



INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 8, No. 1 January 2004

Letter From the President

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2004! These are troubled times in the world and it is tempting to focus on what is dark and dreary. The short days and long nights of December and January tend to naturally bring this focus out in many of us living in the northern hemisphere. On top of the day length, the perception presented in newspapers and on TV is that there is much wrong with our world. Indeed there is much that needs our attention! It is critical that we stay engaged in world, national, and local events and keep abreast of political developments. This necessarily includes discussion of the many problems in this world of ours, but let's not overlook the many blessings that we have as well. Please spend some time looking at the year 2004 as it lies before you. What are the important issues in your world, country, and community? Keeping our blessings in mind... what can we contribute in time, talent, and money to help address these problems. Each of us can do a small part to make a difference in the lives of people that have not been as fortunate as we have been. It is tempting to focus on problems, but consider being part of the solution.

As potato researchers, professionals, and leaders, we must be sensitive to the struggles that potato growers face. This is a challenging crop to grow and growers face many risks involving weather, diseases, pests, and availability of resources. In North America, at least, when our growers as a group, are blessed with a good production year, difficult marketing conditions often quickly dampen the enthusiasm created by the good harvest. Indeed, successfully marketing the 2003 North American fall potato crop may be even more challenging than growing it was! Whether we are North

American potato people or from elsewhere in the world, let us consider ways that we might help growers be successful as they work with this fascinating, but challenging crop. Can we address a risk-causing pest or production problem through research, extension, or consulting? Do we have marketing expertise that can help improve the delivery of or demand for potatoes?

As an organization, The Potato Association of America facilitates many activities that make a difference for the potato industry and its members over the long haul. Please take the time to review the PAA Vision on the website. What can PAA do to solve problems and improve the delivery of information to the potato professional, grower, or consumer? Perhaps, you can contribute your talents to section leadership or activities associated with our vision statement? You might also consider a gift to the PAA Endowment Fund as a way to facilitate PAA's future activities. Your active participation in PAA is important just as it is in world, national, and community events. Not all contributions "shake the earth," but let's make 2004 a year that we make those small contributions that can add up to a big difference.

Finally, as you think of 2004 please consider attending the PAA meeting in Scottsbluff, NE. PAA is a worthy organization and the annual meeting is a great forum for scientific information exchange, work on potato-related issues, and camaraderie I look forward to the Scottsbluff meeting. I hope that many of you will attend and continue your active contributions to PAA.

Greg Porter
President 2003-2004

Dates

January

21-22: Univ ID Potato Conf, Pond Student Ctr, Pocatello, ID. Jim Hughes, 208-529-8367

21-22: ME Potato Conf, Univ ME Ext, Caribou Inn, Presque Isle, ME, 207-764-3361

27-29: WI Potato & Veg Grwrs Assn Ind Show, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI. Julie Braun, 715-623-7683, jbraun@wisco nsinpotatoes.com or http://www.wisconsinpotatoes.com

29-30: 37th Annual OR Potato Conf Willamette Valley Potato Grwrs Assn, Gleneden Beach, OR, 503-731-3300

February

3-5: WA State Potato Conf & Trade Show. Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake, WA, 509-765-8845

4-5: MI Potato Conf, Comfort Suites, Houghton Lake, MI. MI Potato Ind Comm, 517-669-8377

5-7: Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Veg Grwrs Conf & Trade Show, St. Cloud Civic Ctr, St. Cloud, MN. Marilyn Nysetvold Johnson, 763-434-0400

9-12: Empire St Fruit & Veg Expo, Riverside Conv Ctr, Rochester, NY. Jeff & Lindy Kubecka, 315-687-5734, nysvga@twcny.rr

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News From Headquarters

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope everyone celebrated a safe and happy holiday, and for those who haven't yet, do as well.

I have some important **reminders** that everyone needs to make a mental note of. The same I repeat quite often, but feel I need to until they are followed.

1. If you do not pay your membership dues directly, **please** make sure the person sending the payment encloses a copy of the invoice. There continues to be problems crediting the correct person because all I've received is a check. Then someone ends up not receiving their publications because of it.

