



INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 10, No 1, January 2006

Letter From the President

Dates

Happy New Year to each and every one! This is an exciting time for PAA as we look ahead to 2006! The future for PAA looks bright and promising but critical issues do face us. PAA is a unique organization in that our history and growth is based on a single commodity, but as times and people change we must be ever aware of all that is happening and the effect on our professional society. Our world has gotten smaller, so has our membership. University positions and industry are tending away from single-commodity focus. Our science, profession, markets and trade, other groups, etc, are requiring us to increase our circle of attention, and this is good. At all levels, and in all positions, we must not rest on our past successes but move ahead in our thinking and planning, to keep pace with the future. Various issues have been discussed by the Executive Committee as being critical to PAA; activities are currently ongoing to study and bring alternative solutions to our attention. To be more effective and encompassing we need your help and input – from individuals, companies, and societies – on what you think is important or critical to our organization and how we should move ahead. Send your comments to me or any member of the Executive Committee (see list of names and addresses on sidebar). These will be added to discussions and review for our Madison meeting.

Value = Benefits - Cost. I have often considered this formula to be the very basis of successful production or marketing of products and services. How does this apply to PAA?? We must ask “what are the benefits of being an individual or corporate member?” We must appreciate what being a member of PAA means to each of us as members, then pass that on to others. We must continue to be actively involved for

this organization. One improvement that I feel has increased the value of our membership is that of our journal. Changes started a few years back with the tremendous input of several individuals. I hesitate to name persons in my letters, but I would like to personally acknowledge and thank John Bamberg, our current Editor In Chief, for all the time, dedication and effort he has been (and IS) contributing to the quality of our journal. I am sure that most of the membership have no idea just how much time John is putting into this undertaking. Aided by a competent cadre of Senior Editors, and an increased involvement of our Technical Editor, many changes have occurred to improve our journal; I expect that we will continue to see even more to come. Several questions do still remain: do we move to an online journal, how do we handle back volumes, what relation should the journal have with the website, availability and cost of journal articles to non-members, and others. We welcome your input on these questions to me or John. Also our website group is actively working on changes and improvements; they also welcome your ideas and input.

The Joy of Giving: Contribute to our PAA Endowment Fund! Another value of our society that has grown tremendously in the last few years is our Endowment. Many people could be acknowledged for getting this Fund established and others are steadily keeping it growing. We supported the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Awards in Calgary from this fund for the first time! To all who have given time and effort for planning, and to those who have given financially, we owe a big THANKS! You can help by

February

7-9: Washington State Potato Conf & Trade Show, Moses Lake, WA. 509-766-7123 or <http://www.potatoconference.com>

14-16: WPVGA Grower Edu Conf & Ind Show, Country Sprgs Hotel, Stevens Pt, WI. Info: Julie Braun 715-623-7683

19-23: NPC BOD Mtg, Washington, DC. Info: NPC 202-682-9456

March

01-04: 2006 Chip Sem, San Antonio, TX, Info: Mac Johnson 303-873-2312, macjohnson@uspotatoes.com.ph

15-16: Northeast Potato Technology Forum, Bangor Motor Inn, Info: Wayne Honeycutt: wayne.honeycutt@ars.usda.gov

24: ME Potato Bd Ann Mtg, Presque Isle Inn & Conv Ctr, Presque Isle, ME. Info: 207-769-5061

LATER IN 2006

Jul 30-Aug 4: The XXII Mtg of the Latin Am Potato Assn (ALAP), Toluca, Mexico, a tribute to John Niederauser. Info: Hector Lozoya lozoya@correo.chapingo.mx

Aug 20-26: 6th World Potato Cong, Boise, ID, www.potatofoundation.com, Info: Llyod Palmer, info@potatocongress.org

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Second Call for Papers

This is the second and final call for papers to be presented at the 90th Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America. This meeting will be held July 23-27, 2006 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

PAA members are invited to present papers dealing with all facets of the potato industry. Submissions suitable for the conference theme of "Solanaceae - Genomics meets Biodiversity" are encouraged. Graduate students that are PAA members are also encouraged to enter the Graduate Student Competition.

