted, **no later than March 1, 2002**, to:

Oscar Gutbrod, Chair
2441 Old Peak Road
Philomath, OR 97370
Phone: (541) 929-4441
E-mail: gutbrodo@ucs.orst.edu

Graduate Student Competition Papers

This is the **first call** for papers to be entered in the Graduate Student Awards Competition to be held at the 86th Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America. This meeting will be held August 11-17, 2002 in conjunction with the IHC in Toronto, Canada. Graduate student competition papers will be presented apart from the regular IHC meetings, and will not show up on the IHC program. Abstracts from the student presentations will be published in the AJPR only, unless the students have also responded to the call for abstracts for the IHC (in which case, two presentations need to be made.)

The purpose of the Graduate Student Awards Competition is to promote graduate student participation in The Potato Association of America through presentation of research papers at the Annual Meeting. Participants are also encouraged to submit manuscripts for publication in the *American Journal of Potato Research*.

General Information

1. The author must be a current (or recent) graduate student at the time the abstracts are due (**March 1, 2002**).
2. First place winners from previous PAA meetings are not eligible to participate.
3. Research reported must have been done while a graduate student.
4. The paper must be orally presented. Poster papers and symposium presentations do not qualify for the Graduate Student Awards Competition.
5. The paper must be submitted to the PAA Secretary. All abstracts must be submitted as attachments to an e-mail. The address is: **steven.james@orst.edu**. The title, author, presenter and section (breeding, crop protection, etc.) should be included with the abstract. The total length, including title, authors and abstract body should not exceed 1,800 characteristics. Abstracts are due **March 1, 2002**.
6. Winners will be announced and honored at the Annual Banquet. Free banquet tickets will be provided by PAA for all graduate students

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Words of Kindness Sent from PAA Members and Potato people around the World to the U.S.A. after the Attack on America September 11, 2001

I want to express my comfort and sympathy to the American people and all other nationalities, who have passed and suffered the loss of loved ones due to those Tuesday coward terrorist attacks toward US buildings.

We were all frightened for what the TV was showing. For sure September 11th will be forever remembered as the world mourning day. I am sure God is blessing America and providing the American people with strength for coming out even more stronger from this sadness. There is no doubt that all countries that seek peace and justice are united to the US and supporting President Bush on his determination to eradicate the evil of terrorism.

God bless all of us who strongly believe that love will prevail.

José Caram de Souza-Dias & Family, Brazil

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On behalf of scientists and potato growers in Israel, and as a PAA member, we send our sympathy to the American people.

Last week, after the tragic disasters, the Israeli people declared a day of mourning. As a nation that suffers from terror almost every day we understand you and deeply regret the tragic events that happened to the American people.

We wish you a rapid recovery and no more sorrow.

**Dr. Uzi Afek
The Volcani Center, Israel**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The international potato research community here in the Toluca Valley, Mexico, deeply regrets the tragic events that the American people are suffering. Please accept our sincere condolences. We join the PAA members in their prayers for a rapid recovery and comfort to those whose loved ones have perished.

**Hector Lozoya-Saldaña
Chapingo, Mexico**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On behalf of Europatat, the European union of the potato trade, we would like to express our greatest sympathy with the pain the American people and our American colleagues, in the potato sector

in particular, are suffering as a result of the incredible act of inhumanity by which they have been struck.

**Romain Cools, Giulio Romagnoli,
Walter Ulrich, Jean Michel Loridan
EUROPATAT, Belgium**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I would like to express my sympathy to all the American people that are suffering in one way or another due to the recent act of insanity performed against New York and Washington. I am sure that your nation will recover from this act and we pray for that.

**With kind regards,
Dr. Daniel Caldiz, Argentina**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I would like to express my sympathy to the American people who are suffering due to the act of insanity performed against the country. I wish your nation will recover from this sadness soon and I pray for that.

**With kind regards,
Noyan Kusman, Turkey**

PAA Members in the news

Jeff A. Logan, 53, of Mt. Gilead, Ohio died unexpectedly Wed, July 4, 2001 in the Ohio State Univ. Medical Center East. He was a lifelong Morrow County resident. As a youth he was active in Boy Scouting achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He graduated from Mt. Gilead High School in 1965 and received his B.S. in Ag Economics from The Ohio State University in 1969.

Jeff was board member representing the potato industry on the Ohio Vegetable & Potato Growers Assn.; Member & past chair of the Educational Committee of the OH Potato Growers Assn. Board of Directors, and Past President of the Ohio Potato Growers Assn. Grower Rep to the NPC; Grower Rep to the Tri-State Potato Meeting, and member of the Ohio Potato Growers

Assn. Research Committee. At the time of his death, Jeff was the president of Milos, Inc. in Jonestown. (Milos, Inc. makes a variety of products including potato pancakes and pierrogues.)