2. If payment is made by bank transfer, let me know it has been paid and I'll know to watch for it on the bank statement, otherwise no credit will be given. Ask the bank what the transfer fees are going to be also because it is costing us \$12-15 to receive the funds on this end. It is your responsibility to make sure that these fees are paid. We are not charging the extra, but the bank is during the transfer. If this continues, we unfortunately might be forced to discontinue this method of receiving payments.

Lori Wing
Administrative Assistant/
Webmaster/
PAA Insider Editor

First Call for PAA 2004

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 2004 Annual Meeting in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. 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@oregonstate.edu) or from the PAA website <http://www.ume.maine.edu/PAA/hlmform.htm>.

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 19, 2004**, to:

Lori Wing, Admin. Asst.
The Potato Association of America
The University of Maine
5715 Coburn Hall, Room 6
Orono, ME 04469-5715
Phone: 207-581-3042
Fax: 207-581-3015
E-mail: umpotato@maine.edu

Papers

This is the **FIRST CALL** for papers to be presented at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America. This meeting will be held August 8-12, 2004 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

PAA members are invited to present papers dealing with all facets of the potato industry. Graduate students that are PAA members are also encouraged to enter the Graduate Student Competition.

Authors are required to submit abstracts for papers they wish to present, whether orally, as poster papers or in the Graduate Student Competition. Prior to submitting your abstract, please carefully read and follow the formatting guidelines published on the PAA website. Submit abstracts as an e-mail attachment to steven.james@oregonstate.edu and list "PAA Abstract" as the e-mail subject.

The abstracts for all papers (oral, poster and Graduate Student Competition) presented at the Annual Meeting will be published in a post-meeting issue of the *American Journal of Potato Research*. Abstracts of papers listed in the meeting program, but not presented, will not be published in the AJPR.

At the annual meeting, all oral paper presentations will be of a uniform 15-minute length. Authors should plan a 12- to 14-minute presentation with the balance of time devoted to questions. Overhead, slide and electronic projectors will be available. Display boards

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First Calls for PAA 2004

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(4 ft by 4 ft) will be provided for the poster papers.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is **March 19, 2004**. Abstracts submitted after that date will be returned because of the time required to organize the program prior to the meeting.

Submission Checklist:

- * Title
- * Author(s)
- * Abstract
- * Combination of title, authors and body not to exceed 2,000 characters, including spaces
- * PAA Membership Number
- * Presenter
- * Presentation Method (oral, oral – graduate student, poster)
- * Section (breeding, plant protection, etc.)

Steven R. James
 Central Oregon Ag Research Center
 850 NW Dogwood Lane
 Madras, OR 97741
 Phone: (541) 475-7107
 Email: steven.james@oregonstate.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 88th Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America. This meeting will be held August 8-12, 2004 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

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 and a PAA member at the time the abstracts are due (**March 19, 2004**).
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. Only one presentation by a student may be entered into the Graduate Student Competition at a PAA meeting. The student may give other presentations that are not entered.
6. The paper must be submitted to the PAA Secretary as outlined in the First Call for Papers. The total length, including title, authors and abstract body should not exceed 2,000 characters. The author must indicate discipline and that the paper is entered in the Graduate Student Awards Competition.
7. Winners will be announced and honored at the Annual Banquet. Free banquet tickets will be provided by the LAC for all graduate students 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%

Awards

Five awards will be presented in the amounts of \$350 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$150 for third place, \$100 for fourth place, and \$100 for fifth place.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Kathy Haynes, Chair, PAA
 Graduate Student Awards Competition
 USDA/ARS: Vegetable Laboratory
 Bldg. 010A, Room 312
 10300 Baltimore Avenue
 Beltsville, MD 20705
 Phone: 301-504-7405
 E-mail: haynesk@ba.ars.usda.gov

FINAL NOTICE: AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2004, THE PRICE OF BACK ISSUES FOR THE AMERICAN POTATO JOURNAL & THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POTATO RESEARCH GO UP TO \$10.00 EACH. YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO GET THOSE MISSING ISSUES REPLACED AT THE LOW \$4 EACH PRICE. SO CONTACT ME SOON TO AVOID THE INCREASED PRICE.

