



INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 8 No. 2 April 2004

Letter From the President

PAA Vision: Reality or Dust Collector?

The PAA Vision was approved in 2001. It lists key goals to make our organization stronger in the future. Your Vision Implementation Committee is working on ideas to make those lofty vision goals a reality, but it will take the membership to make it happen. Please take a moment to check the PAA website and review the goals and suggested implementation steps. We won't make the Vision a reality unless officers, section leaders, local arrangements committees, and the membership take an active role in making PAA a stronger organization. Let's not be dust collectors and let's not allow our Vision to become one either!

On the PAA website you will also find a brief version of the PAA Vision document that can be printed out and distributed at meetings that we attend. Several PAA members recently took these goals to China and presented them at the World Potato Congress. Please consider using the document to make other groups aware of PAA and our organizational goals.

Two specific goals that come immediately to my mind are: 1) expansion and improvement of the PAA website; 2) becoming more linked to potato organizations outside of North America.

Lori Wing and the Website Committee have been solving some technical problems associated with the server. The problems seem to have been resolved and they are now ready to start making the changes that were suggested at the 2003 PAA meeting. Please consider how the Website could be more useful and get your suggestions to the Website committee. Your input would be welcomed, but recognize that not all suggestions can be acted upon as our organization needs to operate within our budget and can't hire a full-time Webmaster.

The PAA Executive Committee needs your input on how we can best link to and become more involved with other international potato organizations. How can we establish key linkages and working relationships with the The International Potato Center (CIP) and other organizations around the world? I am anxious to establish personal contact with these groups and would appreciate your input on what is needed and how to proceed. Please send me your comments and feel free to contact your PAA Executive Committee with input.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable and productive spring season. See you in Nebraska!

Greg Porter
PAA President, 2003-2004

Dates

April

22-24: Intl. F-C Produce Assn. 17th Ann Conf & Exhibit, Reno, NV, 703-299-6282 or <http://www.fresh-cuts.org>

May

2-4: United 2004 Produce Expo & Conf. McCormick Place, Chicago, IL, <http://www.atoexpo.com>

13: Potato Dehy Ind. Mtg., US Potato Bd., Boise, ID, 303-369-6420

17: NCPA Annual Mtg, Elizabeth City, NC, Tommy Fleetwood, 252-331-4773

June

8-10: 5TH Int'l Potato Processing Conv., Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Info: <http://www.potato-convention.com> or (+44) (0) 1732-451515

9-13: IOBC Mtg, "Mgmt of plant diseases & arthropod pests in agric. systems" Trentino, Italy. Contact: Yigal Elad, y.elad@sbc.bk.ac.uk

22-26: NPC Summer Mtg., Harrisburg, PA, hosted by NPC Pres. Keith Masser, 202-682-9456

Sept

19-21: 1st Solanaceae Genome WS 2004, Wageningen, Netherlands. <http://www.solanaceae2004.org>

2004 PAA Meeting Update

Your 2004 LAC is making sure that everyone will have an enjoyable and rewarding time here in Scottsbluff.

Lodging: Both headquarter hotels, Hampton Inn and Days Inn, informed me that reservations are pouring in. Besides making reservations by phone, they have informed me that they will accept reservations via e-mail as some have already been made this way. For Hampton Inn the e-mail address is bfne_hampton_suites@hilton.com attention to Bebak Gorsuch and for the Days Inn the address is scbinn@charterinternet.com and in both cases indicate that you are with the PAA meeting.

Travel: The three flights from Denver to Scottsbluff on Saturday and Sunday, August 8 and 9 are still nearly empty according to Great Lakes Airlines. They will not be adding extra flights until the Saturday (3:45 pm) and Sunday (9:04 am) flights are filling up. They are periodically checking reservations. I strongly suggest that you do not wait until the last few weeks because remember the flights only carry 18 people. To get to Denver, a special airfare package is available from Frontier Airlines which is headquartered here.