Authors are required to submit abstracts for papers they wish to present, whether orally, as poster papers or in the Graduate Student Competition. Abstracts will be accepted from January 17 until March 17, 2006 and should be submitted through the Wisconsin 2006 website: <http://www.horticulture.wisc.edu/PAA-Solanaceae/>.

The abstracts for all papers (oral, poster and Graduate Student Competition) presented at the Annual Meeting will be published in a post-meeting issue of the *American Journal of Potato Research*. Abstracts of papers listed in the meeting program, but not presented, will not be published in the AJPR.

At the annual meeting, all oral paper presentations will be of a uniform 15-min length. Authors should plan a 12 to 14-minute presentation with the balance of time devoted to questions. Electronic projectors will be provided for PowerPoint presentations. Display boards will be provided for the poster papers.

Steven R. James
COARC, 850 NW Dogwood Lane - Madras, OR 97741
Phone: 541-475-7107 E-mail: steven.james@oregonstate.edu

Nominations for Honorary Life Membership

Second and final call for Honorary Life Membership nominations for 2006. Please take the time to give careful consideration toward your colleagues and their service to both the overall potato industry and The Potato Association of America. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Honorary Life Membership (HLM) award is one of The Association's most significant recognitions. This is the highest award bestowed upon an individual by the PAA. Each year at the annual meeting of the PAA this award is given to deserving individuals and is considered by many attendees the highlight of the banquet.

Members are encouraged to nominate candidates for HLM to be presented at the Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. In review, nominated individuals should have made significant contributions to the potato industry and/or the PAA. Contributions should include activities related to research, extension, education, production, processing, marketing, utilization or any of the other facets of the potato industry which may be appropriate. Additionally, HLM awards can be given to individuals outside of the PAA when warranted. Nominations must be submitted on the official HLM nomination form available from Steve James, the PAA Secretary

(steven.james@oregonstate.edu) or the Website: <http://www.umaine.edu/paa/hlmform.htm>. The selection procedure and desired candidate information is also available on the Website. This is a wonderful award and peer recognition can not happen without going through the nomination process.

Completed HLM nominations and all supporting documentation are due by March 17, 2006 and should be submitted to the Past President:

Rob Davidson, 0249 East Rd. 9 North
Center, CO 81125
Phone: (719) 754-3496, ext.15; Fax: (719) 754-2619

Graduate Student Awards Competition Papers

This is the Second Call For Papers to be entered in the Graduate Student Awards Competition (GSAC) to be held at the 90th Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America.

The purpose of the GSAC is to promote graduate student participation in PAA through presentation of research papers at the Annual Meeting. Participants are also encouraged to submit manuscripts for publication in the *American Jnl Potato Res*.

General Information

1. The author must be a current (or recent) graduate student at the time the abstracts are due March 17, 2006.
2. First place winners from previous PAA meetings are not eligible to participate.
3. Research reported must have been done while a graduate student.
4. The paper must be orally presented. Poster papers and symposium presentations do not qualify for the GSAC.
5. Students are required to submit abstracts for papers they wish to present in the Competition through the Wisconsin 2006 website: <http://www.horticulture.wisc.edu/PAA-Solanaceae/>. Abstracts will be accepted from January 17 to March 17, 2006.
6. No new students may register after the deadline or at the meeting.
7. Winners will be announced and honored at the annual banquet. Free banquet tickets will be provided by PAA for all graduate students participating in the GSAC. General Criteria for Judging: Papers and presentations will be judged on the following basis:
 - A. Quality of research and content: 60%
 - B. Effectiveness of presentation: 40%

Five awards will be presented in the amount of \$350 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd place, \$150 for 3rd place, \$100 for 4th place, \$100 for 5th place.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Kathy Haynes, Chair, PAA Grad Student Awards Competition
USDA/ARS: Veg Lab, 10300 Baltimore Ave
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: 301-504-7405 E-mail: haynesk@ba.ars.usda.gov

PAA 2006
“Solanaceae - Genomics meets Biodiversity”
90th Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America
Joint Meeting with VI International Solanaceae Conference
and
Solanaceae Genomics Network
July 23-27, 2006
Madison, Wisconsin
Monona Terrace Convention Center

WELCOME TO MADISON!