88th Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America

PAA 2004 “ Potato: A Community”

August 8 to 12, 2004

Scottsbluff, Nebraska, U.S.A.

Hampton Inn and Days Inn/Scottsbluff Inn

Hosted by the Panhandle Research and Extension Center

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

In a few months, our next annual meeting will be upon us. We hope that you will be joining us for the 88th PAA meeting on August 8 to 12, here in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, home of the Oregon Trail. The conference will be held at the Hampton Inn and Conference Center with the Days Inn as our second headquarters hotel. To assist you, enclosed are some highlights:

1. Registration & Tour Form (separate page) [be sure to fill out BOTH sides if you are registering through the mail]
2. Preliminary Agenda
3. Travel information
4. Hotel information
5. Tours information

Web Sites:

All up-to-date information as well as the registration form, hotel, travel and tour information is on our web site www.panhandle.unl.edu/paa. Please check it out and if you have questions or suggestions, please contact me (Alexander Pavlista) via e-mail apavlista@unl.edu or call/fax me at the numbers below. Registration with credit card information may be done via online, fax or USPS mail; see top of registration form for address information.

- * **PAA 2004:** www.panhandle.unl.edu/paa
Phone: 308-632-1240 / Fax: 308-632-1365 (me)
- * **Scottsbluff:** www.visitscottsbluff.com
Phone: 308-632-2133 (Kevin Howard)
- * **Air Travel:** www.frontierairlines.com
Phone: 800-908-9069
- * **Hampton Inn:** www.hamptoninn.com
Phone: 308-635-5200 / Fax: 308-635-5110
- * **Days Inn:** www.daysinn.com
Phone: 800-597-3111 / Fax: 308-635-7646

Weather

Recently the average temperatures in mid-August have been 90 F (daytime) and 55 F (nighttime) with low relative humidity (5 to 30% daytime and 50-70% nighttime). Rain would be a rarity and sunshine will be plentiful. The altitude of Scottsbluff/Gering is 4,500 ft. above sea level.

Conference Theme

The PAA 2004 theme is *Potatoes: A Community*. I picked this to emphasize three points: the importance of the potato industry to rural communities, the collegial atmosphere among potato scientists, agronomists, regulators and growers, and the key role of potatoes in world nutrition.

Conference Purpose

The objective of our annual meeting is to provide a forum for the presentation of new scientific information, to conduct the business of the Association, and to visit with our colleagues around the continent and the world. This will be our Association's 88th get-together and second in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Conference Attendance

The Annual Meeting of the PAA is typically made up of scientists and agronomists from academics, industry and government, Extension and certification specialists, potato industry representatives, consultants, students, Honorary Life Members, corporate representatives, and private entrepreneurs.

Sponsors

The Local Arrangements Committee for PAA 2004 welcome sponsors for the Annual Meeting. Sponsorship may be at any of three levels: gold, silver and bronze. Gold sponsors may set up a table exhibit at the Hampton Inn Conference Center throughout the week and participate as an exhibitor during the Poster Session at the Days Inn on Monday night as well. All sponsors are listed and updated on our web site. Sponsors enlisted by April 30 will also be recognized in the final printed program. If you wish to sponsor, contact me, Alexander Pavlista, at 308-632-1240 or via e-mail apavlista@unl.edu.

Conference Structure

The format and agenda of meetings generally vary little from year to year. This year's meeting will consist of three consecutive days of presentations (Monday through Wednesday) and conclude with a delegate tour on Thursday. Unlike previous meetings, there will be two symposia each

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Conference Structure

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followed by afternoon concurrent oral presentations grouped according to subject matter. There will be a workshop on Wednesday morning with additional concurrent oral presentations. The organization of concurrent sessions will be determined by the submitted Abstracts. The three PAA special meal functions are the Welcome Reception on Sunday night in the Hampton Inn Conference Center, the Picnic on Tuesday night at the Scotts Bluff Country Club and the Awards Reception and Banquet on Wednesday night in the Hampton Inn Ballroom. Registration is needed for these meal events. The delegate tour will be all day Thursday.