For those who plan to take the bus from Denver, you need to register as soon as possible and let me know your arrival time in Denver so I can charter the buses.

For those driving here and like fancy technology, the GPS locations for the hotels are (Hampton Inn) Hwy. 26 intersection with Avenue B and (Days Inn) Hwy. 26 intersection with 21st Avenue. Latitude and Longitude coordinates for the front doors are (Hampton Inn) 41°52'50"N and 103°40'1"W (or N41.088077° and W103.66702°) and (Days Inn) 41°51'56"N and 103°38'7"W (or N41.86565° and W103.63520°).

Local Travel: Some have called about local car rentals.

Hertz--800-638-7280 (local toll free); 800-654-3131 (national); (at our airport) 308-635-5555, also (local) 308-632-5611.

Enterprise--800-325-8007 (national); (local) 308-635-7300.

Discount (I don't know them)-- 800-216-3949 (local toll free ?); (local) 308-635-7776.

Golfing: A golf scramble for up to 24 people is scheduled for Sunday morning (yes, before the Executive Com. meeting). It will be at the Scottsbluff Country Club and will be organized through Gary Leever. Golf balls will be provided by the Nebr. Potato Certification Assn., visors by the Nebr. Potato Development Board and tees by the Nebr. Corn Board (The tees are made from corn and dissolve in the ground. Shoot quickly?). Gary will also be arranging for golfing prizes. It sounds like Gary is planning on a great outing. Tee times will be set up to accommodate those with afternoon commitments but register soon.

Complete meeting information is on-line at www.panhandle.unl.edu/paa and on-line registration can be done through this site. Registrations can also be faxed to WSU-CAPPS 1-509-335-0945. Both may be paid by VISA or MasterCard. For additional information on registration, you may contact CAPPS directly at 1-800-942-4978. Kelly Newell is handling registrations and many of you may have met her at last year's meeting.

Alexander Pavlista, LAC2004

Endowment Fundraiser - Silent Auction

As a fundraiser, the PAA Endowment Committee has decided to conduct a Silent Auction at the 2004 meeting in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The auction is tentatively scheduled for Monday evening. This event will be a success if everyone participates.

Each member is challenged to bring /send to the meeting:

- ~ Items significant to your state
- ~ Items that have nothing to do with potatoes
- ~ Items that have everything to do with potatoes
- ~ An item that represents you

The items can be anything fun or significant:

- ~ Antiques; jewelry
- ~ Art, original or print, collage of events or of potatoes, sculpture

- ~ Books, old, new: about potatoes or not, gardening, art/crafts
- ~ Jackets, caps
- ~ PAA pin collection, PAA memorabilia
- ~ Foreign items from your many trips
- ~ Baskets of local items from your region and state
- ~ Tools
- ~ Crafts, wreaths, hangings, stitchery, quilts
- ~ Use your imagination

Please attach a minimum/starting value for each item contributed.

We know you are busy, but please start collecting a box of items for the meeting as the year goes along. Let's all work together to build the endowment in this fun way!

Creighton Miller, Chair

Members in the News

URGENT UPDATE: THE PAA WEBSITE HAS A NEW ADDRESS. PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF IT. IT SHOULD TAKE YOU THERE AUTOMATICALLY, BUT IN CASE IT DOESN'T:
<http://www.umaine.edu/paa>

Honorary Life Member **Thomas E. Houghton, Jr.** died Feb. 18, 2004 at a Mars Hill, Maine healthcare facility. He was born Dec. 4, 1915 in Ft. Fairfield, Maine. Tom received his B.S. in Agronomy in 1937 from the UMaine-Orono and was employed for 3-1/2 years by the UMaine's Agricultural Extension Svc. In 1946 Tom joined the family firm, T. Houghton & Sons in Ft. Fairfield as a partner to expand the firm's foundation and certified potato seed production and sales capability. The firm continued to expand and earned a reputation over the years of delivering certified seed potatoes of exceptional high quality. In 1969 after his father's death, he brought his sons, Tim and John, into the farm and incorporated it into Houghton Farms, Inc. and continued to expand both its production and storage facilities and its sales operations under Tom's leadership. Tom retired in 1980 but remained associated with the firm as a consultant, primarily in customer relations. He had a vibrant and continuing interest in new, improved potato varieties. Because of Tom's long-term interest and numerous contributions to improving the quality of potato seed, he was awarded Honorary Life membership in 1984.

