



INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 8 No. 3 July 2004

Letter From the President

I hope that you are all having a successful and enjoyable summer season! For many, the summer brings with it a long list of fieldwork including lots of work on our favorite crop and its various pests. Many also travel in the summer and enjoy vacation time with friends and family. I hope to see many of you at the 88th annual meeting of The Potato Association of America (PAA) from August 8 to 12 in Scottsbluff, NE. Alex Pavlista and the rest of the Nebraska local arrangements committee (LAC) have put together an exciting program for us. The conference theme is "*Potatoes: A Community*". The importance of the potato industry to rural economies, the key role of potato in world nutrition, and the collegial atmosphere among potato scientists and professionals provide the basis for this theme. The program features two outstanding symposia: "*Future Directions to Maximize the Impact of Extension*" sponsored by the Extension Section and "*Spongospora subterranea f. sp. subterranea: Causal Agent of Powdery Scab and Vector of Mop-Top Virus*" sponsored by the Plant Pathology Section. At this writing, more than 128 scientific abstracts have been submitted. The Nebraska LAC has also developed an excellent non-scientific program. This program includes historic, geologic, zoologic, and agricultural tours, golfing, shopping, and a picnic. The program and events planned for the meeting should provide an excellent opportunity to have fun while also learning more about the potato.

Since our last meeting, The PAA Executive, Editorial, Vision Implementation and other committees, as well as

section officers, have been active on several issues of importance to the future of PAA. As an organization and members, we should keep the goals of the PAA Vision in mind as we make decisions concerning the use of our financial resources, time, and talents. As we make decisions during the 2004 meeting, let's stay focused on moving PAA towards its Vision. As you plan your schedules for the next few years, please keep the 2005 PAA meeting in Calgary, Alberta (July 17-22, 2005) and the 2006 PAA meeting in Madison, WI (July 23-27, 2006) in your schedules. Also, plan on attending the 6th World Potato Congress in Boise, ID (August 20-26, 2006). PAA has a rich tradition of outstanding annual meetings and active participation with the potato industry. Let's continue and build on that tradition in the coming years!

Finally, I encourage all members to attend and participate in the August 2004 annual PAA meeting in Scottsbluff, NE. The potato is truly a fascinating crop to work with and there are many challenges facing growers, processors and scientists as we work with this crop. PAA serves an important function for the potato industry and the scientific community. We face many challenges as we try to strengthen our organization and pursue the important goals presented in the PAA Vision. Come, enjoy the hospitality of the Nebraska LAC and help make PAA a stronger organization.

See you in August,

Greg Porter
PAA President

Dates

July

11-13: Potato Mktg Assn of NA Summer Mtg, Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, Ontario, Canada. Info: carlson@on.aibn.com

22: No Plains Potato Grwrs Assn Field Day, NPPGA Irrigated Res Farm, Tappen, ND. Info: <http://www.nppga.org>

27: Minn Area II Res Council Field Day, Becker Exp Sta, Becker, MN. Info: Paul Gray, 320-743-2837

August

2-7: US Pot Bd/Cochran Fellowship Intl Potato Sym & Seed Tour. Info: Leah Cochran 303-873-2323, lcochran@uspotatoes.com

9-13: US Pot Bd Sum Mtg, La Conner, WA. Info: Ann Vorthmann, 303-873-2314, avorthmann@uspotatoes.com

Sept

1-2: 4th Intl Tech & Comm Potato Exhibit, Villers St. Christophe (Aisne, France), Info: <http://www.dpw.wageningen-ur.nl/eapr/4ITCPE.htm>

19-21: 1st Solanaceae Genome WS 2004, Wageningen, Netherlands. Info: <http://>

2004 PAA Meeting Update

The plans for our meeting are doing great. Early registration totals as of June 18 are 177 delegates and 37 accompanying persons (214 people). We have 23 sponsors; check the website. There will be three new Honorary Life Members. The Buffalo Picnic menu is set: buffalo steak, potatoes au gratin, beans, corn, and a special desert, spumoni ice cream in a chocolate shell. Some special entertainment is also planned. The Silent Auction for the Foundation will be a special feature of the Picnic and if you would like to donate items contact Creighton Miller or Helen Voss. We already have about 150 signed up for the picnic. The banquet is coming along although the menu won't be finalized for another week or so. There are about 150 signed up already. To help plan the numbers for the meal events, please sign up as soon as possible and avoid being left out. Remember, graduate students in the competition go to the banquet for free. There will also be a surprise at the banquet for all attending graduate students. The Hampton Inn is full; Days Inn is filling up. Instructions to oral and poster presenters have been e-mailed so that things will go smoothly.

