



PAA INSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE POTATO ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, ONE TUBER AT A TIME."

LETTER FROM THE PAA PRESIDENT

Vol. 19, No. 2,
April 2015

Dear PAA Members,

Ready or not, the growing season is upon us in many parts of North America. I know my favorite organisms, the aphids and psyllids, are off to a roaring start, and I look forward to another fascinating year of field work.

Throughout the winter the PAA Executive Committee and staff have worked hard to keep The Association and the journal going, planning for the future of PAA, and of course working with this year's Local Arrangements Committee to plan for the Annual Meeting in Portland, Maine.

In my last article in the *Insider* I mentioned that one fabulous way to support PAA is to publish your best science in the *American Journal of Potato Research*, and I said I would have other suggestions for you later. Another big way to support PAA? Get involved! For those of you who have been members for many years, consider joining the Executive Committee by volunteering to be elected to a Director position. But for everyone who attends the Annual Meeting, my request and plea is for active engagement by all in the Sections of PAA. The Sections are a critical part of The Association. They meet on Monday and Tuesday at the annual conference, and a big part of those meetings is simply sharing ideas and perspectives among specialists with similar work and expertise. They are great networking and learning opportunities, and everyone is invited to participate in any Section that interests them. The Sections are for all members of PAA. What's more, the symposia that we enjoy at each annual conference emerge from, and are organized by the Sections. The open exchange of ideas and experience at the Section meetings leads to ideas for symposia, which when realized at future conferences make The PAA as a whole stronger.

Read more about the Sections on the PAA website, <http://potatoassociation.org/about-paa/paa-sections>. They are:

- Breeding & Genetics
- Certification
- Extension, Production & Management
- Physiology
- Plant Protection
- Utilization & Marketing

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you at a Section meeting this summer in Maine!

Andy Jensen, PAA
President, 2014-2015

MEETINGS & EVENTS

June 2015

8-10: United Fresh Produce Innovation

Chicago

17-19: UPG of America Crop Transition Conf

MOA, MN

21-23: 2015 Wash Potato & Onion Assoc Ann Conv

Spokane, WA.

Info: [Randi Hammer](#)

July 2015

8-10: NPC Summer Mtg

Kalispell, MT

holleea@nationalpotatocouncil.org

28-29 World Potato Congress

Beijing City, China

August 2015

9: Ontario Potato Field Day

Alliston, ON, CAN

eugenia.banks@ontario.ca

11-15: USPB Sum Mtg

Grand Forks, ND

caitlin@uspotatoes.com

99th Annual Meeting - The Potato Association of America
July 19-23, 2015 - Portland, Maine USA

The Maine LAC is pleased to announce that there are over 90 papers and posters slated for the 99th Annual Meeting in Portland, Maine. Registrations have been slow so far, but we expect that to change quickly as soon as the program is published online in few weeks. You won't want to miss this event and the opportunity to enjoy coastal Maine. As a reminder, lodging and meeting space will be in the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in South Portland, 7 miles or 13 minutes from the downtown Portland waterfront. The hotel rates and meeting registration fees were published in the January newsletter and can be found on the meeting website www.paaannualmeeting.org.

Also, here again are links to general information about the Portland area www.visitportland.com/ and www.portlandmaine.com/.



If you are inclined to come to Maine early or stay late here are a few ideas that might interest you. Fort Fairfield is five hours north of Portland, but the Annual Maine Potato Blossom Festival is a week-long event that concludes on July 18 with a huge parade. Also, just 10 minutes north of Portland will be the Yarmouth Clam Festival on July 17-19. Following our meeting, up the Maine coast an hour Wiscasset holds its annual Summerfest on July 25. If you prefer to stay in Portland Friday night July 24, the Tedeschi Trucks Band will perform outside at the Maine State Pier – search for www.waterfrontconcerts.com.

