



INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 9, No. 3 August 2005

Letter From the New President

Facing the Challenges

Greetings to everyone as we begin a "new year" for our society. Just three weeks ago (as I write my first letter), we completed another very successful annual meeting. Those of you who were able to attend know the tremendous efforts put forth by our Alberta hosts to assure a memorable time. Those who were unable to be present missed a wonderful opportunity to renew old acquaintances, meet new friends in the potato world, and enjoy a great experience in the beautiful city of Calgary. I am looking forward to a productive year for The PAA and am committed to the challenge of continuing to move The PAA forward with zeal and professionalism.

My opinion is that The PAA has been, and continues to be, on the right path as a society. I plan to continue building on what we have accomplished. We again have a dedicated group of officers, committees, sections and working groups to address the important issues and challenges we face, to make appropriate changes when and where necessary, and to have the wisdom and understanding to make prudent and measured decisions for the good of our society.

What are these challenges facing our society? I view them to be in three areas – membership, outreach, and finance. A strong historical attribute of our society is that we are built around one commodity. We must also realize that today this is causing some of our challenges. Our various disciplines and interest groups (research, education, extension, breeding and certification, utilization and marketing, and so on) are all within and fundamental to these areas and are very important components of the Society, but these still deal with only one commodity.

Our membership numbers have declined over the past few years, but with some novel approaches and dedicated efforts we can all give this some attention in the coming year. Positive results have been attained in our Sustaining

memberships. Each member can encourage colleagues working peripherally with potatoes of the benefits of membership in our society. If half our members would sign up one new member, figure what that would do for our total membership!! Also I plan to initiate effort and a program to contact non-renewing members in this next year. Outreach involves our publications, website, relations with other societies and potato associations, section activities and conferences plus involvement with other groups. Our editorial board has moved our publications ahead and are dedicated to increasing their professional acceptability level. Discussions are ongoing for improvements in our electronic journal processing and website – look for further information in future newsletters. Initial efforts were taken at our recent annual meeting to correct concerns of the financial status of the society. Additional ideas and discussion must take place in the year ahead. Fantastic growth has occurred in our Endowment Funds, but we must expand our contributions and hopefully see our members moving into higher donation categories. One of my main goals will be to work with the Endowment Fund committee to expand use of our funds to finance more student awards, travel grants, and other professional recognitions.

Several of our standing committees need new members so please consider your interests and contact me soon to volunteer. As a closing charge, anytime you have a suggestion, idea or concern to share, please send to any one of the officers or board members. They are identified on the back page of this newsletter. All of us welcome your input at any time!

Thank you for this opportunity to serve the society as your president. I approach the challenge with great interest, enthusiasm and sense of cooperative effort. Working together we will move ahead and become even better.

Larry K. Hiller
PAA President, 2005-2006

Dates

September

05-09: Intl Cong 2005, & Trade Show & Demos, Netherlands. Info: <http://www.potato2005.com>

11-15: 8th Intl Symp on Thysanoptera & Tospoviruses, Calif. Info: http://www.biologie.uni-halle.de/org/thripsnet/conferences/Asilomar/index_or.htm

13-16: UFFVA 2005, Wash. Public Policy Conf, Washington, DC. Info: rguenther@uffva.org

19-23: AFFI Govt Summit FF Filibuster, Wash, DC. Info: www.affi.com/GovSummit05.asp

25-27: FFVA 62nd Ann Conv, Orlando, FL. Info: <http://www.ffva.com>

25-30: Intl Solanaceae Genome Workshop, Ischia, Italy. Info: <http://www.solanaceae2005.org>

26-28: 15th Biennial Aust PP Soc Conf, Geelong, Vic, Aust. Info: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/events/apps2005>

October

02-07: 7th Intl Symp on Aphids, Freemantle, Aust. Info: <http://www.aphidsymposium.org>

07-11: PMA Fresh Summer Intl Conv, Atlanta, GA. Info: <http://www.pma.com>

PAA 2005 Meeting Wrap-Up

Best Management Practices for Nutrients and Irrigation: Research, Regulations & Future Directions.