Honorary Life Member **Harrison McCain**, co-founder and Founding Chairman of McCain Foods Ltd., died March 18, 2004 at the Lahey Clinic in Boston, Mass. He directed the growth of McCain Foods for 45 years as it grew from a small French fry processing operation in Florenceville, NB, Canada, to the world's largest producer of French fries and an international frozen food firm.

A native of Florenceville, New Brunswick, Canada, Harrison McCain was born Nov. 3, 1927, the son of Andrew D. McCain, a pioneer seed potato exporter, and Laura (Perley) McCain C.M. He graduated from Florenceville High School and attended Acadia Univ. where he received a BA in economics in 1949. After several years in sales with Irving Oil Ltd., Mr. McCain left at the age of 29 to pursue an independent career. On May 24, 1956, the four McCain brothers—Andrew, Robert, Harrison and Wallace, founded McCain Foods Ltd. Harrison and Wallace assumed active management roles in the new company while older brothers Andrew and Robert became Directors. McCain Foods has been a Sustaining Member of the PAA since 1962 and a premiere industry supporter of several annual meetings.

In more than 45 years in the food industry, Mr. McCain received many honors for his achievements, for his societal leadership and philanthropic activities. In 1992 he was made

an Honorary Life Member of The Potato Association of America. For a full write-up, visit the McCain website:
http://www.mccain.com/DarkSite/Urgent_Report.asp.

Effective Feb. 9, 2004, **Mark Pavek** has filled the Potato Specialist position at Washington State Univ. The position was vacated by **Robert E. Thornton** who retired in January 2004. Mark has a BS in Agribusiness, a BS in Crop Management, and an MS in Plant Protection, all from the Univ. of Idaho. He completed his PhD in Horticulture from Washington State in 2003 under direction of Robert E. Thornton. Mark has both public and private research and outreach experience, as well as a farm background. Between 1997 and 2000, Mark worked for NatureMark Potatoes as a Field Research Manager in the Columbia Basin area of Washington and Oregon. Mark's position will be 75% extension and 25% research. His new address information is as follows: Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Washington State Univ., 137 A Johnson Hall, PO Box 646414, Pullman, WA 99164-6414. O) 509-335-6861; F) 509-335-8690; E-mail: mjrpavek@wsu.edu.

Nell Mondy, Prof. Emerita. Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University, has been invited to become a charter member of the LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY LEADERSHIP SOCIETY at Cornell. The society is named in recognition of the third dean of the College whose efforts led the official establishment of the New York State College of Agriculture in 1904

New Contact information for **Marcin Topolewski**: He moved to Canada last September and will be working there until 2005.

Marcin J. Topolewski, M.S., Ag. Services Economist / Plant Production, Lamb Weston-Division of ConAgra Ltd.—Address: P.O. Box 4615, Taber, AB T1G 2C9, Canada. Phone: 403-223-3088; Fax: 403-223-2540 or 509-736-2181; Cell: 403-634-1156; E-mail: Marcin.Topolewski@conagrafoods.com.