Many of you have requested a shorter traditional meeting and we have provided just that by moving the ag tour day to the end of the meeting on Thursday. This means the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Banquet will be Wednesday. The rest of the meeting is fairly traditional with the Sunday reception, the Monday Symposium, and papers and posters filling up the rest of Monday through Wednesday morning.

We are excited to hold our Tuesday evening dinner social in Casco Bay on Peaks Island. Lobster is on the menu. The PAA is still building the endowment funds so please remember to bring something to donate to the Silent Auction.



When you get ready to register, please remember to find your PAA ID first. It can be found in your personal profile on The PAA website www.potatoassociation.org/. Online registration can done by the first web link above, but if you need assistance contact Theresa McMannus, University of Maine Conference Services Division of Lifelong Learning, 323 Chadbourne Hall, Orono, Maine 04469. Ph: 207-581-4095 Fax: 207-581-4097.

Lodging

Lodging at the twin towers of the **DoubleTree by Hilton Portland Maine** is \$139 for single or double. Please use the customized hotel registration site http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/P/PWMMMDT-PAA-20150717/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG. Phone registrations may be done at (207)775-6161 or (800)445-8667. Be sure to mention the Group Name 'THE POTATO ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (PAA-2015)' and Group Code 'PAA'. Failure to mention this affiliation may result higher rates which cannot be changed at check in. We have not blocked many rooms for Saturday night, so if the registration desk says the room block is full make sure this is not the reason. Nicole Cayer (207)756 6519 can assist if there are difficulties in the process. July is prime vacation time on the Maine coast and less expensive rates will be difficult to find. Please patronize our host hotel to help us attain our quota. The hotel is easy access from the Portland Jetport (2 miles) and Interstate 95. The hotel provides complementary hotel shuttle service. Across the street is the Maine Mall with many choices for shops and food. The address if arriving by auto is 363 Maine Mall Road, South Portland, Maine 04106. **The guest room block and rate are only available until 5 PM (Eastern Time)**

June 24. Rooms, if available, are not guaranteed at the negotiated rate if booked after this cut-off time and date. Also, tell the hotel before or at check-in if your stay will be shortened, otherwise early departure will result in a 50% rate charge. The DoubleTree by Hilton has 219 guest rooms. Rates have not been negotiated with other hotels. There are at least a half dozen other hotels in the vicinity, but only one that would be considered a comfortable walking distance.

Travel

You will want to book your flights to Portland, Maine. The **Portland Jetport (PWM)** is only 2 miles from the DoubleTree by Hilton and the hotel offers free shuttle service. We look forward to seeing you in Portland in July and may you have safe travels.

Maine LAC Co-chairs, Leigh Morrow and Greg Porter



"SILENT AUCTION"

100% of the proceeds will benefit the PAA Endowment Fund

Have you started gathering auction items for the July 2015 PAA Annual Meeting?
Use your imagination and bring, or send, it for our biggest fund-raiser of the year. From
quilts, books, prints, potato-related items,
humorous pieces, donate your camp for a weekend gift certificates, and anything cool!
It does not have to be 'potato' related!!!

- ◆ **Location:** Portland, Maine, PAA Annual Meeting
- ◆ **Bidding Starts:** Sunday, July 19th at Noon
- ◆ **Bidding Ends:** Tuesday, July 20th, 3:30 PM

Donated items will be accepted at the Registration Table Sunday
(July 19th) and continue through 2:30 PM on Tuesday (July 21st).

(Silent Auction material will be displayed all day Monday for your bidding pleasure!)
Don't forget....all donations are tax deductible!

The auction will wrap up just before the evening dinner social on Tuesday, July 20th
and **you must be present to win.**

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

Can't make it to the meeting or don't want to bring it on the plane, send to Lori Wing, PAA. 5719 Crossland Hall, Room 219, Orono, ME 04769-5719 or call 207-581-3042 for further information

Thank you for your support in whatever form it may be!! (Cash gifts are always Welcome!)