The Madison Local Arrangements Committee invites you to attend the 90th Annual Meeting of The Potato Association of America at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in downtown Madison, Wisconsin, July 23-27, 2006. We are eager for your arrival and are working to prepare an event that will be both professionally and personally rewarding.

You will find the best of all worlds in Wisconsin's vibrant capital city and picturesque surrounding towns: natural beauty and outdoor recreation, stimulating cultural offerings, distinctive restaurants and shops, and an irreverent spirit of fun. Built on an isthmus between lakes Monona and Mendota, Madison is renowned for its beautiful scenery. A total of five area lakes and over 200 parks in the Madison area provide an abundance of year-round outdoor activities, from hiking, biking, swimming and sailing along with cross-country skiing, snow sailing, and ice fishing. Urban culture, natural beauty, small town charm - the greater Madison area offers it all!

The following pages outline information on our program, venue, and the special events our Committee has planned for you. We encourage you to visit our website: <http://www.horticulture.wisc.edu/PAA-Solanaceae/> for further information. We are preparing a fantastic week for you, so mark your calendars and register now!

OUR CONFERENCE THEME

The entire international Solanaceae community is meeting jointly for the first time, bringing together the Potato Association of America (its 90th Annual Meeting), the International Solanaceae Conference (its sixth meeting), and the Solanaceae Genomics Network (its third meeting). The theme of the conference is Solanaceae - Genomics meets Biodiversity. Everyone with an interest in Solanaceae is encouraged to attend, and topics will range from Solanaceae biology and taxonomy to plant breeding, crop improvement, molecular biology, and genomics. All three groups will meet in an inter-conference plenary session on Monday morning. Thereafter, the conference will consist of two parallel meetings: The Potato Association of America (who will hold four concurrent sessions), and the joint meeting of the Solanaceae Genomics Network and the International Solanaceae Conference, who will meet together in a single session. Wednesday satellite sessions will provide opportunities for

focus groups to meet. Satellite sessions are being organized for: Application of FISH in Support of Sequencing Plant Genomes; Bioinformatics; Coffee Genomics; Pepper, Potato Genomics, Secondary Metabolism; *Solanum* Taxonomy, Tobacco; Tomato Sequencing; and Translational Genomics. There will be a single registration for all participants. Consult the above website for on-line registration (opening January 15) and other details of the conference.

CONFERENCE PURPOSE

The objective of the PAA Annual Meeting is to provide a forum for the presentation of new scientific information, to conduct the business of The Association, and to visit with our colleagues from around the continent and the world. The Solanaceae Genomics group will expand this to include colleagues coming together as a result of separate but parallel initiatives to sequence the potato and tomato genomes.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

The Annual Meeting of the PAA is typically made up of scientists and agronomists from academics, industry, and government, as well as extension, and certification specialists, potato industry representatives, consultants, students, honorary life members, corporate representatives, and private entrepreneurs.

OUR HOST HOTEL

The Official Conference Hotel is the Hilton Madison Monona Terrace (866-403-8838; 608-255-5100), located adjacent to the Monona Terrace Convention Center. The Hilton is set on the shores of Lake Monona in downtown Madison and offers spectacular views of the city and surrounding lakes. It is conveniently located near the State Capitol and the University of Wisconsin. Restaurants and shopping are within walking distance of the hotel. In addition, a pedestrian walkway provides a beautiful view of Lake Monona. The cost of a room (single or double occupancy) is \$156. Please call the hotel at 866-403-8838 or 608-255-5100 to make your reservation. A credit card guarantee will be due from individual group members.

Please reserve your hotel room NOW and indicate the reservation code PAA. The biggest challenge for the local

90th Annual Meeting Program, cont.
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organizing committee is balancing reserving sufficient rooms against hotel contracts, and we had to sign a contract with the Hilton Madison Monona Terrace for 500 room nights. We will have an opportunity to reevaluate this contract number in March 17, and will be forced to reduce the number (and perhaps not serve you optimally) if there are not sufficient reservations by this time).

ADDITIONAL HOTELS

We have reserved blocks of rooms in several additional hotels in downtown Madison.

The Best Western Inn on the Park (<http://www.innonthepark.net>) is only 3 blocks from the convention site. The room rate is \$109 if you reserve your room before June 23. Call 800-279-8811 or 608-275-8811 to make reservations. Use the reservation code ISC/PAA.