The City of Calgary welcomed a total of 192 Conference Attendees and 28 Accompanying Persons to the 89th PAA Annual Meeting. Conference Attendees enjoyed hot weather and warm western hospitality during the third week of July. Thirty guests chose to attend the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede on Sunday before the conference and had a great afternoon. Among the conference attendees, there were 142 PAA members, 20 non-members, 13 Graduate Student members, 3 student non-members and 10 daily registered guests. Both the BBQ and the President's Awards Banquet were fully attended. Entertainment at the BBQ included a western gunfight with incoming President, Larry Hiller receiving a special welcome. The conference was truly an international event, with guests from seven countries. The majority of attendees came from the United States and Canada but there was representation from Mexico, Brazil, Korea, the Netherlands and the UK.

Conference attendees had the opportunity to hear 88 presentations and to view 34 Posters. On the final day, 45 participants enjoyed a full day of Agriculture tours to southern Alberta to see the irrigation system infrastructure, tour the Lethbridge Research Centre and to visit Miyanaga Farms' potato production facilities. On Wednesday evening at the President's Awards Banquet, Larry Binning, Wisconsin and Dr. George Tai, Fredericton were awarded Honorary Life Memberships.

The LAC was pleased to welcome the many attendees to the 89th conference and extends a thank you to all presenters, attendees and guests. Special thanks to members of the PAA Executive Committee for your guidance and mentorship, to the many Sponsors for their generous support, to Peter Woloshyn, Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development and Dianne Colley-Urquhart, City of Calgary for their warm welcomes, to Lori Wing for your invaluable assistance and to all the volunteers for your commitment and hard work. It was a pleasure to host your conference in Calgary this summer; we cherish new friendships and wish you well.

PAA 2005, LAC Co-Chairs
Christine Murray
Vern Warkentin

Final Letter From Your Outgoing President

It is with a sense of great hope and renewed enthusiasm that I submit my final letter to the membership. The Potato Association of America is moving forward and positioning itself as an organization to stay strong into the future. The Annual Meeting in Calgary, Alberta was very positive. Members supported several initiatives designed to help the AJPR become more accessible, to help redesign the website for more focus on critical potato issues, membership needs and function as a better out-reach vehicle, to help in the planning of future PAA events, and finally, to assist in obtaining new members and keeping the membership strong and active. All steps along the path to keeping the PAA at the forefront. It should be noted that good progress was made in several points of the PAA Vision goals. This must be a priority for The Association into the near future.

I wanted to also take this opportunity to thank the Executive Committee and the PAA staff for their service and hard work this past year. The PAA is fortunate to have highly qualified individuals willing to take on the tasks

required to keep The Association functioning smoothly. There are many items which will need to be addressed in this next year. I have no doubt that incoming President, Larry Hiller, along with the Executive Committee, PAA staff, Editorial Board, and various committees will be up to the task. As PAA members, it is our responsibility to support these individuals and to provide needed assistance when feasible. Let us keep in mind that our Association is only as strong and vibrant as the membership wants. Additionally, the quality of the Journal, the Insider newsletter, the website, and other venues that are seen by the public must remain high and the content focused to reach the maximum numbers of individuals. This is the legacy that will keep the PAA vibrant into the future.

Thank you for the wonderful year and I look forward to service as the Past President for 2005-2006.

Rob Davidson
President, 2004-2005

Position Announcement

Research Professional 1 (REQ: FF 92419302)

Close Date: 9/23/05 by 4:30 PM (Alaska Std Time)

Department: School of Natural Resources and Agric. Sciences/
Dept. of Plant, Animal and Soil Sciences

Grade: 78,\$16.61 - \$18.71/ Hour or DOE

Employment: Term Funded, Full Time, Non Exempt

Job Summary: To conduct research to enhance disease resistance to bacterial, fungal and viral diseases and enhancement through plant transformation and biological control and conduct disease surveys.