Symposia

Two symposia will be presented this year. The Extension Section is sponsoring the Monday morning symposium on the "Future of Extension" which will include speakers from Cooperative Extension and from the consulting industry. The Pest Management Section is sponsoring a Tuesday morning symposium on Powdery Scab and Mop-Top Virus with top scientists from around the world. This symposium will be the 2004 Spongospora Workshop, an international group. The Utilization/Marketing and Production/Management Sections are sponsoring a Wednesday morning workshop titled "On-Farm Food Safety" which will include speakers from the retail industries. See their list of topics and speakers on our web site.

Posters

Poster presentations play a key role in disseminating information. Posters will be up all day Monday and Tuesday, and the morning of Wednesday.

The Poster Session will be on Monday night in the Days Inn near the swimming pool area and café, and the Section meeting rooms. Important Notice: The size format of posters will be 4 foot by 4 foot (4'x 4') for PAA 2004 as last year's meeting. Posters will be attached using velcro strips only. Contact me (AP) should there be need of some special arrangement or to answer questions. A bus shuttle and vans will transport people between hotels.

Registration

The official, one-page Registration Form is enclosed. Registrations will be handled by CAPPS of Washington State University who did such a great job at last year's PAA meeting. Payment may be in the form of Visa or MasterCard credit cards online, by fax or through USPS mail; refer to top of registration form. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** To get the PAA Rate you must provide your PAA ID number which may be found on the PAA web site: <http://www.ume.maine.edu/PAA>. New members may find applications there as well to avoid higher registration fees.

If you wish to send payment by check or money order, please mail to:

Washington State Univ. Conf. & Professional Programs
PO Box 645222
Pullman, WA 99164-5222

PRELIMINARY AGENDA OUTLINE

Sunday, August 8, 2004:

8:30 am - 1:00 pm - Golf Scramble, SBCC
12:00 am - 6:00 pm - Registration Desk, Hampton Inn
all day 'til 7 pm - Poster Set-up, Days Inn
all week 'til 7 pm - Visual Viewing Area, Hampton Inn
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Committee Meetings, Days Inn
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Welcome Reception, Hampton Inn

Monday, August 9, 2004:

6:30 am - 8:00 am - Extension Section, Days Inn
7:30 am - 4:30 pm - Registration Desk
8:30 am - 12:00 am - Symposium, Extension
8:30 am - 7:00 pm - Tour: Fort Robinson, etc.
12:00 am - 1:00 pm - Lunch
1:30 pm - 4:15 pm - Concurrent Oral Sessions
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Section Meetings, Days Inn
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Poster Session, Days Inn
7:30 pm - Dinner - Restaurant and bar in Days Inn

Tuesday, August 10, 2004:

6:30 am - 8:00 am - Production Section, Days Inn
7:30 am - 4:30 pm - Registration Desk
8:30 am - 12:00 am - Symposium, Pest Management
8:30 am - 4:30 pm - Tour: Scotts Bluff Monument etc.
12:00 am - 1:00 pm - Lunch
1:30 pm - 4:45 pm - Concurrent Oral Sessions
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm - Picnic, S.B. Country Club

Wednesday, August 11, 2004:

7:30 am - 11:30 pm - Registration Desk
8:30 am - 12:00 am - Concurrent Oral Sessions
8:30 am - 4:00 pm - Tour: Riverside Zoo, etc.
12:00 am - 1:00 pm - Lunch
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Poster Removal, Days Inn
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm - Business Meeting, Hampton Inn
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm - PAA Banquet, Hampton Inn

Thursday, August 12, 2004:

8:00 am - 7:00 pm - Tour: PREC, FARM, Cabela's

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Conference Structure, cont.
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Transportation

By Air: FRONTIER AIRLINES is the official airlines for PAA 2004. Denver's new airport (DIA) is serviced by many airlines, is headquarters for Frontier Airlines and is a major hub for United Airlines. Great Lakes Airlines, code-share partner with each of them and flies from Denver to Scottsbluff (BFF). There will be three flights between Denver and Scottsbluff on Saturday and Sunday, and throughout the week. Special rates and schedules are available; check our web site <http://www.panhandle.unl.edu/paa> under Travel for discount codes, etc.