The Madison Concourse Hotel (<http://www.concoursehotel.com/>) is located 7 blocks from the convention site. The room rate ranges from \$119-\$159 if you reserve your room before June 26. Call 800-356-8293 or 608-257-6000 to make reservations. Use the reservation code ISC/PAA.

The DoubleTree Hotel (<http://www.doubletree.madison.com>) is located 10 blocks from the meeting site. The room rate is \$112 for single or double occupancy if you reserve your room before June 23. Call 800-222-8733 or 608-251-5511 to make reservations. Use the reservation code PAA.

In addition, we have reserved rooms at two University of Wisconsin conference centers. Lowell Hall (608-256-2621) is 12 blocks from the conference site and the Friedrich Center (608-231-1341) is 3 miles from the site. The room rates are \$77 (single) and \$80 (double) if you reserve your room before June 24. Use reservation code PAA.

TRANSPORTATION

Arrival by Air

The Dane County Regional Airport is 15 minutes from downtown Madison and the Monona Terrace Convention Center. Complimentary pickup is provided by the Hilton Monona Terrace, the Best Western Inn on the Park, the Madison Concourse Hotel, and the DoubleTree Hotel.

Arrival by Car

If you plan to arrive by car, driving directions are available via your hotel's website.

Transportation in Madison

Madison has a convenient bus system that allows you to travel throughout the city inexpensively. More information is available at the Madison Metro website: <http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/metro/>.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The Local Arrangements Committee for PAA 2006 welcomes sponsors for the Annual Meeting. Sponsorship opportunities are offered at the bronze, silver, gold, and platinum levels. All sponsors will be acknowledged on our web site and will, depending on sponsorship category, receive many other benefits. If you wish to sponsor or support our conference, please contact David Spooner at 608-890-0309 (dspooner@wisc.edu), Shelley Jansky at 608-262-8324 (shjansky@wisc.edu) or Alvin J. Bussan at 608-262-3519 (ajbussan@wisc.edu).

OUR CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

This year's meeting will be composed of two days of presentations (Monday and Tuesday), followed by a day for tours and satellite sessions (Wednesday) and then a final day of presentations (Thursday). Concurrent paper sessions will be organized according to subject matter. The number and organization of concurrent paper sessions is determined by the number and subject matter of abstract submissions.

POSTERS

Poster presentations play a key role in disseminating scientific information. The Poster Session will be held on Tuesday, with a special wine and cheese social during poster viewing on Tuesday evening. It is requested that authors be present with their posters during that evening session. Note: The size format of posters will be 4 feet x 4 feet.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

The meeting will begin on Sunday evening with an opening reception for all three participating groups (The Potato Association of America, the International Solanaceae Conference, and the Solanaceae Genomics Network). Monday morning begins a series of invited talks for an inter-conference plenary session entitled "Genomics Meets Biodiversity." Thereafter (beginning on Monday afternoon), the joint conference will consist of two parallel meetings: 1) the PAA (which will hold four concurrent sessions), and 2) the joint meeting of the Solanaceae Genome Workshop and the International Solanaceae Conference, which will meet together in a single session. All meetings will be held on the same floor of the Monona Terrace and participants are free to attend any session. Presentations are scheduled for Monday afternoon, all day Tuesday, and Thursday morning. On Tuesday evening there will be a wine and snacks social event during poster viewing. On Wednesday evening, a barbeque will be held at the Monona Terrace. Experience an elaborate authentic Indian cooking with a breath taking view of Lake Monona and the Wisconsin State Capitol on the Monona Terrace rooftop terrace. On

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90th Annual Meeting Program, cont.

