



INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

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Letter From The New President

It is certainly an honor to be PAA President for 2003-2004! The membership can be assured that the Executive Committee, committee chairs, and PAA staff will work very hard to keep this organization moving forward and effectively. While we will work hard at the many tasks before us, it is ultimately the membership and the sections that make this organization successful. I challenge each of you to make certain that you, your section, and your executive committee are doing all that can be done to make certain that PAA is addressing the key issues facing the potato industry and that the PAA is "the major resource for science-based information about the potato (Vision Goal #3.)" There is absolutely no substitute for an engaged membership!

The PAA is a small organization and we have key challenges ahead of us (e.g. maintaining membership at sustainable levels, making the Website more visible and useful to the potato industry and general public, covering the printing costs of the AJPR, making use of changing technologies for information exchange, etc.). We also have accomplished a great deal in the past 10 years and the "many hands" that take an active role in this organization have a lot to be proud of. To point out but a few major accomplishments, consider the following: 1) we now have a growing endowment fund; 2) the AJPR is vastly improved in look and stature from the APJ; 3) the Website is an effective tool for conducting PAA business and presenting our mission and vision statements; and 4) the organization's financial and membership situations are currently relatively stable following a period of serious concern. But let's not rest on these accomplishments! Take a look at the Vision Statement on the Website. How can we as members and section officers

develop these worthy goals into reality? Think of what this organization can become with better linkages to our industry constituencies and to other similar professional organizations from around the globe! Could your section host a working group, workshop, mini-symposium, or symposium that could bring representatives of these groups together to present current research and/or solve important industry problems? It is because we are a small organization that your involvement and the further development of these international linkages are so important. Each of you can make a difference in PAA!

Let me close by thanking the PAA staff and outgoing Executive Committee members for their tireless efforts over the past year. I'd also like to express my sincere thanks to the Washington Local Arrangements Committee. The setting, facilities, and professional atmosphere at the Spokane meeting were outstanding. Their commitment to PAA and their effectiveness in hosting a high quality meeting are greatly appreciated! Finally, to the membership let me repeat my challenge to you. This is your organization, your involvement is critical, and there are many ways that you can make a difference by being active in PAA! Finding ways to help PAA address the issues facing the potato industry, recruiting new members, publishing in the AJPR, participating in the annual meeting, brainstorming for Website changes, enhancing graduate student involvement, and supporting the Endowment are but a few ways that you can help keep this organization vibrant.

Greg Porter
President 2003-2004

Dates

November

13-14: British Potato Seed Industry Event, Crieff Hydro, Crieff, Perthshire. Info: <http://www.potato.org.uk/seedEvent/>

14-15: Northern Plains Potato Grwrs. Assn. Annual Mtg., Fargo, ND. Info: 218-773-3633

December

8-12: 22nd Annual NPC Seed Sem. Cruise, OR Seed Potato Grwrs. Assn. Cruise, Baja, Mexico. Info: <http://www.oregonspuds.com/floatyourboat.html>

January 2004

6-10: NPC 55th Annual Mtg., Cancun, MEX., Moon Palace Resort. Info.: 202-682-0333 or <http://www.nationalpotatocouncil.org>

March 2004

7-12: XXI Congress of the Latin American Potato Assn., Valdivia, Chile. Info: <http://www.uach.cl/alap2004/> or Andres Contreras ALAP Pres., Email: acontreras@ach.cl

24-30: World Potato Congress, Kunming, Yunnan Prov. China. Info.: Lloyd Palmer, info@potatocongress.org or <http://www.potatocongress.org>

SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA HOME OF THE OREGON TRAIL & PAA 2004

Scottsbluff-Gering is best known as the center point of the Oregon Trail and later the Mormon and California Trails. We are located in the Panhandle of Nebraska in what was part of the Lakota Sioux territory, recently made famous in the movie "Dances with Wolves." It was here at Fort Robinson that the Sioux nation under Chiefs Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Red Cloud surrendered to the U.S. Army ending the "Indian Wars." These conflicts were fought over the right of European/Americans to travel across Nebraska and Wyoming on the Oregon Trail over Sioux land to settle on the western coast. The Nebraska Panhandle is also well known for its geological rock formation, bluffs and buttes. The best known are Scotts Bluff, called by the pioneers the "Gibraltar of the West" and Chimney Rock, being considered as the emblem on the Nebraska quarter in the U.S. states series. For a view of the area's attractions and services, please check www.visitscottsbluff.com