By Bus: A bus (Good Tymes Charter) will pick up passengers from DIA seating up to 40 people. Reservations and payment must be made with Early Registration, by June 1, and indicate expected time and day of arrival. Acknowledgment of schedule departures will be made to you by early June. The cost is \$30 each way. Information will also be updated on the web site.

By Van: Denver Coach runs a shuttle van holding 15 between Denver and Scottsbluff. The cost is \$63 round trip (airport to motel). Reservations may be made a week in advance by calling 800-658-3125.

By Car: DIA has many car rental companies servicing the area. The drive is 215 miles and 3½ to 4 hrs. Check our web site for driving details and suggested side trips. For local car rentals, Hertz services the Scottsbluff airport.

Lodging

PAA 2004 will have two headquarters, Hampton Inn & Conference Center and Days Inn (Scottsbluff Inn), both located on Highway 26. Check our web site: <http://www.panhandle.unl.edu/paa> and their respective web sites for additional information. Room reservations for either hotel will **NOT** be taken online due to special room rates.

- * Hampton Inn – 70 rooms, \$79 to \$99 depending on room size. Call 308-635-5200.
- * Days Inn – 120 rooms, \$79 for 1 to 4 people. Call 800-597-3111.

Nearby are Super 8, Comfort Inn, Candlelight Inn and Holiday Inn Express.

Tours

All tour stops are described in detail on our web site <http://www.panhandle.unl.edu/paa> with additional site descriptions

on the Scottsbluff Tourist Office web site <http://www.visitscottsbluff.com>. There will be a golf scramble on Sunday morning at the Scotts Bluff Country Club. Each day will have an accompanying persons tour centered around a theme. Monday will emphasize area history and Fort Robinson State Park will be the main attraction with additional stops at the Agate Fossil Beds and Carhenge. Scotts Bluff Monument will be the main attraction for Tuesday's geology emphasis with additional stops at Robidoux Trading Post, North Platte Valley Museum and Chimney Rock Monument. The third tour on Wednesday will be zoological and the main stop will be the award-winning Riverside Zoo in Scottsbluff with additional stops at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center and Wildlife World Museum. The delegate tour on Thursday will stop at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center, Farm and Ranch Museum and spend the afternoon at Cabela's in Sidney. Please check out our web site for details. Estimated tour lengths are: for the golf scramble - 5 hours; Fort Robinson, etc. - 10 hours; monuments, etc. - 8 hours; Riverside Zoo, etc. - 8 hours, and PREC/FARM/Cabela's - 11 hours.

Alexander Pavlista, Chair, LAC 2004

Tour Descriptions

[For those who don't have access to a computer and the Internet]

I. "Historic" Tour – Monday (August 9)

This tour will emphasize some of the historic development of the Nebraska Panhandle from "Indian Territory." The main event is a visit to Fort Robinson in the Pine Ridge located in the northern Panhandle, just below the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Fort Robinson and State Park is Nebraska's largest and most historic State Park and was an active military outpost from 1874 to 1948. In its history, Chiefs Crazy Horse and Red Cloud, Dr. Walter Reed and General Crook were among the historic figures housed here. It was the location of the last great gathering of the Sioux Nation, a WWII prisoner of war camp, Olympic equestrian training grounds, and much more. The buildings include visitor hotel lodging and cabins, a restaurant, and two museums as well as many historic buildings as a fort. The grounds have many trails as well as a resident buffalo herd. Some of the activities available for visitors are trail rides on horseback, jeep rides, stagecoach ride, horse-drawn tour, pony rides for children, and bicycle and mountain bike rentals. A swimming pool is also on the premises for use. Note most

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2004 Meeting Tours

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of these require additional costs not included in tour package.

Agate Fossils Beds National Monument will be visited on our way to Fort Robinson and will take you back millions of years to the Miocene era. You will see fossils of a two-horned rhinoceros common in the area once. There are also many Native American artifacts from the area. A park ranger will guide the group through the exhibits.

Carhenge will be visited on the way back. It is a replica of Stonehenge in the UK but with the 38 major stones reproduced by vintage cars from the 1950s and 1960s.