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Thursday evening, there will be separate banquets for the PAA and the International Solanaceae Congress/Solanaceae Genomics Network.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA OUTLINE

Sunday, July 23

- 11:00 am - 7:00 pm – Conference Registration
- 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm – Executive Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm – Opening Reception

Monday, July 24

- 7:00 am - 6:00 pm - Conference Registration
- 6:30 am - 8:00 am – Extension Section Meeting
- 7:00 am - 8:30 am – Breakfast
- 8:30 am - noon – Symposium
- noon - 1:30 pm – Lunch
- noon - Silent Auction bidding begins
- 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm - Concurrent Oral Sessions
- 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm – Poster Setup
- 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm – Section Meetings
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm – Graduate Student Awards Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 25

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - Conference Registration
- 6:30 am - 8:00 am – Production & Management Section Meeting
- 7:00 am - 8:30 am – Breakfast
- 8:00 am - 10:00 pm – Poster Viewing
- 8:30 am - noon – Concurrent Oral Sessions
- noon - 1:30 pm – Lunch
- 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm - Concurrent Oral Sessions
- 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm – Graduate Student Awards Committee Meeting
- 8:30 - Silent Auction Bidding ends
- 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm – Wine and Cheese Social at Poster Viewing Session

Wednesday, July 26

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - Conference Registration
- 7:30 am - 4:30 pm – Tours
- 8:30 am - 5:00 pm – Satellite Sessions
- 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm - Barbeque

Thursday, July 27

- 7:00 am - 9:00 am - Conference Registration
- 7:00 am - 8:30 am – Breakfast
- 8:30 am - noon – Concurrent Oral Sessions
- noon - 1:30 pm – Lunch
- 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm – PAA Business Meeting
- 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm – PAA Banquet

SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS

Wednesday, July 26:

Spring Green, Wisconsin Tour

The Spring Green Tour will be an all day event beginning with a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Home. The Taliesin is considered one of Wright's greatest architectural masterpieces. Located on 600 acres, the 37,000-square-foot country estate includes living quarters, an office, drafting studio, farm buildings, and other structures. Everything from the landscaped grounds, roads and ponds, lighting, furnishings, and collected objects is a product of Wright's imagination. A visit to the Taliesin will enhance your knowledge of Wright and his architectural genius. Lunch will be served at the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center, followed by a tour of the House on the Rock. The House on the Rock, designed and built by Alex Jordan of Madison is located atop a 60-foot chimney of rock. Begun in the early 1940's, it overlooks the breathtaking panorama of Wyoming Valley. The 14-room House, sculpted atop Deer Shelter Rock, is the original structure of what is now an extraordinary complex of rooms, streets, buildings and gardens covering over 200 acres. Cost \$65 per person.

Agricultural Tour - Potatoes

This tour will visit Wisconsin's primary potato research site – the Hancock Agricultural Research Station. On July 26 the station is hosting its annual Central Wisconsin Potato Field Day. Conference attendees are invited to participate in this event that showcases potato field research currently underway in Wisconsin. We will meet Wisconsin growers, researchers and agri-business representatives will ride wagon trains to research plots all around the facility and hear scientists talk about their work and report progress. The travel time between stops will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss issues important to the potato industry. Following the field tour, all participants are invited to enjoy a picnic lunch provided by the Associate Division of the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association. The Hancock Agricultural Research Station is located 80 miles north of Madison in the area of Wisconsin known as the Central Sands. The area is characterized by large, flat acreages of sandy soil, often containing less than 1% organic matter. A truly amazing underground water resource lies very close to the soil surface. High-capacity irrigation wells producing more than 1000 gallons per minute dot the area providing ample water to the potato and processing vegetable crops grown there. The Hancock Station has served as a center for agricultural research, outreach and teaching for the past 90 years. Cost \$40 per person.

In addition, we will have staff on site to assist participants in planning other activities based on individual interests. There are numerous inexpensive (or free) local attractions, including the

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WANTED: PAA Secretary [Not Office Secretary]

Are you in a position to contribute some of your time and talents to the PAA? If so, consider serving as PAA Secretary.

A new PAA Secretary is needed by July 1, 2006 as Steve James will resign on June 30, 2006 after serving the PAA in that capacity for seven years. James reflected, "It has been a great privilege and very rewarding to move annual meeting abstract submission and publication from the paste and photocopy era to the electronic age."

Major responsibilities of the PAA Secretary include serving as a member of the Executive Committee, preparing the program for the annual meeting and keeping a record of all PAA proceedings. Abstracts are due in March each year. Once the 150 or so abstracts are submitted and checked for formatting uniformity, the program is arranged in cooperation with the local arrangements committee. After the meeting is concluded, abstracts are submitted for publication in the *American*

Journal of Potato Research (AJPR). During the annual meeting, the PAA Secretary attends the Executive Committee and annual business meetings, recording all proceedings. After the annual meeting is concluded and all sections and committees have submitted proceedings for their meetings, the minutes are completed and submitted for publication in the AJPR, providing a permanent record of PAA business.