We will be setting up a website for meeting information by December. If you would like to browse about the Panhandle Research & Extension Center, check our website: www.panhandle.unl.edu

Meeting Scheduling: The 2004 PAA meeting starts Sunday, August 8, with the President's Reception at the Hampton Inn, and ends Thursday, August 12 with the Ag Tour. Symposia and oral sessions will be at the Hampton Inn. Section meetings and Monday's poster session will be at the Days Inn -Scottsbluff Inn. The picnic will be on Tuesday night at the Scotts Bluff Country Club which has opened its facilities to us. The banquet on Wednesday night is at the Hampton Inn. Transportation between motels will be provided.

Symposia: A special treat, we will have scheduled two symposia and a workshop. Monday's symposium (Extension Section) will deal with the Future of Extension in the U.S. Tuesday's "hot topic" symposium (Pest Management) deals with powdery Scab and mop-top virus with speakers from New Zealand, Switzerland and the Netherlands. And, a special workshop on food safety from the industry's viewpoint is planned by the Utilization and Marketing Section. WOW!

Lodging: We will have two co-headquarters - Hampton Inn and Days Inn (Scottsbluff Inn), both located on Hwy. 26. Reservations are already set-up. Hampton Inn has 80 rooms, 60 are blocked. Standard rooms are \$79; suites are \$89 and \$99. Lunches will be served in the conference center and there's a Perkins restaurant next door. To make reservations, call 308-635-5200 state PAA. Also check their website www.hamptoninn.com (type Scottsbluff, Nebraska) for directions, rooms, facility, etc. The Days Inn (Scottsbluff Inn) has 120 rooms for \$79 (1-4 people). At the center, is a large indoor swimming pool with a restaurant and bar next to it, and two meeting rooms for the Section breakfasts. This is a great facility for families with children. To make reservations, call 800-597-3111 or 308-635-3111 or check their website: <http://www.scbdaysinn.com> and identify PAA. Do NOT make room reservations online for either motel!!!!

Tours: The Ag-Tour on Thursday starts with a tour of the Panhandle REC research plots (Scottsbluff) and the Farm and Ranch Museum (Gering), and finish with visiting Cabela's (Sidney) for shopping and wildlife displays. Golfing at the Scotts Bluff Country Club will be available with a scramble on Sunday. The Country Club will also be available for general use as guests. Monday's (history) tour includes Agate Fossil Bed National Monument (Harrison), Fort Robinson and State Park (Crawford) and Carhenge (Alliance). Tuesday's (nature) tour includes Riverside Zoo (Scottsbluff), Wildcat Hills and Nature Center (Gering), and the Wildlife World Natural History Museum (Gering). Wednesday's (geology) tour visits the Scotts Bluff National Monument and Oregon Trail Museum, and views of the North Platte River Valley, and Dome and Eagle Rocks, Robidoux Pass and historic Trading Post, the North Platte Valley Museum, Chimney Rock (Bayard) and Visitor Center, and visit the Fillingham's Exotic Animal Farm (Morrill). Great tours for the whole family. Check out www.visitscottsbluff.com

Transport from Denver, CO.

By Air -- Denver's new airport (DIA) is serviced by many airlines and is a major hub for United Airlines. Great Lakes Airlines, code-share partner with United and Frontier Airlines, flies from Denver to Scottsbluff (BFF) with three planes Monday through Friday, but only one to two flights on the weekend and each flight carries 18 passengers. We are currently negotiating with the airline to put additional flights on Sat. and on Sun., making 140+ seats available to and fro. An alternate is to fly into Rapid City serviced by Northwest Airlines et al. but this requires car rental to get to Scottsbluff. More in the next PAA Insider.

By Bus: Bus (Good Tymes Charter) pickups have been arranged from Denver to Scottsbluff on Sat. at 6 pm and Sun. at 2 pm (in time for the President's Reception). The distance is 210 miles, a 3½-4 hr. drive. A bus is also arranged for the return trip, one on Thursday and the other on Friday. Each bus carries over 40 passengers and, if demand warrants, additional bus pickups can be arranged. Reservations and payments will need to be made with early registrations at \$30 each way per person.

By Van: Denver Coach runs shuttle vans between Denver and Scottsbluff. Each van holds 15 passengers and costs \$63 round trip. Reservations need to be made through them with a couple of weeks notice. More details later.