II. "Geologic" Tour – Tuesday (August 10):

This tour will emphasize some of the important rock formations in the area. The main event is a visit to Scotts Bluff National Monument.

Scotts Bluff National Monument was nicknamed the "Gibraltar of the West" by the Oregon Trail pioneers and is a 14 million year old sediment mass standing hundreds of feet above the North Platte River. The bus will take you at which there is several short trails allowing a view of the entire valley. On a clear day, Laramie Peak in Wyoming, hundreds of miles away, is visible. Between 1840 and 1869, a half a million pioneers passed through here. At the base of the Monument, is Oregon Trail Museum offering exhibits about the pioneers. You can follow through drawings of the entire Oregon Trail from its start on the Missouri River to the Pacific Coast. For hikers, you can walk a trail up and/or down (about three miles each way).

Robidoux Trading Post will be the next stop. Here, from 1851, the Plains Indians traded their furs. The current trading post is a reconstruction on the original site. The trading post master will give the group a short perspective.

North Platte Valley Museum features an authentic sod house and log house with period furniture. Exhibits include bull boat, school house, general store, fur trading, cowboys, military, horse-drawn equipment and more. The visit has a 60 to 90 min tour of museum. There is also a hands-on exhibit for children. There is an excellent gift shop of books and maps.

Chimney Rock National Historic Site was an early guide to Rocky Mountain trappers and traders on their treks from the Missouri River. This spire was drawn and described by many pioneers and explorers since 1813. For the pioneers, it meant the first phase of their journey was completed and the arduous mountain passage was to begin. There is a visitor's center from which you can safely view the spire. It has been hit by lightning twice in the past century, most recently less than 15 years ago.

III. "Zoologic" Tour – Wednesday (August 11)

This tour will emphasize animals, both exotic and from times past. The main event is a visit to Riverside Zoo.

Riverside Zoo is a 23-acre zoo home to over 200 animals exhibited in their natural habitats. "The Best Little Zoo in the West!" Popular features include the rare red panda and white tiger (bred at zoo), prairie dog town, chimpanzee family, mountain lions, river otters, moose, bison, and a free-flight aviary. The zoo also includes a petting corral for children. In addition to animals, the zoo is enriched with over 30 botanical displays. There will be a 90-minute guided tour ("zoo trek"). This zoo is a national award winner and is active in national work on conservation and nutrition.

Wildcat Hills Nature Center is in the Wildcat Hills State Recreational Reserve which is 1,000 acres of rugged terrain with many hiking trails, picnic facilities and a resident buffalo herd. A tour guide will direct the group to the educational opportunities in ecology, biology and geology offered in the Nature Center.

Wildlife World is located in a restored railroad depot. It contains a collection of mounted zoological specimens featuring the only authentic full-size replica of the Blauchiterium standing 19 ft tall and 30 ft long. There are over 300 animals in exciting dioramas exhibited.

IV. "Agricultural" + Tour – Thursday (August 12)

The morning half of the tour will emphasize agriculture and the afternoon will be spent at Cabela's Outfitters.

Panhandle Research and Extension Center grounds and buildings were once Hiram Scott College until the mid-1970s. The main part contains 156 acres of irrigated crop land. There are nearly 20 Specialists and over 20 Extension Educators conducting research and extension programs for the Nebraska Panhandle. The tour will visit the 16-acre Small Plot Research Facility where trials are conducted under a linear-move irrigation system. Trials on potato, dry bean, sugar beet, small grains etc. will be visited. The Elliot Building will be toured as well.

Farm and Ranch Museum features farming equipment dating before the 1950s. A few of the potato equipment featured are a cutter/planter, horse-drawn digger, and belly-digger. Tractors are a key feature of the museum which also contains pictures and artifacts from early 20th century farming. Explore the mechanization of agriculture.

Cabela's is the world's foremost outfitter headquartered here. The store was founded by Dick and Jim Cabela, descendants of Czech immigrants who settled in this area. Besides retailing, the building houses spectacular bronze statues, a large mounted specimen exhibit, aquariums of game fish, and wildlife art gallery. A hospitality suite for our group will also be arranged, maybe discounts(?).