The Secretary serves for a two-year term and provides continuity within the organization, as the position is not part of the normal PAA officer rotation. Terms can be renewed with Executive Committee approval. The PAA Secretary currently receives a \$1,000 annual stipend.

The office requires dedication and a time commitment. Organizations such as the PAA can continue to prosper as members willingly offer their time and abilities. Would you like to be the next PAA Secretary? If so, contact President Larry Hiller (hillerl@wsu.edu) or Secretary Steve James (steven.james@oregonstate.edu)

PAA 3rd Annual Silent Auction

100% of the proceeds will benefit the PAA Endowment Fund

- **Location:** Grand Terrace Area
- **Bidding Starts:** Monday at Noon
- **Bidding Ends:** Tuesday, July 25, 8:30P

Donated items will be accepted at the Registration Table Sunday (7/23/06) and continuing through Noon on Tuesday (7/25/06) in the Grand Terrace Area.

Don't forget....all donations are *tax deductible!*

Some item ideas (and past hits) are: "potato" related items, quilts, crafts, books, artwork, hats, regional items, and anything really cool, but it doesn't have to be "potato" related!

Please share this information with family, friends, and sponsors who would like to support the Auction and the PAA Endowment Fund.

Questions? Jan Mosley, 541-737-9711, janet.mosley@oregonstate.edu

More information on the auction will be in future PAA Insider issues through e-mails and on the PAA website: <http://www.umaine.edu/paa>.

President's Letter

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increasing the amount that you contribute to the Endowment Fund, or if you have yet to begin contributing, here's your opportunity to start experiencing this wonderful feeling, this "joy", with a generous gift when you renew your membership.

Time to Plan for Madison. Yes, it may seem like a long way off, but our annual meeting in Madison will be here "before you know it!" Dates are July 23 to 27, 2006. Planning and registration information are presented in this newsletter, but take note of the various deadlines (abstracts of papers particularly) and make your plans to attend. The meetings this year will be enriched with the joint *Solanaceae*

genomics group. David Spooner and Shelley Jansky, along with their enthusiastic local arrangements committee, are planning a very memorable meeting in a beautiful location. Mark your calendars and begin planning to attend!!

Remember, each and everyone of us are important to our society. It cannot exist and stand alone without all our participation. We must all determine the "value" PAA has for us and be willing to relay that onto a larger group. This we all can do through our presence, involvement, service, and gifts. The result will be an increased "value" to each individual and to everyone as a stronger PAA society.

Larry K. Hiller
PAA President, 2005-2006

Reminder-Membership Drive Contest

Again this year, I am sponsoring the 'New Members' contest as a way to try and add new members to our ever decreasing total. A line has been added on the back of the printed membership brochure and on the top of the membership application on the PAA website [<http://www.umaine.edu/paa/mbrapp1.htm>]. Be sure to fill that line in when you are submitting a new membership to receive the proper credit. Lori will keep track of any new memberships that come in from each PAA member.

Any current PAA member who signs up 5 new members (graduate students or individuals) will receive a \$50 gift

certificate. Any current PAA member who signs up 10 new members (same as above) will receive a \$100 gift certificate and a certificate of recognition ready for framing. In addition, the PAA member who signs up the most new graduate students and/or individuals will receive an additional \$100 gift certificate and a plaque.

I will fund this to boost our membership numbers. If this proves successful, I will commit to fund it through the 2007 PAA meeting.

Sam Thornton
2006-07 President Elect

90th Annual Meeting Program, cont.

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Henry Vilas Zoo, the Olbrich Botanical Gardens, the Wisconsin Children's Museum, the Capitol Brewery Company, the Governor's Mansion, Vitense Golfland, the State Capitol, and the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. The Madison Visitor and Convention Bureau (<http://www.visitmadison.com>) has more information if you would like to begin planning your excursions now.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration opens January 16 and will be \$300.00 for all participants for the entire conference except for a reduced rate of \$175.00 for students, single-day registrants and accompanying persons. Late registration will be \$425.00 for participants and \$275.00 for students, single-day registrants and accompanying persons. The deadline for abstract submission is March 17, 2006. ALL REGISTRATION &

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS WILL BE HANDLED ONLINE ONLY. See the <http://www.horticulture.wisc.edu/PAA-Solanaceae/> for registration information.