On the transportation side, it seems not very many people need to be transported to and from Denver, not enough to fill a bus: 14 on Sat, 11 on Sun, 10 on Thu and 11 on Fri. So, in place of a bus, I am scheduling two vans each day. On Sat and Sun, I will be chartering a Denver Coach van for 10 people to depart Denver 2 pm and a University van for 6 people to depart about 4 pm. For the return, we will have the Denver Coach leaving at 7 am on Thu and Fri and the University van leaving about 9 am. We still have to put together arrival and departure times. If you have not indicated these on your registration, please e-mail them to CAPPs or me. If you haven't

registered yet and need ground transport, as you can see space is running out. Although, Great Lakes Airlines has told me that they still have space available to fly people into Scottsbluff. In addition Westward Airways (www.westwardairways.com) is now flying the "river run" from Omaha and Lincoln and North Platte to Scottsbluff and back. (I heard that there have been inquiries.)

The golf scramble is on and there is still room for more golfers. The agriculture tour on Thursday will have a bus going with about 40 participants already signed up with room for more (Happy Cabela'ing). We will also have a bus at our disposal all day (7am to 11 pm) for Mon, Tue and Wed as well. The bus will also provide transportation to local sites. The Monday tour to Fort Robinson, however, will be cancelled as 16 have signed up; I will check into chartering a van. We will use a van for the zoo for the few people signed up there. My plan is to refund for the Mon (unless we charter vans), Tue and Wed tour, and use the bus for local daytime tours to the monument, Chimney Rock, Wildcat Hills, Carhenge, zoo, etc. and have the participants cover their entry fees if required and lunches. I will cover the expense of the bus etc. (already arranged). So Tour 2 and 3 will keep the same plans but will be flexible depending on the desires of the passengers. Remember that the facilities of the country club will also be available to us (swimming pool, tennis, golf, racquet ball, dining).

Check the website for periodic updates.

Please contact me (apavlista@unl.edu) with any questions, comments or needs, I will take care of whatever so you will have a great experience, promise.

**Alex Pavlista, Chair
2004 Annual Meeting**

PAA Vision Update

The members of PAA have agreed to the global role that the potatoes must play for food this century and the role the Association must play to help this take place. The Vision accepted by the members clearly identifies the goals for the membership this century, goals that will require action by those making PAA decisions. All of these goals require programs that will bring scientists together to share research progress and link scientific efforts towards valuable advances and usable results.

This past year Richard Tarn, Bud Platt and Frank Fronek attended the Intl Potato Congress in China and took with them PAA Vision information. They shared their knowledge with local potato groups in China, an activity that is part of the goals of PAA Vision implementation. All potato scientists internationally need to be aware of the PAA Vision goals and become a part of the process for Vision implementation. The Vision Implementation Committee has continued to make contacts that would forward progress towards Vision goals this past year.

Recently I discussed the PAA Vision goals with the incoming director general of the Intl Potato Ctr (CIP), Pamela Anderson, and how our forces might be joined at times. CIP has contacts and scientists located in many developing countries and could become a most valuable partner in PAA Vision implementation. This led to the conclusion that a major role of associations such as the PAA, was to bring scientists together to share research results. This could lead to valuable linkages that would speed progress towards goals that have been identified and accepted.

Leaders in a number of the Ctrs of the Consultative Group for Intl Agric Res & national institutions are looking for linkages that would speed research progress. The PAA with its Vision and programs to activate progress towards goals for the important role of the potato this century could set good examples for other associations to follow. An opportunity exists that must be serviced by all PAA members.

Richard Sawyer

Endowment Fund Progress Report

As chair of the PAA Endowment Fund Committee, I have been asked, "What does my contribution accomplish? How will it be used? How can I participate?"

The PAA Endowment Fund was established to provide a permanent source of interest-bearing assets to be used to foster objectives of the organization. The primary goal of the PAA Endowment Fund is to provide support for educational/professional development opportunities for the membership. Possibilities might include student travel grants for PAA meetings, scholarships, competitive awards, support for distinguished speakers, and programs that directly benefit the membership and promote potato science and education.

The PAA Endowment Fund Committee established an immediate goal of \$200,000, with a \$50,000 corpus required prior to significant distribution of interest - since a rule of thumb is that no more than 4-5% of the endowment corpus should be distributed in any single year. The Endowment is managed by the University of Maine Foundation. For your information, Al Bushway, Foundation liaison, reports that, as of December 31, 2003, the fair market value of the general endowment was \$28,754.19 (principal, \$26,470.27), with the addition of \$6,462 since December for a current total of \$32,932.27 (principal + additions). For the same period, the fair market value of the Frank Haynes Graduate Student Award endowment was \$20,928.92 (principal, \$19,127), with \$1,125 added since December for a current total of \$20,252 (principal + additions). As you are aware, the Frank Haynes Graduate Student Endowment is earmarked for awards to graduate students recognizing outstanding papers presented at our annual meeting. Not included in the above-mentioned figures, is a recent contribution of \$5,000 by HLM Ronald D. Offutt, making him a Diamond Club member, with an

additional \$5,000 pledged for 2005. Thanks to Duane Preston for encouraging Ronnie to take advantage of this opportunity.

I would like to suggest that each PAA member who has contributed to the Endowment Fund seriously consider an increase in the amount contributed this year. Also, please encourage at least one colleague to contribute. If each member increased their contribution and convinced at least one or more additional member to contribute, our Endowment Fund would grow by leaps and bounds. Remember, contributions to the endowment qualify as a charitable deduction under IRS-501-C-3 charter of the organization and may be received from individuals, estates, corporations, and trusts.