PAA Background

**PAA Executive
President**
Greg Porter

President-Elect
Rob Davidson

Vice President
Larry Hiller

Secretary
Steve James

Treasurer
Al Bushway

Past-President
H. W. "Bud" Platt

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Joe Sowokinos
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Technical Editor
Barbara Harrity

Business Editor
Ron Knight

Annual Meeting
August 8-12, 2004
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

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

Members in the News

Duane Preston was honored by the North Plains Potato Growers Association at their annual Meeting at the Ramada Inn Suites in Fargo, North Dakota on November 14, 2003 with the "Meritorious Service Award" from the potato industry of North Dakota and Minnesota. This is quite a prestigious award from an industry he felt very honored to receive the award. They had a small roast for him with several speakers adding comments, etc. It was really a fun evening with around 250 growers, industry, etc attending the event.

Duane has also been the Area Extension Agent-Potatoes in the position for 25 years, with the joint appointment with the University of Minnesota/North Dakota State University Extension Service.

Jonathan Whitworth has taken a new job position as of July 2003 as a Research Plant Pathologist, USDA-ARS, Aberdeen, ID. Co-Principal Investigator with Research Geneticist, Richard Novy on USDA-ARS Potato Breeding Project. Emphasis is on identifying and developing

disease resistance in new potato cultivars. Current efforts include screening advanced material for virus resistance (PLRV and PVY) and late blight evaluations of breeding crosses. Whitworth previously worked for 7 years as the Area Manager at Idaho Crop Improvement Association in charge of seed potato certification in Idaho and true seed certification in SE Idaho. His Ph.D. is from Oregon State University where his research centered on virus movement in plants. New contact information is:

Jonathan Whitworth, Ph.D.
Potato Pathology, USDA-ARS
PO Box 870, Aberdeen, ID 83210-0870
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Mann Library at Cornell University honored **Nell Mondy** on October 31, 2003 with the dedication of two scanning electron microscope enlargements of the potato cell. These were hung in the "Nell I Mondy Reading Room" in the new edition of the library. The photos were taken in 1969 and were among the first pictures taken of the potato cell with this type of scope.

Meetings, cont. (February)

...Continued from Page 1

9-12: ISHS First Intl Symp on Root & Tuber Crops: Food Down Under. Palmerston North, New Zealand. Sarah Siebert, s.m.siebert@massey.ac.nz or <http://www.crop.cri.nz/conferences/Root-Tuber2004/>

12-15: Int'l Potato Tech Expo, Charlottetown Civic Ctr & Delta Prince Edward, Charlottetown, PEI, Canada. Mark Cusack 506-658-0018 or <http://www.masterpromotions.ca>

18-26: Potato Ind Leadership Inst, Stevens Point, WI and Washington, DC. Hollee Stubblebine, hollees@nationalpotatocouncil.org or Ann Vorthmann, avorthmann@uspotatoes.com

22-26: NPC BOD Mtg, Loews L'Enfant Plaza, Washington, DC, NPC, 202-682-9456.

March 2004

7-12: XXI Congress of the Latin American Potato Assn, Valdivia, Chile. Info: <http://www.uach.cl/alap2004/> or Andres Contreras ALAP Pres., E-mail: acontr@ach.cl

The XXI Congress of the Latin American Potato Association (ALAP, Asociacion Latinamericana de la Papa), V Latin American Seminar on Potato: Use & Commercialization (V Seminario Latinoamericano de la Papa: Uso y Commercializacion), X Meeting of the Chilean Potato Association (Assoc. Chilena de la Papa, ACHIPA) and II Spanish American Congress on Research & Development of the Potato (II Congreso Iberoamericano sobre Investigacion y Desarrollo en Patata)

20-23: Snack Food Association's 'Snaxpo', Pennsylvania's Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA, Snack Food Association 703-836-8262 or <http://www.sfa.org>

24-30: World Potato Congress, Kunming, Yunnan Prov. China. Info: Lloyd Palmer, info@potatocongress.org; 902-368-8885 or <http://www.potatocongress.org>