This registration is a deal! This includes all scientific events. Everyone's registration includes the Sunday Opening Reception, the Tuesday evening wine and cheese social/poster viewing session, the Wednesday satellite sessions, three breakfasts and three lunches, and snacks during breaks for Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. There will be a separate charge for the Wednesday evening barbeque (\$48), the Thursday evening banquet (\$55) and Wednesday tours.

We are working on obtaining funds to defray partial expenses for students and other participants. These opportunities will be announced on the website as they become available.

David Spooner [dspooner@wisc.edu] &
Shelley Jansky [shjansky@wisc.edu]
Co-Chairs, 2006 LAC Committee

2005-2006

PAA Background

Executive Committee

President
Larry Hiller

President-Elect
Sam Thornton

Vice President
Alex Pavlista

Secretary
Steve James

Treasurer
Al Bushway

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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, Rm 6, University of Maine, Orono, ME, 04469-5715 USA. Phone: 207-581-3042; Fax: 207-581-3015; Email: umpotato@maine.edu; Web: <http://www.umaine.edu/paa>

Members in the News

A Farewell Letter...

Dear Potato friends,

As many of you probably know, for some time I was looking for a permanent research position. Though I was not successful to find a job in potato research, I was fortunate enough to get an attractive offer to work as lettuce breeder/geneticist.

Therefore, after working for 16 years (four in Slovakia and 12 in the US) in potato research it is time to move on. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of you for your help and support during those years. It was a wonderful experience to interact with this great community and to work on many interesting projects. I have had a great time while working at both the Cornell University and USDA-ARS in Beltsville. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my colleagues and mentors at both institutions, especially Elmer Ewing, Bill Fry, and Peter Davies from Cornell, and Kathy Haynes and Rick Jones from Beltsville. However, there were so many of you who helped me with research, guidance, or plant material that it is not possible to mention everyone individually. Thank you all.

I feel very fortunate to have a plant-breeding position with ARS. My future colleagues from Salinas are great people and it will be my pleasure to work with them. So I am sincerely looking forward to this new job and the new challenges coming

with it. And hey, lettuce is a selfing diploid, so I hope that the genetic part of research will be somewhat simpler :-)

Best regards,
Ivan Simko

Honorary Life Member Dr. Nelson Estrada Ramos passed away Nov. 22, 2005. Born in Medellin, Columbia in 1924, Nelson received his BS degree in agronomy at the Natl Univ of Columbia in 1948. He spent the first 3 years of his career working with Prof J.G. Hawkes as a potato breeder. From his work came the first utilization of the hybrid vigor from tuberosum-andigena crosses. From 1952-1967, Nelson worked in potato breeding at the Colombia Ministry of Agric., associated with the Rockefeller Foundation Agric program at Tibaitata, near Bogota. His graduate studies were done at the Univ of Wisc where he received his MS in genetics in 1957 under Dr. R.H. Hougas and his Ph.D. in plant breeding under Dr. D.C. Smith. Nelson returned to Columbia and continued his work in potato breeding at the Colombia Inst. of Agric. (ICA) which he retired from in 1973. He was an active member of the Latin America Potato Association, the American Potato Association and the European Potato Association. For his many accomplishments and contributions to the world potato industry, he was presented with his Honorary Life Membership in 1985.

New Emeritus Member Category

The new member category, 'Emeritus'...

"Emeritus membership status may be granted to any person who pays the appropriate dues [\$35.00], has previously held an individual membership and has retired from their professional position. Emeritus members are entitled to all membership rights and privileges, shall receive for a period of one year the PAA Insider and other publications authorized by the Executive Committee, but would not receive the Amer J Potato Res."

...is available for those of you who are close to retiring and want to stay in touch with PAA activities and want to come to the Annual Meeting to visit with the friends you've made over the years.

If you are interested in switching your membership to Emeritus instead of completely dropping out of the PAA when you retire, please contact the home office.

Lori Wing, PAA
Membership Secretary/
Administrative Asst.