Jeff was a lifelong farmer where he was involved with the potato operation of Logan Farms, Inc. He was a member

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Members in the news

...Continued from page 4

of the PAA Production & Management Section.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife Debra K. Norris Logan.

Nell Mondy, prof. emeritus of nutrition, food science and toxicology at Cornell received the National Award of Recognition from Sigma Delta Epsilon/Graduate Women in Science at its 80th annual national conference at Chapman University in Orange, CA in June 2001. She was cited for her contribution to science, both nationally and internationally. A member of the organization for 55 years, Mondy served as its national president in 1983-84. In 1986 she was awarded honorary life membership, the organization's highest honor at that time. Mondy is the first recipient of the National Award for Recognition, a new and higher level of award. GWIS originated at Cornell in 1921 and later extended to other universities throughout the country. It includes both men and women in the mathematical, physical, biological and social sciences.

Nell Mondy
(Cornell Chronicle)

Breeding Potato Varieties the Scottish Experience

The major variety grown in North America, Russet Burbank, resulted from the efforts of a private individual imbued with enthusiasm for developing new varieties of a whole range of horticultural crops more than 100 years ago.

Since the early 1900's the development of improved potato varieties has gradually become restricted to land grant universities and the USDA with the exception of one breeding program operated by a processing company. In Canada variety development has followed a similar

pattern with major variety development being performed by the federal government with some University support.

Grower organizations have contributed significantly in field evaluation and seed production of promising selections.

In other potato growing areas of the world, the private breeder, often a farmer with experience in seed potato production, has been a major player in variety development. Historically amateur gardeners, including the clergy, have been successful in breeding varieties. Within the British Isles, Scotland has had a long history of potato variety development with varieties developed by Findlay and Mackelvie in the first half of the 1900's achieving international success. Support of state funded plant breeding in Great Britain from the 1930's led to a reduction by the private sector in variety development which did not re-emerge until the introduction of Plant Breeders Rights in the 1960's.

The emergence of the private breeding company "Caithness Potato Group" is detailed by Dr. Jack Dunnett in his recently published book "A Scottish Potato Breeder's Harvest". Jack has had an interesting career, 23 years working as a potato breeder in the state funded Scottish Crop Research Institute and then 23 years in establishing his own highly successful variety development company. With an increasing emphasis at SCRI during the 1960's & 70's in utilization of exotic germplasm and the development of enhanced populations from cultivated diploid & tetraploid South American species, the role of the traditional breeder seemed to Jack to be minimized. These philosophical differences led to his resignation and the establishment of the Caithness Group geared to the development of new varieties, and the production of seed stocks. The programme has concentrated on developing varieties for the table stock market in the UK that would not

only be resistant to potato cyst nematodes, scab and viruses but would be high yielding and acceptable to the consumer.

Despite the frequent assertion that large numbers of seedlings have to be raised before a breeder has any chance of success, Dunnett has produced several highly successful varieties although he only raises 5000 seedlings annually. The adoption of these high yielding varieties in the UK and elsewhere (eg. Australia) calls into question the need for expanding the genetic base of breeding programs except for specific characteristics (eg. disease resistances).

This book provides an unique insight into variety development and raises any questions on a wide variety of topics: the role of state funded programs, university participation, industry support, use of exotic germplasm, the role of the private breeder, plant breeders rights and, of course, genetic engineering

"A Scottish Potato Breeders Harvest" is available from Caithness Potato Group, Celvngreen, Freswick, Caithness--24 pounds sterling, or the publisher North of Scotland Newspapers, 42 Union Street, Wick. Caithness KW15ED Scotland

Kenneth Proudfoot

Asunta "Susie" Thompson

Susie became the new potato breeder at NDSU in late August. Born and raised on a seed potato farm near Barnesville, Minn., and was educated at NDSU where after receiving her B.S. in Agronomy in 1983, she worked for Pioneer Hybrid Int'l, Inc. at their spring wheat breeding station in Minn. In 1985, Susie began working with Dr. Bob Johansen at NDSU on the potato breeding project as a research

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TORONTO 2002

PAA-IHC JOINT MEETING UPDATE

By the time you receive this the deadline for abstracts for next year's meeting will have come and gone. Hopefully many of you responded, with or without the reminders which you should have received. The call for PAA Graduate Student papers is carried elsewhere in this *Insider*. The abstracts will be reviewed for scientific merit, appropriateness and completeness of the information by the Scientific Program Task Force and the accepted contributions will be referred to the related Symposium committee. Symposium conveners, with the help of their committees, will select some contributed papers for oral presentation and others as symposium linked posters, and authors will be informed of this by March 1, 2002. All contributions presented as posters will be on display for the duration of the Congress. Please note that all presenting authors must be registered for the Congress by April 15, 2002. Keep this in mind when managing your budget.

