



INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 12, No 2, April 2008

Letter From the President

Spring is upon us, as is the main potato crop planting season. It is also time to register for the 92nd annual PAA meeting in Buffalo, August 10-14, 2008 and to make room reservations and flight arrangements. The meeting promises to be a great PAA get-together. Don Halseth and Joe Sieczka are busy planning the meeting, and Lori Wing and Loretta Mikitzel are working hard to help them. All abstracts for the meeting have been received and Loretta is working with Don to develop the program. The schedule will be out soon.

Since the last PAA *Insider*, the Executive Committee (EC) has met twice via teleconference. The next meeting is in April. PAA business has also been conducted through e-mails and several issues are being discussed.

Updates:

1. Financial audits for the 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 calendar years are now complete. You can request an electronic copy from Lori Wing, our Administrator. The Association is in good shape. Lori, Al Bushway and our accounting firm are busy straightening out an IRS problem that occurred last August, and we expect it will be resolved in our favor. A major consideration to be voted on is changing from a fiscal to a calendar year. Membership dues, journal subscription and audits are all based on the calendar year. The IRS is promoting such a change. It would make sense that PAA budgeting also be on a calendar year. This will require a By-Laws change and that process is underway.

2. I conducted an audit of the Speakers Fund to determine its status and learned that it was in debt. To bring it up to a barely survivable level, the EC voted to lower the maximum level for the Contingency Fund from \$20,000 to \$15,000 and to transfer the excess to the Speakers Fund. The Speakers Fund now has \$112.60 to finance symposia. This will be difficult to do since the membership approved an increase to \$3,000 to finance a symposium.

3. Thankfully, the LAC07 knights have come to the rescue. LAC07 reported a surplus of over \$11,000 from the meeting. They plan to pay the \$2,811.60 used by the 2007 symposium and pay back the \$2,000 used by the 2006 symposium as well. Their generosity will bring the Speakers Fund back to a situation where it can give \$3,000 toward financing a symposium. Most of the rest is planned for the Endowment Fund. Thank you Phil Nolte and Bill Bohl.

4. Membership in 2008 seems to be holding steady after declining for the past few years. PAA will no longer have a Group/Library category as that will be taken over by Springer. Lori is busy working out handling small groups. This will require a By-Laws change.

5. Transition to Springer is almost complete and the first 2008 issue should be out soon. Glitches that caused the delay are being straightened out thanks to the efforts of Lori Wing, John Bamberg and Springer staff. Instructions to Authors have been updated and are online; there are several manuscripts ready and many more in review.

6. The website has had some unexpected delays but is expected to be up and running by the Buffalo meeting. We are dealing primarily with issues associated with Members Only access, such as password security and off-line membership payment recognition. Section Chairs have been notified to prepare a homepage for their Section. Kelly Wildman, Al Mosley and Lori Wing are doing an excellent job dealing with the unexpected glitches and challenges that arose.

7. Greg Porter has resigned as Chair of the Finance Committee, effective at PAA08. He has served on this committee and as Chair admirably. If you are interested in serving on

Dates

May

29-31: Europatat Congress, Berne, Switzerland. Info: europatat@fvphouse.be

June

24-26: Intl Potato Proc & Stor Conv, Warsaw, Poland. Info: David Brenchley, dbrenchley@crier.co.uk

July

6-10: 17th Triennial Conf of the EAPR. Brasov, Romania. Info: E-mail: EAPR2008@potato.ro; Congress Web: <http://www.EAPR2008-Brasov.com>

Future Meetings:

Year of The Potato Events - May to August 2008: <http://www.potato2008.org/en/events/index.html>

Events for the Potato Processing Industry: <http://www.potatopro.com/events.aspx>

Nov 30-Dec 6, '08: The XXIII Latin American Potato Assn Mtg., Mar del Plata, Argentina. Info: http://www.papalatina.org/congreso/congreso_in.htm

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Welcome to New York State for the 92nd Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America

We will host our meeting at the Adam's Mark Buffalo-Niagara Hotel, August 10-14, 2008. The United Nations has decreed 2008 as the International Year of the Potato and we look forward to a productive, friendly and entertaining meeting and social events based on that theme. Our meeting will follow the traditional schedule of a golf scramble on Sunday morning and a Sunday evening reception where everyone can meet and socialize. Monday morning begins with a welcome and a symposium presented by the Utilization and Marketing Committee, followed by concurrent sessions in the afternoon and all day on Tuesday. To entice grower attendance, we will have a concurrent session Tuesday afternoon focused on production and management. Wednesday will be dedicated to tours to Niagara Falls and an Agricultural tour to Wyoming County. There are also tours available during the week to visit Buffalo sites, the Erie Canal and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Thursday morning will finish concurrent sessions, the annual business meeting in the afternoon and concludes with the evening Awards Banquet.

