

## ALVIN REEVES (2002)



I am here before you as PAA President-elect to present an award to a wonderful person and scientist. Normally, this award is presented at the annual meeting of the PAA; however, this year, the PAA asked the NPC Seed Seminar local arrangements to allow us to present the award at this meeting.

Alvin Reeves was a scientist. He was born in Indiana and his earliest ambitions were to study and learn everything he could about plants. He attended Indiana University as National Merit Scholar, receiving his Bachelors and Masters degrees there working on sunflowers with C.B. Heiser. His PhD work was done on the cytogenetics of tomatoes with Charles Rick at the University of California at Davis. The tomato research was continued while Al was a faculty member at the University of Arkansas for seven years. While in California, Al met and married Carol, a fellow student in the genetics department. Their daughter Susan was born there and three sons were born in Arkansas.

Alvin joined the Episcopal church in Arkansas and was active until the day of his death, attending services every Sunday, tithing regularly, and working on every project that needed his time or energy. His faith was strong and his commitment real.

In 1975 Alvin accepted the position of potato breeder at the University of Maine. He worked full time at the research farm in Presque Isle and traveled to Orono regularly for faculty commitments. He continued the work begun by Dr. Robert Akeley and built the University of Maine research program into an exemplary potato program.

Al had a deep regard for Aroostook County and its people. He was actively involved in Kiwanis and Northern Maine Museum of Science at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Alvin felt strongly that the Potato Association of America was a very important vehicle for encouraging and facilitation of research information and results. He was proud to be a member of the organization and participated actively as treasurer and a member of the financial committee. Through the PAA he made lasting friendships and scientific partnerships in NRSP6 and NE184. He valued the members of these small groups and the whole PAA as comrades and companions. He believed in the establishment of an endowment fund to assure the continuation of this valuable organization, and his family has been heartened by the many members who have contributed to that fund in his memory.

It is with great pleasure that Al Reeves who continues to live in the hearts and minds of his family and friends is made an Honorary life Member of PAA.

~Gregory A. Porter  
President-Elect, PAA