At the 2003 meeting of the PAA Endowment Fund Committee in Spokane, committee members agreed to hold a silent auction at our 2004 meeting in Scottsbluff. Helen Voss graciously agreed to coordinate this effort. We urge all members to support this project by bringing/sending items for auction to Scottsbluff. The Committee will also be recommending that our Board of Directors approve a new award category in support of the PAA Endowment Fund, as proposed by Ed Plissey. Recognition as a "Luther Burbank Fellow" would be accompanied by a contribution of at least \$500 to the endowment.

The Committee welcomes any suggestions you may have for increasing contributions to the PAA Endowment Fund. I encourage you to seriously consider beginning and/or increasing your contribution for this year now or when you receive your membership renewal form. I also encourage you to honor deceased potato colleagues with a contribution. It's easy- just write in \$100 or \$200 or more. Your contribution will accomplish great things on behalf of your professional organization, the Potato Association of America.

Creighton Miller, Chair
PAA Endowment Fund Committee

"Supporter: less than \$50"

Uzi Afek
Ian Affleck
Amy Charkowski
Daniel Corey
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Santiago Delgado-Sanchez
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Mohamed Sedegui
Bob Sirois
Jeffrey Start
Mike Sun
David Thompson
Hermon Timm
Jeffrey Twomey
Kazuo Watanabe
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"Bronze: \$50 to \$99"

Alfred Bushway
Trevor Clayton
Robert D. Davidson
Walter De Jong
Joe Guenther
Bob Hoopes
Arthur Kelman
Robert Mercer
Leigh Morrow
Ted Radcliffe

Jane Seabrook
Joe Sowokinos
Richard Tarn
Warren Trank
Masa Tsukamoto

"Silver: \$100 to \$499"

Bobby Bassi
Richard Chase
Barbara Christ
Martin Cipar
Dennis L. Corsini
Frank Fronek
Frito-Lay, Inc.
Henri Gemereux
Horia Groza
Joe Guenther
Don Halseth
Doug Johansen
Dermot Lynch

Joe Pavsek
Bob Plaisted
Greg Porter
Ken Proudfoot
Gary Rawlings
Carol Reeves
Rikki Sterrett
Christian Thill
Susie Thompson
Chris Voigt
Ron Voss

"Gold: \$500 to \$999"

Oscar Gutbrod
Dave Lambert
Duane Preston
Joseph Siczka
Sam Thornton

"Platinum: \$1,000 to \$4,999"

Wilma Bowman
James Bryan
Melvin Henninger
Larry Hiller
Edward Jones
Peter Joyce
Creighton Miller
John Niederhauser
H. W. "Bud" Platt
Edwin Plissey
Alvin Reeves

"Diamond: \$5,000 to \$9,999"

Ronald D. Offutt

"Luther Burbank: \$10,000 or more"

Kathleen Haynes

PAA Background

**PAA Executive
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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, 5715 Coburn Hall, Room 6, University of Maine, Orono, ME, 04469-5715 USA. Phone: 207-581-3042; Fax: 207-581-3015; E-mail: umpotato@maine.edu; Website: <http://www.umaine.edu/PAA>

Members in the News

Charles "Chico" Fernandez, gardener at the US Potato Genebank was the sole recipient of this year's National Plant Germplasm System **Special Achievement Award** given to outstanding genebank support staff nominated from across the nation.

The basis of the award was outstanding effort to preserve potato germplasm over his 25-year tenure at the Potato Genebank, and particular accomplishments in the past 5 years. Among these were participation in 5 germplasm collecting trips

to the southwest USA, discovery of a new purple-less pigment mutant in *S. fendleri*, discovery of phenomena suggestive of apomixis in *S. jamesii*, and development of remote field tuberization sites for wild germplasm.

The plaque reads "In recognition of his dedicated and insightful contributions to the collection, maintenance and characterization of potato genetic resources" and includes a \$2,000 cash prize.

John Bamberg

AUCTION ~~ AUCTION ~~ AUCTION

Please put your creative caps on and bring many interesting items for the **Endowment Silent Auction**.

Items to consider; add more:

Week/weekend at your cabin

Sail on your boat

Baby-sit "your" kids for a weekend

Books...science or travel

Items from your state

Maple syrup/homemade jams

Pecans/pralines/peanuts

Order of live Maine lobsters

Hockey Stick from your winning team

Collection of hot sauces

Taffy/candy unique to your area

Antiques...collectibles

Art, yours or someone else's

Goody from your travels

Handwork/stitchery/quilt

Woodcraft

Potato curios/hats/trinkets

Photos, matted

Your husband, dog, stray cat

This auction is a painless way to give to the Endowment Fund. It is OK to be ridiculous and funny. White elephants are fine.

Do plan to participate with your donations by supporting the Endowment Fund.

For information: Helen Voss 530-787-3510