Typical Duties:

- *Study of plant defense gene regulation in plants during plant-microbe interactions
- *Study the interactions among plant pathogens, bio-control agents and plants
- *Conduct molecular sequencing of selected marker and signal genes
- * Conduct seed potato disease survey for bacterial, fungal and viral diseases
- * Maintain technical laboratory equipment
- * Publish data in journals and as abstracts
- * Interact with producers and farmers
- * Assist in training students and technicians in laboratory safety protocols
- * Supervise student assistants and one research technician during travel to various research and farm locations during the summer field season.

Minimum Qualifications: Required: Masters Degree in Plant Pathology, Molecular Biology or Biochemistry or related scientific field. Skilled in the operation of laboratory equipment, microscopes (phase contrast, interference and fluorescent), centrifuges, electrophoresis, spectrophotometer, ELISA plate reader, photography etc. Ability to complete research tasks assigned, work independently and keep clear, precise and accurate data. Proof of a valid drivers license is required at time of hire or

ability to obtain transport. Preferred: PhD or 5 years experience in combination with a Masters Degree.

Application: Please follow specific instructions provided on each vacancy announcement. Applicants must submit a separate application packet for each position. All application packets must include:

- A signed UA Applicant Form: (USE only the current version found on the UAF HR website @ http://www.uaf.edu/uafhr/Emp_Opp.html)

- mandatory when applying for any UAF position. A separate Applicant Form is required for each position for which you apply.

- Vitae, Please Note: The Resume Form may be used as a substitute for resume.

- Cover Letter addressing your education and qualifications as they pertain to this position.

- Names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers of three (3) professional references.

Please submit application packet to:

UAF Human Resources, ATTN: Hilary Huffman

3295 College Road, Room 108

PO Box 757860

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7860

Phone: (907) 474-7700 Fax: (907) 474-5859

- * If you choose to fax your application packet, you must transmit by 4:00 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (AST) the day the position closes or the day before the review for Open Until Filled positions.

- * All finalists may be subject to a background check.

- * If you have questions regarding this specific vacancy announcement, please contact Hilary Huffman, CES/SNRAS Recruitment Technician, (907) 474-2401, fnhjh@uaf.edu.

- * The University of Alaska Fairbanks is an EO/AA employer and educational institution.

EAPR MEETING IN BILBAO SPAIN

The annual EAPR meeting in Bilbao, Spain was very well organized and had an excellent program and a good choice of excursions for us to enjoy. I for one, however, regretted that I had to miss the PAA meeting in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. At their business meeting, we stressed that it was important that our annual meetings never overlap again. There were 16 participants from the U.S. included in a total of 396 participants from 44 countries and 5 continents. Their scientific program included 9 keynote speakers, 127 oral presentations, 159 posters, and 4 workshops. There were 3 PAA members who made oral presentations and 8 members in attendance at their posters.

The meeting in Spain provided a venue to re-visit the issue of PAA/EAPR collaboration. As was stated in our minutes of the PAA presented in Scottsbluff, NE, Aug 2004, "It was decided that EAPR and PAA members should continue efforts to

enhance the collaborative relationship and opportunities to 'work' together. As such, the membership of PAA has tasked the president and designated members of PAA to further develop plans that will provide closer ties between the two associations. Their 'proposed' plans would then be presented to the membership of both associations for their consideration and comment." There were 7 points of action proposed. Ed Lulai, Joe Guenther and I met with the EAPR officials and discussed these points. There were several useful exchanges. The general atmosphere was that we have something on the move and that we need to continue our dialogue. A 'working document' is in preparation and should be ready to be presented to our Board and membership before the end of the year. It was indicated that during our Annual Meeting in Wisconsin in 2006, that representatives from the EAPR Council would be in attendance