By Car: DIA has many car rental companies servicing the area. The drive is 210 miles and 3½ to 4 hrs., all interstate at 75 mph. Directions (I25, I80, H71) will be given in the next issue. Hertz services the Scottsbluff airport.

Suggestion for family vacations en route to meeting are visits to the Rocky Mountain National Park (Estes Park, CO) and the Black Hills (Keystone, SD). Details for these side trips will be on our coming website.

Alexander Pavlista, LAC 2004

Final Letter From the 2002-03 President, PAA Insider, October, 2003

The most difficult task that I had during my year as President of The Potato Association of America was the last few minutes during the banquet as I tried to find the proper words to thank everyone for their kind support and dedication to the PAA. This past year has been an outstanding honor for me and I thank you for the opportunity to serve in this role and to be a small part of the many successes that occurred.

The membership-at-large and Section, Standing and Ad Hoc Committee members provided outstanding efforts during this past year that will ensure that PAA continues to develop as the most vital and comprehensive source of information, people and other resources related to potatoes in the world. However, each of us needs to continue these efforts and remain dedicated and active in regards to achieving our five PAA Vision Goals. The decision during the Spokane meeting to further develop our website into the foremost source about potatoes in the world will give all of us the opportunity to contribute by offering our ideas, information and creativity. It will also help us further our endeavors to meet our vision goals.

Through the dedicated and effective work of the finance and executive committee, the Association's financial status is very healthy and "in-the-black" as announced during the annual business meeting. But, to ensure that we continue to maintain a sound financial basis, we must develop innovative actions to prepare for the expected increased Association costs and the reduced membership dues as the "baby-boomers" retire.

Graduate students are the future of our Association and this past year we have tried to let them know that and to encourage them to participate more fully. To those who attended the meetings and competed in the Graduate Student Presentation Award, we thank you and hope that your participation was enjoyable and instructive. All of the presentations were of excellent quality as witnessed by the winners to whom we send our congratulations. Furthermore, all graduate students are encouraged to develop strong ties to the Association and relationships with PAA members to enhance their scientific experiences and contacts while students in preparation for their post-graduate careers and membership in PAA. As a means of demonstrating PAA's desire to support graduate students in the Association, students were offered the opportunity to establish a formalized Graduate Student Committee with a non-voting chair at the Executive Committee.

In January 2003, I stepped down as Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Potato Research* so that I could devote more time to serving as President of PAA. The changes in the journal that were initiated about 4-5 years ago have led to increased quality and international recognition as seen through the greater number of citations and unsolicited foreign manuscript submissions and a strong interest by the *European Journal of Potato Research* to join journals.

To all manuscript submitting authors, we send our many thanks for your support for the journal and to the winners of the Outstanding Paper Award, our congratulations. However, John Bamberg, the new Editor-in-Chief, and his Editorial Board and Manuscript Review teams need our continued support to further increase the journal's quality and international standing. Please submit your manuscripts, particularly those involving your first class research and new findings.

Membership remains one of our major areas to be addressed because over the next 8-10 years many of our baby-boomer members will be retiring. While this issue is of concern to all scientific associations and societies, we must ensure that the PAA has the membership to meet our goals. We are fortunate as through the progressive nature of our industry and science we have new sectors from which we can draw new members. For example, there are the new small businesses involved with crop consultancy, crop and land testing, etc. In addition, there are the potential memberships from the new fields of science, such as molecular biologists, environmental health, nutraceuticals, and food supply and safety. But, our success in expanding our membership depends upon our individual actions to meet and invite people to join us.

Finally, I wish to express again my many thanks for this opportunity to serve as President of The Potato Association of America. It is not only a career highlight for me but also the most treasured life experiences that I have. I cannot properly thank all those who have made this year and this opportunity for me as successful, as I would have to run through our whole membership. Shirley also wants to express her many thanks and together we hope to remain active members with all of you in the greatest scientific-family association in the world. See you at PAA04 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska next year.