Our meeting website (<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/PAA2008/>) contains all the information you might need for registration, lodging, meeting agenda, optional tours, sponsorship opportunities and sites of interest in the Buffalo-Niagara area. There will be many things in which to see and participate. A Silent Auction will be held on Monday and there will be a Live Auction on Tuesday evening. Please be thinking about things to bring to our auctions – it is all for a very good cause. You can also volunteer to sing or play music, tell a joke, do a magic trick, or other entertainment for our “Spud-Light” variety show Tuesday evening during a wine-cheese tasting social and Live Auction after the poster session. Please contact Don Halseth at deh3@cornell.edu to get on the talent roster.

Buffalo is a city full of history, vibrant arts and culture, and natural beauty. New York State's second largest city with 1.2 million residents, Buffalo resides on the eastern shores of Lake Erie and is renowned for its architecture, art and museum offerings and numerous historical sites. Buffalo is easily accessible by air, train or car. Its international airport is serviced by 13 airlines. Amtrak offers modern, convenient train travel, including Empire Service and Maple Leaf trains. By car Buffalo is easily reached via the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90), and from Canada via the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW).

Upstate New York has many scenic natural resources – Niagara Falls, the Finger Lakes Region, and rolling hillsides of farmland. Agriculture is still the number one industry in the state and within 50 miles of Buffalo one can observe vineyards, dairy, grain, vegetable crops, and potato production. Western New York's Niagara Wineries Trail offers a range from premium wines to fruit wines and even one place with wine ice cream. To learn more, preview <http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com> and <http://www.iloveny.com>.

Adam's Mark Buffalo-Niagara, The Hotel of Western New York (<http://www.adamsmark.com>). This modern hotel and conference center with 486 deluxe guest rooms is located one block from Lake Erie, walking distance to downtown Buffalo and only twenty-five minutes from Casino Niagara and Niagara Falls. It is 15 minutes from the Buffalo/Niagara International Airport. Address is 120 Church Street, Buffalo, NY-14202, phone 716-845-5100. Toll-free reservations may be made by calling 1-800-444-2326 and please identify yourself with “The Potato Association of America.” Conference rate is \$109 plus taxes (currently 13.75%) per day. Please reserve your room soon, our block of rooms cannot be held beyond Friday, July 18, 2008. Guest amenities include complimentary fitness center, indoor pool, free internet access, 24-hour room service, and complimentary airport shuttle.

A note of caution about regulations traveling between Canada from the U.S. Those interested in the Roundabout Niagara and Niagara-on-the-Lake tours will be impacted by these requirements. Upon entering the U.S., Canadian and U.S. citizens ages 19 and older will need to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate. Children ages 18 and under will only be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate. Passports and trusted traveler program cards - NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST - will continue to be accepted for cross-border travel. For further information, please visit: <http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr>

Questions? Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs Don Halseth (607-255-5460 or deh3@cornell.edu) and Joe Siczka (631-298-4423 or jbs5@cornell.edu), Cornell University.

Golfers, join us for a fun morning on August 10 for a golf scramble. The scramble will be at the South Shore Golf Course (<http://www.southshoregolfcourse.com>), fifteen minutes from the Adams Mark. It'll be a fun morning. Here is a brief description of the course.

Built in 1920 by the New England based design team of Wayne Stiles and John Van Kleek South Shore Country Club is one of the area's oldest and most accessible layouts. Known for its mature and scenic beauty, (150 acres of woodlands, rolling hills, water holes) South Shore is distinguished for some of the best golf holes in Western New York. Yes, there are lakes and creeks and the odd chasm or two to carry but South Shore is a user friendly course with honest holes. That's why South Shore is a favorite host for various golf tournaments, public and league play.

In addition to the South Shore Golf Course there are many other golf courses in the area. Check out <http://www.golflink.com>. Hope to see you at the Scramble.

Don Halseth & Joe Siczka
2008 LAC Co-Chairs

Henry DeJong is primed for Buffalo and Larry Hiller is concerned



In previous notices we have informed you that Henry De Jong is utilizing his biking experience as a way to help increase the PAA Endowment Fund. He is seeking sponsors for his 88 mile round-trip bicycle ride from his home in Niagara-on-the-Lake to the PAA meeting site in Buffalo, NY.

Funds collected from the sponsorship will be added to the PAA Endowment Fund. As most of you know the Endowment Fund was established to provide a base for future and current needs of the PAA.