Announcing the availability of: *Wild Potatoes (Solanum section Petota; Solanaceae) of North and Central America*, authored by D. M. Spooner, R. G. van den Berg, A. Rodríguez, J. Bamberg, R. J. Hijmans, and S. I. Lara Cabrera. Systematic Botany Monographs vol 68: 209 pp + 10 color plates, hardbound, released March 2004. This is the first monographic treatment of potatoes from North and Central America since Donovan Correll's monographic treatment from throughout the entire range of potatoes in 1962, and since a treatment from Mexico in 1966 by Flores-Crespo. It provides a full systematic treatment of all of the wild potatoes from the United States south to Panama, and includes keys to the 25 species

PAA Background

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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>

Changes in Constitution & Bylaws

Proposed addition for consideration, discussion and action at the 2004 PAA Annual Meeting in Scottsbluff. This will be under the Bylaws, Section 7, Standing Committees.

"K. Constitution and Bylaws Committee. This committee, appointed by the President, shall be chaired by the Vice-President and shall consist of

the Vice-President, one current member and one previous member of the Executive Committee, and one member of the general membership. This committee shall be responsible for the periodic review of the Constitution and Bylaws of the organization and shall recommend necessary and appropriate revisions."

Larry Hiller
Bylaw Committee

Members in the News

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and five hybrids recognized, descriptions, synonymy of names, specimens cited, illustrations, and discussions on taxonomic relationships and uses.

This monograph can be obtained from the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, from the web site: <http://www.sysbot.org/> and then clicking on "Systematic Botany Monographs on the left of the screen. US orders: \$35.00; non-US-orders: \$40.00.

José Alberto Caram de Souza Dias recently chaired the successful XXVIth São Paulo State Plant Pathology Meeting (<http://www.iac.sp.gov.br/eventos/27cpf>). About 400 people attended the 3 days meeting (Feb. 10-12, 2004) held at the APTA-Instituto Agronômico de Campinas ("APTA-Agronomic Institute of Campinas"). There were 8 symposiums regarding the Impact of Plant Pathology on Brazilian Agrobusiness. Dr. Jacoov Katan, from the Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem/Israel, presented a very informative and illustrative talk about "Soil Solarization as a Tool on the Integrated Plant Pathogen Management." One other very competitive symposium was about "Plant Health on the era of Bioterrorism: The Security of Brazilian Agrobusiness." Over 20 private agrobusiness organizations provided financial support for a smooth event.

Dr. Jenifer Huang McBeath, Prof of Plant Pathology & Biotech, Univ of Alaska Fairbanks, has been awarded an U.S. State Dept Embassy Science Fellowship (ESF). This is the first time an ESF has been awarded to an academician or scientist who is not a US government official. From March 1 through May 31, 2004 Dr. McBeath will be based in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. She will be working closely with the USDA-Foreign Agric Svc, USDA-Int't Svc and USDA-Animal & Plant Health Insp Svc-Plant

Prot & Quarantine on biotechnology, transgenic plant, pest risk assessment, phytosanitary clearance, trade barriers and related issues. Dr. McBeath is the recipient of the 1999 Town and Gown UAF Outstanding Employee Award. In 2000, she received the Usibilli Distinguished Service award.

Gregory J. Scott. 2002. "Maps, models, and muddles: World patterns and trends in potatoes revisited." *Potato Res.* (45) 45-77.

This recently published paper examines the dichotomous trends and prospects for potatoes in developed and developing countries incorporating a policy, historical, and quantitative perspective. In so doing, it seeks to analyze systematically arguments made in an earlier review and to clarify solid assertions from those less defensible in light of available data or previously published research. Government policy has often been an important consideration in influencing trends in production and use of potatoes. The references cited highlight the need to complement work using computer-based geographic information systems to analyze the global potato crop with tools to exploit the expanding literature on potatoes in developed and in particular developing countries. The paper concludes by noting that expanding output of potatoes in developing countries can contribute to efforts to alleviate food shortages, improve rural incomes, and reduce poverty--particularly in South Asia where poverty is highly concentrated.

Brad Geary has changed universities. He is no longer at the Univ. of Idaho but with Brigham Young Univ. His new address is: Plant & Animal Sciences, 269 WIDB, Provo, UT-84602 USA; Phone: 801-422-2369; Fax: 801-422-0008; E-mail: brad_geary@byu.edu.