Workshops

The PAA Section Workshops at the Toronto meeting will be a big attraction for all potato participants and will provide stimulating sessions on a wide range of topical and challenging issues. The following Workshop titles and summaries reflect the plans already completed:

Breeding and Genetics - Globalization of the potato industry and its impact for breeding programs.

Certification - International seed certification: tools and technology: The workshop will address certification procedures, new technologies, pathogens of major international importance and grade standards.

Extension - Changes in delivery of information to clients worldwide: Three speakers will address the workshop theme.

Physiology - The influence of environment and physiology on potato quality: Speakers will address physiological age of seed, chemical maturity and blackspot bruise. This will be followed by a six-member panel discussion and close with general discussion.

Plant Protection - Vectors and alternate hosts of plant virus diseases: Three speakers will address alternate virus weed hosts, aphid biology and virus transmission and this will be followed by discussion with the audience and panelists.

Production and Management - Managing nitrogen and water for improved use efficiency in potato production: Seven panelists will present strategies in water and nitrogen use that they see as promising to maintain potato yield and quality while reducing potential adverse environmental impacts and, with audience participation, discuss the promises and limitations in improving use efficiency.

Utilization & Marketing - Non-traditional uses of potato

Full Conference Information

By the time you read this full registration information should be on the IHC web-site at <http://www.ihc2002.org>. The PAA web-site: <http://www.ume.maine.edu/PAA/business.htm>, will carry the schedule of PAA events including times of Workshops, Graduate Student presentations, and PAA and Section business meetings. Details of Workshop programs and speakers, will be on the IHC and PAA web-sites.

For further information contact:

Chair, Toronto LAC - Leslie Copp, U. of Guelph
Tel: 519-824-4120 ext 6249; E-mail: lcopp@uoguelph.ca

Convener, IHC Potato Symposium - Rickey Yada, U. of Guelph, Tel: 519-824-4120 ext 8915; E-mail: ryada@uoguelph.ca

Chair, PAA-IHC Liaison Committee - Richard Tarn, Potato Research Centre, AAFC, Fredericton; Tel: 506-452-3260; E-mail: tarnr@em.agr.ca

Dear Conveners and other IHC2002 Cooperators,

The tragic events of last week will most certainly impact the Toronto Congress project. Unfortunately, the kind of impact, particularly the extent to which

2002 Meeting Update*...Continued from page 6*

that humankind will regain much of its inherent optimism and confidence by early next year, and that we will begin to see an even stronger resolve to support and participate in international events such as this Congress.

After all, human life on this planet, both its existence and its quality, is profoundly linked to the production, care, and multiple uses of the broad array of plants we claim as horticulturists.

Still, everyone accepts that international travel will become more expensive, require more time, and demand ever more stringent documentation. These facts alone are likely to reduce attendance, especially from the emerging economy countries we are counting on to make this event truly international in content and character. I need your help to see that these added constraints come as no surprise.

Second point. I feel compelled to apologize for the delay in getting the registration form up on our home page. It is now due to appear next week. The decision to set the fee at \$700 CND (currently about \$448 USD) was made in mid-summer but since then we have been fighting a mini-battle with the government of Canada about the need to charge non-residents the 7% General Services Tax (GST). We eventually lost that battle. We then had to decide whether or not we could "absorb" that hit and still leave the total (fee plus taxes) at \$700 CND.

The bottom line is that I was prepared to take that risk until the events of last week. To at least partially protect ourselves from low attendance it is now clear that we cannot absorb this 7% tax. This brings the registration fee to \$750 CND for ISHS members (and higher for non-members, those registering late, etc.). The fee for students (graduate or undergraduate) is now set at \$320 CND.

We fully understand that this slightly higher fee may further reduce attendance, but we remain convinced that we are offering great value. Remember that this fee includes several food and entertainment events, a very fine tour to and meal at Niagara Falls, the best possible meeting facilities, world-class colloquium and symposium speakers, and TWENTY FOUR volumes of *Acta Horticulturae* (23 on CD ROM). Add to this the fact that Toronto is safe, accessible, and affordable.

We have an excellent product and we will continue to sell it as aggressively and effectively as possible. I hope that each of you will do your part to see that we achieve the 2000+ delegates needed to meet our budget projections.