Respectfully submitted,
H.W. (Bud) Platt
President, 2002-2003

2003 Annual Report from Spokane

From the perspective of the 2003 PAA LAC, the recent annual PAA meeting in Spokane was a success. Even though attendance was somewhat less than was hoped and anticipated, those who took advantage of the "Washington Potato Industry Hospitality" by all comments indicated the meeting met, if not exceeded, expectations. A feature of the meeting that appears to have added to the success was the Tuesday industry day. The daily registration for the meeting numbered 80, most of that was attendance at the Tuesday industry

day. Total registration was 339 and of that, 146 are PAA members, another 41 non-members also registered. There were 24 students registered. The financial situation is still being sorted out, those who did not pre-pay their registration or were registered on-site without paying for any number of reasons are asked to pay the balance indicated on the second notice of their outstanding balance, the

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PAA Background

**PAA Executive
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88th Annual Meeting
August 8-12, 2004
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

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accounts for the meeting can only be finalized when these accounts are cleared.

On behalf of the 2003 PAA LAC, I thank all those who attended the meeting, as all might be aware there is a great deal of satisfaction in having the opportunity to host the PAA, there is also a great relief when that opportunity results in a successful meeting. More complete information will be planned for the minutes of the annual meeting to be published in a forthcoming issue of the *American Journal of Potato Research*. Pictures from the meeting are on the website: <http://www.paa2003.wsu.edu/>

**Robert E. Thornton, Co-chairman
2003 PAA LAC**

Members In The News

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: AS OF FEB. 1, 2004, THE PRICE OF BACK ISSUES WILL GO UP TO \$10 EA. CHECK YOUR LIBRARIES NOW TO SEE WHAT'S MISSING AND REPLACE WHILE THE PRICE IS STILL \$4. ~Lori~

Award winners during this year's 2003 PAA Golf Scramble. There were 7 teams of 3 to 4 players. There were a total of 27 players.

Longest Drive: Keith Tieg

Closest to the Pin: John Walsh

Longest Putt: Mike Thornton

First Place Team with a score of 4 under par: Keith Tieg; Bret Nedrow; Keith Kelling; Gale Kleinkopf; **Second Place Team** with a score of 3 under par: Mark Pavek; Gary Secor; Leigh Morrow; John Rohn; **Third Place Team** with a score of 2 under par: Ed Driskill; James Fuller; Laura Grunenfelder; Mel Martin

We would also like to thank our award and goody bag donors: Amvac Chemical Corp., ConAgra Food, Inc. - Lamb Weston, J.R. Simplot Co., Syngenta Corp., US Potato Board, Wash. Seed Potato Comm. & Wash. State Potato Comm.

Mark J. Pavek

Robert P. Sabba is now a research associate at the Univ. of Wisc. at Madison doing research with A.J. Bussan on improving potato management practices for enhanced tuber storability. His new contact info is: Robert P. Sabba, Plant Physiologist, UW-Madison, Dept. of Horticulture, 1575 Linden Dr., Madison, WI 53706; 608 262-6965; EM: rpsabba@wisc.edu. He found this job as a result of my sending out the job opportunities via e-mail.

Dr. John Bowman is currently Chief of Party for a 3-year, \$6 million global USAID project entitled "Assistance for Trade Capacity Building in Relation to the Application of Sanitary and

Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)." The project (executed in close collaboration with Michigan State Univ.) assists agribusiness clients of USAID in their capacity to export food and agricultural products, and also serves to strengthen local government capacity in SPS awareness. Formerly, Bowman has worked worldwide in the design and implementation of potato procurement programs for PepsiCo Foods International (Dallas), Universal Robina Corp. (Philippines), and Technico (China).

Dr. Vikram Bisht has been hired by the Maine Dept of Agric. to fill the position of Program Mgr. at the Porter Nuclear Seed Farm in Masardis. Dr Bisht has been in his new job at the Porter Farm since mid-Feb. 2003. He received his Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from the Univ. of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, IL in 1983 and his M.S. degree, also in plant pathology, from the Pant Univ. of Agric. & Tech. in Pantnagar, India in 1979. He worked over 6 years for the AB Dept. of Agric., Food & Rural Develop. as a Plant Pathologist and Seed Potato Spec. from 1990-96, and also in the private sector for seed potato production facilities in Canada and China.

Terry Bourgoin

A recommended Book for All Libraries... "Two Old Potatoes and Me." A children's book by John Coy and illustrated by Carolyn Fisher. The book is published by Knopf and is 32 pages. Ages 4 to 7. \$23.95 CAN.

This is a book about the miracle of getting new potatoes from old ones. A small boy finds two old potatoes and asks his grandfather to help him grow new ones. After planting nine pieces, watering, raking and digging, they harvest 67 potatoes. Wonderful illustrations!

PAA members may wish to buy this book for their public library or local school to increase awareness of potatoes.

Dr. Jane Seabrook