PAA Information

2014-2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Andy Jensen
Pres-Elect: Loretta Mikitzel
Vice-President: Mike Thornton
Secretary: Carrie Huffman Wohleb
Treasurer: Larry Hiller
Financial Officer: Bret Nedrow
Past-President: Nora Olsen
Editor-in-Chief: John Bamberg
Directors:
 Amy Charkowski
 Samuel Essah
 Shelley Jansky
 Rich Novy
 Asunta 'Susie' Thompson

SECTON CHAIRS:

Breeding & Genetics:

Aliya Momotaz

Certification:

Jeff McMorran

Extension, Production & Management:

Andy Robinson

Physiology:

Jake Blauer

Plant Protection:

Andrew Houser

Utilization & Marketing:

Bret Nedrow

99TH ANNUAL MEETING

July 19-July 23, 2015

DoubleTree Inn Portland, Maine USA

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 E-mail: umpotato@maine.edu; Website: <http://potatoassociation.org>

PAA Members in the News

In January 2015, **Dr. Neil C. Gudmestad**, Univ Distinguished Prof of Plant Pathology at NDSU, was named the **Neil C. Gudmestad Endowed Chair of Potato Pathology**, by NDSU President Dr. Dean Bresciani. The endowed chair position was created as the result of an endowment established by the contributions of potato growers, processors, agricultural chemical manufacturers and other allied industries from throughout the U.S.. Forty donors from 13 states contributed to the Neil C. Gudmestad Endowment in recognition of his many research contributions to the management of potato diseases over a 38 year career. More than \$4.2 million was raised by the donors which in turn obtained a 50% match from the ND Higher Education Challenge Fund, making the total endowment worth \$6.3 million.

The primary purpose of the endowment is to provide assurance that a successor can be identified to continue Dr. Gudmestad's potato pathology research program at a high level upon his retirement, tentatively set for 2019. The endowment advisory committee will provide valuable input as to the important potato disease problems in the U.S. that require research, provide guidance into asset allocation of funds derived from the endowment, and to work with the university to recruit and identify Dr. Gudmestad's successor.

You may read the full article on The PAA website frontpage under "[PAA People](#)"

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We lost HLM Member Richard L. Sawyer and two former members of PAA since our last Newsletter:

Dr. Richard L Sawyer passed away on March 9, 2015 at his home in Raleigh, NC. He received his Honorary Life Membership with The PAA in 1976. You may read his nomination write up [here](#). And his obituary here: <http://riverheadnewsreview.timesreview.com/2015/03/62971/richard-l-sawyer/>

Dr. Herman Timm passed away on March 9, 2015. You may read his obituary here: <http://www.davisenterprise.com/obits/herman-timm-obituary-not-final-version/>, and

Dr. Alan R Langille passed away on April 19, 2015. You may read his obituary here: <http://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituaries/bdnmaine/obituary.aspx?n=alan-r-langille&pid=174691257&fhid=8370>

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"ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE"

We continue reminding everyone of our desire to reach the goal of \$200,000 in the PAA General Endowment Fund before or by our 100th PAA meeting in Michigan in 2016.

Additions to the Haynes Graduate Student fund was \$100 -- we have attained the original goal level for this fund.

Additions to the General Endowment fund in 2014 included:

\$ 5,858.75	Funds given by the Univ of Maine Foundation as matching funds in celebration of their 80th anniversary
530.00	Member donations
4,324.00	Silent/Live Auctions in Spokane annual meeting
5,560.00	Donations received since Spokane for Challenge project
<u>5,586.00</u>	Donor Match for the Challenge
\$ 21,858.75	Total additions

The expected Historical/Principal Values for our funds when we receive from the Foundation the 2014 final reports will be:

\$ 45,674.13 Frank Haynes Graduate Student Award fund
 \$175,114.50 General Endowment fund

If you need any other info, or have any questions, shoot me an email <hiller.larryk@gmail.com> or call 509-332-3763.