Finally, I would appreciate it if you would forward this message to those on your International Scientific Committee, to your invited speakers, and to others with interest and influence in international horticultural science.

You can promise them that this will be the best IHC ever!

**Norman E. Looney, President
XXVI International Horticultural Congress**

Members in the News*...Continued from Page 5*

technician and earned her M.S. in Horticulture, focusing on potato breeding and genetics. In 1989, she began working with the variety development project as a research associate under the direction of Dr. Steve Love at the Univ. of Idaho's Aberdeen Research & Extension Center. In 1992 Susie was awarded a NPC Auxilliary Scholarship for research efforts in her graduate program. She completed requirements for a Ph.D. (Plant Science, potato breeding & genetics emphasis) with the Univ. of Idaho in 1998. She began her duties with Colorado State Univ. as a research horticulturist in June of 1995. Her responsibilities encompassed cultural management practices and physiology. Investigations conducted under her direction provide cultural information for producers of new cultivars, hopefully resulting in a more successful experience by growers producing these new cultivars.

Susie's professional affiliations: PAA (Sections: Breeding & Genetics, Physiology, and Production & Management. Committees: Anti-Bruise, Site Selection and PAA-2000-LAC). American Society of Horticultural Science.

Valley Potato Grower Magazine

PAA Background

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Greg Porter

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Steve James

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Bud Platt

Technical Editor:
Barbara Harity

Business Editor:
Ron Knight

Annual Meeting:
August 11-17, 2002
Toronto, Canada

PAA Insider is published quarterly by the PAA. The contact person is Lori Wing, Admin. Asst./Editor at The Potato Association of America, 5715 Coburn Hall, Room 6, University of Maine, Orono, ME, 04469.-5715, USA. Phone: 207-581-3042; Fax: 207-581-3015; E-mail: umpotato@mail.maine.edu - Website: <http://www.ume.maine.edu/PAA>.

Position Announcements

Director of Potato Programs
ND State Seed Dept., Fargo, ND

Position Number: **616-1004**-Status: **Full-time, Regular** - Salary Range: **\$2,850-\$4,750/mo.**
Closing Date: **Oct 31, 2001** - Location: **Fargo, ND**

**PENDING CLASSIFICATION BY
CENTRAL PERSONNEL DIVISION**

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree in agricultural, plant sciences or closely related field

- 5 years of work experience in potato seed certification, inspection or pathology areas including two years of management, administrative or supervisory work experience.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Master's degree in plant sciences field.
- High level of technical knowledge and work experience in plant pathology or genetics directly related to production and certification of potato and/or field crops.

- Work experience managing potato or other seed certification programs (or similar processes), within international, national or state administrative guidelines.

Application Procedures:

Submit a letter of application, resume, college transcripts, a completed State of North Dakota Application for Employment form (SFN 10950) and 3 professional references to:

Ken Bertsch
ND State Seed Commissioner
ND State Seed Department
Box 5257, University Station
Fargo, ND 58105

First Call for 2002

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participating in the Graduate Student Awards Competition.

General Criteria for Judging: Papers and presentations will be judged on the following basis:

1. Quality of research and content: 60%
2. Effectiveness of presentation: 40%

Application materials must be received at the ND State Seed Department by the closing date. Application forms are available from any ND Job Service office, Central Personnel or from the Web at <http://www.state.nd.us/cpers>. Applicants who are residents of ND and eligible to claim veteran's preference must include Form DD214. Claims for disabled veteran's preference must also include a current statement of disabled status from the Veteran's Affairs Office.

A job description and information regarding the NDSSD are available by calling 701-239-7210.

Summary of Work:

The Director is responsible for a broad array of management, organizational and operational duties within the Potato Programs and related areas of the State Seed Department. Major functions include directing field inspection and grade inspection processes, promotion of the certified seed industry, and administrative functions of seed certification processes.

The Director manages full-time and temporary staff activity associated with all inspection, certification and promotional components of the potato programs. The Director is responsible for creating a long-range vision for the programs, and developing business opportunities which provide service for producers while generating revenue for the NDSSD. The Director participates with the Commissioner and program management team to ensure quality service and efficiency throughout the NDSSD. Some state and national travel involved.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Five awards will be presented in the amount of \$350 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd place, \$150 for 3rd place, \$100 for 4th place, \$100 for 5th place.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Kathy Haynes, Chair
PAA Graduate Student Awards Competition
USDA/ARS: Vegetable Laboratory
10300 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: 301-504-7405
E-mail: haynesk@ba.ars.usda.gov