...Continued on Page 4

2005-2006

PAA Background

Executive Committee

President
Larry Hiller

President-Elect
Sam Thornton

Vice President
Alex Pavlista

Secretary
Steve James

Treasurer
Al Bushway

Past-President
Rob Davidson

Directors
Chuck Brown
Bill Campbell
Don Halseth
Phil Nolte
Susie Thompson

Editor-in-Chief
John Bamberg

Technical Editor
Barbara Harrity

Business Editor
Ron Knight

Annual Meeting:
July 23-27, 2006
Madison, Wisconsin

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>

Members in the News

It is with deep sorrow that the Snack Food Assn. and PAA had to say good-bye to one of its Honorary Life Members on May 2, 2005. **Wilbur A. Gould** passed away in Ft. Myers, Florida, after a long illness. Wilbur received his HLM status in 1990 after spending his whole life in the food industry and in processed potato products, primarily potato chips and french fries. He authored the original "Quality Assurance Manual" for the Snack Food Assn. and was senior author on other publications in the same area. Not only did Wilbur receive the HLM award but also several others including 3 national honorary societies, Phi Tau Sigma, Sigma Xi and Gamma Sigma Delta. He is survived by his wife, Jessie, of 65 years, and 3 children, Ronald, Rebecca & Jacquelyn.

PAA members **Jose A. Caram de Souza Dias** (Brazil) and **Bill Campbell** (Alaska) have been nominated for "The Potato Innovation Award," which will be presented at the Potato World Congress 2005 in Emmelord-Holland on Sept 7, 2005. They were

nominated for this award under the sprout/seed-potato idea section. Over the past 3 years they have been researching the idea of using only sprouts detached from virus-free seed-tubers as "seed-potato" for greenhouse production of virus-free minitubers in Brazil, demonstrating to the world seed-potato market that this new idea of exporting/importing only sprouts can be a less expensive and much more healthy system for moving potato propagative ("seed") material (AJPR, Vol. 82:61, 2005).

2005 Potato Congress

During the UMaine's 2005 Academic Honors Convocation, May 6, 2005, **Dave Lambert**, plant pathologist on the Umaine faculty since 1986 from the Dept. of Plant, Soil & Environ. Sci. received the Presidential Public Service Achievement Award for his efforts to educate the potato industry about potentially damaging diseases have helped potato growers in Maine and beyond.

Inside UMaine, May 2005, Vol 1, Issue 4

New Membership Contest Sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. Results

Our first membership drive contest sponsored by Syngenta gained us 12 new members...[1] Individual member and [11] Graduate students. **Susie Thompson** was the winner by bringing in 3 new Graduate students. She was presented with a plaque and \$100 gift certificate at the Annual Meeting Banquet.

Sam Thornton, Syngenta rep, said they will continue to sponsor this program next year. The contest will start 7/01/05 to 05/31/06. The levels are: each PAA member that signs up 2 to 4 individual or grad student members will receive a \$50 gift

certificate. And any PAA member who signs up 5 or more individual or grad student members will receive a \$100 gift certificate. The member who signs up the most new members will receive a plaque. To receive credit for the memberships, remember to fill out the line on the membership application that says "sponsor's name", and submit the application prior to the May 31st deadline. The contest winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting Banquet.

Mike Thornton, Chair
PAA Individual Membership Committee

Balboa, Spain.

...Cont. from Page 3

to carry on discussion with the PAA Executive Committee for improving and implementing the points in the 'working document.' It is anticipated that 1-, 3-, and 6-year goals would be established.

As stated by Richard Sawyer recently (PAA Newsletter, Vol. 9.2, 2005) concerning our PAA vision, "Our Association has a leadership role to play in the global development of institutions to help science address the problems that will emerge as the potato expands to new areas."

As a PAA member observing the changes that may and will occur in the next decade, our two potato associations will have a better chance to endure, provide solutions, and successfully promote the potato on a global basis by working together, not separately.

Joe Sowokinos
Past PAA Director