After hearing about Henry's offer, Past President Larry Hiller committed a \$100 contribution and a challenge of \$10 for each individual who sponsors Henry at \$100 or more. Larry and Henry are providing a great incentive to help increase the Endowment Fund. US tax deductible contributions should be made to PAA LAC and sent to Donald Halseh, Department of Horticulture, 15D Plant Science Bldg., Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853. I've made my \$100 contribution please join me in making Larry sweat.

Joe Sieczka
2008 LAC Co-Chair

ANNOUNCING!!!!!! PAA ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION Buffalo, New York August 11, 2008

Benefit: PAA ENDOWMENT FUND

Have you been looking around your office or your home for a unique potato item? Have you or your spouse been using your talents to create an item of interest for a truly exciting auction? Do you have a vacation home or condo to share for a week? Have you seen an item that could generate a lot of interest (and money) even though it is not truly "valuable".

Any of these contributions would be greatly appreciated in support of the mission of PAA and its Endowment Fund! Don't forget, all donations are "tax deductible." Not going to the Annual Meeting this year? Though we will miss you, you will be in our thoughts! Just forward your item, in advance, no later than August 1, 2008 to:

*Dilys and Mel Henninger
2 Amy Drive*

East Windsor, NJ 08520

Phone: 609 443-4527 - E-mail: dhenninger1@verizon.net

For More Information about the Buffalo Meeting August 10-14, 2008 go the
<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/paa2008/>

2007-2008

PAA Background

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Vice President

Phil Nolte

Secretary

Loretta Mikitzel

Treasurer

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Jiwan Palta

Plant Protection

Leslie Wanner

Production & Mgmt

Harlene H-Valentini

Utilization & Mktg

Robert Gareau

Annual Meeting:

August 10-14, 2008

Adam's Mark Buffalo

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Members in the News

Honorary Life Member Warren Trank, 92 died Thursday, March 20, 2008, at Regional West Medical Ctr in Scottsbluff, Neb. He was born July 14, 1915, in Cook, Neb. to Lynn and Goldie (Ingersoll) Trank. In 1940 he graduated from the Univ of Neb with his Degree in Botany & Agronomy. He continued his graduate work in Pathology and Agronomy.

On Nov. 11, 1944, he was united in marriage to Gladys M. Smith in Hutchinson, Kansas. During the summer of 1946, he started his career with Neb Certified Potato Growers roguing potatoes. He worked as a seed inspector until he was appointed Asst. Mgr. of the Certification Agency in 1949. He became Mgr of the Fnd. Seed Dept. of Neb Certified Potato Growers in 1954. He left this position in 1957 to become Mgr. of the Potato Certification Assn. of Neb. His 23 years as Mgr have seen many changes in seed certification.

Warren had been active in the PAA, attending as many meetings as he could. He was on the

committee that set up the first winter meetings of State and Canadian Potato Certification officials which evolved into the Certification Section of the PAA. He served as Sec-Treas for a number of years and Chairman for one term. In 1980 he was presented with his Honorary Life Membership.

The Maine Potato Pest Control Guide is now updated for the 2008 season. The guide is linked from our home page: <http://www.umaine.edu/umext/potatoprogram/>

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News Item:

The deadline for nominations for the Grower Achievement Awards is May 30! Qualified growers can fill out the nominations materials at <http://www.americanvegetablegrower.com/awards/nominate.html>.

The Grower Achievement Awards honor grower operations that have taken production agriculture to new levels of innovations, commitment to food quality and safety, and technological advancement. The winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to the United Fresh Produce

Association's Public Policy Conference in September, where the winner will be recognized.

Award winners will be selected for their excellence in several different areas of endeavor, including the following:

- *Innovative, consumer-oriented marketing efforts;
- *Commitment to produce quality and food safety;
- *Technological innovation;
- *Leadership, activism, outreach, and environmental stewardship.

Kim McKloskey, Meister Media

Letter from President, cont.

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this committee as the Chair or a member, please contact Greg and copy me.

8. Chuck Brown will represent PAA at the EAPR Triennial meeting in Romania. He is a guest speaker, presenting the topic of potato nutrition. Chuck and others continue to work toward strengthening PAA/EAPR good relations.

9. Leigh Morrow and I are busy working with the National Potato Council on the

proposed Sustainable Agricultural Standards for potato. See the previous PAA Insider for more information about the project.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact me; my line is always open, so to speak. telephone 308-632-1240 (Mountain) e-mail apavlista@unl.edu

Alexander Pavlista
President, 2007-2008