



# INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Potato Association of America

Vol. 3, No. 5, September 1999

## A Letter From Our New President

The annual meeting is over for another year. I'm sure those who attended will agree that it was a huge success. Although attendance was down slightly from previous years, the meeting site was excellent, the papers interesting and well prepared, the hall conversation fruitful and interesting, and the social events entertaining. I congratulate Mel Henninger and his local arrangements committee for a job well done.

The PAA is currently going through some fascinating times. Changes in the way the world works and communicates have required us to update our operations. Without these changes we will quickly become antiquated and less viable as an organization. In his term as president, Creighton Miller, Jr. had the foresight to recognize and identify many of the modernization issues that we must face. He put together the PAA 2000 committee and chartered it to give the PAA direction over the next five years. He also prepared us to tackle many difficult issues during our recent meeting. We all owe Creighton our gratitude for his energetic approach toward his term as president. I would like to take the remainder of this letter and summarize some of the actions taken during this last annual meeting by the Executive Committee, under Creighton's direction. These decisions will have some impact on all of us and I feel it is important that you each know what is happening.

1. The administrative assistant position (held by Lori Wing) was made full time and given a week's paid vacation and holiday pay. This was made necessary because of the increased work load given to the position, including receipt of AJPR manuscripts, web site maintenance, newsletter layout and publication, and

assistance with preparations for the annual meeting.

2. Approved the publication of the newsletter on the website. The newsletter will be made available by request as a hard copy to those who do not have access to the web. The next time the Membership Directory is printed, a copy may be obtained by checking an appropriate box on the registration form and contributing an extra \$5 in fees, or by sending a request to Headquarters and enclosing the \$5 fee.
3. Approved the resignations of Lind Sanford (Editor-in-Chief), Hugh Murphy (Technical Editor), and John Ojala (Secretary). Bud Platt was appointed to take Lind's place. Negotiations are still under way to replace Hugh. Also, Steve James was appointed to take John's position. We owe Lind, Hugh, and John our sincere thanks for their service.
4. Approved the transfer of the web site to PAA headquarters and allocated funds to support the move.
5. Changed the publication of the PAA Insider from bi-monthly to quarterly. This was a cost cutting move.
6. Attached all responsibilities for membership recruiting to the association's Vice President. Two committees will serve under the VP, one for sustaining and the other for individual members.
7. Approved the establishment of an Endowment Fund. This will provide opportunities for Honorary Life Members and others to give additional support to the association and in the future should allow us to increase the scope of our activities.

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## Dates

### October

**Oct. 27-28:** Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Industry Show, Plover, WI. Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, 700 Fifth Ave., Antigo, WI 54409. 715-623-7683

### November

**Nov. 11-13:** 34th Annual Montana Seed Seminar at the Holiday Inn Parkside Missoula, MT. Contact Barbara Webb at 406-994-3150

### December

**Dec 2-4:** 18th Annual National Potato Council Seed Seminar at the Concourse Hotel, Madison, Wis., hosted by the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association. Contact Linda Gustafson, 715-623-7683.

### January

**Jan. 11-15:** National Potato Council 51st Annual Meeting, Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando, Fla. NPC, 5690 DTC Blvd., Suite 230 E. Englewood, CO 80111. 303-773-9295

## Inside Information

### New Potato Cookbook

Cliff and Karen Black have published a new potato cookbook entitled "Potato Lover's Cookbook". The book contains 131 pages with more than 300 recipes, including soups, salads, breads and rolls, baked potatoes, mashed potatoes, main dishes, and desserts. Cliff has been in the potato business in Texas for almost 30 years. He is an excellent cook and I can enthusiastically recommend this book to anyone who enjoys cooking with potatoes. All proceeds go to supporting the Cub Scouts of Muleshoe, Texas. To order a copy send \$10.00 U.S. plus \$2.00 U.S. postage and packaging to Cliff Black, 302 East Date Street, Muleshoe, TX 79347. -

**Creighton Miller**

### Pitiful Pics

Boy, am I embarrassed. After bragging up my digital camera to everyone, I returned home to discover that most of my indoor shots didn't turn out very well. One weakness these cameras have is that they don't work well under low light conditions. The flash just isn't strong enough. Oh well. Thanks to Al Mosley and Duane Preston I have enough good shots to go with the few I took to post on the web site. Soon, I hope.

**John Walsh**

## A Letter From the Past President

I want to express my appreciation to the membership for providing me the opportunity to serve as your president over the past year. I have considered this a high honor. There have been several benchmark accomplishments. First, we have entered the cybernetic age with our web site, which is receiving about 1,000 hits/month. Improvements will continue to be made. I am especially excited about the creation of the new PAA Endowment Fund which was approved at the New Jersey meeting. This endowment will allow us to undertake new initiatives. We already have \$2001 pledged, and I hope that each of you will consider supporting the tax-free endowment. I have asked Ed Plissey to provide leadership for this initiative. You will be hearing more about this from Ed in the near future. I am delighted that Steve James has agreed to serve as our new Secretary. Under Steve's leadership it will be possible to submit our abstracts electronically next year.

The AJPR is in good hands, as Bud Platt will be assuming the position of Editor-in-Chief. You may have noticed the significantly upgraded quality of the award and recognition plaques this year. At my suggestion, the Executive Committee assigned the responsibility of coordinating new member recruitment to the Vice President. Prior to this, no official duties were assigned to the Vice President, while the President had too many other responsibilities to do justice to this important activity. This change should provide positive results. A much-needed, updated PAA brochure is being prepared and should assist in new-member recruitment. The cost of publishing the brochure is being underwritten by Ed Plissey.

One concern that I would like to bring to your attention is the apparent decrease in industry participation in PAA, especially our meetings. The university research-industry interaction is vital. Measures, such as increased number of workshops at future annual meetings, will be implemented in an

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## 1999 Graduate Student Competition

The graduate student presentations were of very high caliber. I heard some attendees remark that they were among the best at this year's meeting.

There were 20 presentations in the competition. Eight universities were represented: five from the Univ. Wisconsin, four from Michigan St. Univ., three from Virginia PI & SU, two each from Univ. Maine, No. Dakota St. Univ., and Oregon St. Univ., and one each from Univ. Manitoba and Univ. Minnesota.

Thirteen were presented in Breeding and Genetics, four in Plant Pathology, and three in Production and Management. Twelve graduate students were presenting for the first time. Besides the U.S.A. and Canada, there were students who originated from Brazil, Chili, China, Peru, and Turkey. All the graduate students who participated deserve congratulations for excellent presentations. They made the job giving awards very difficult.

Five awards were given, each with a monetary recognition. The awards and certificates were gratefully financed by NatureMark for the seventh straight year. Please recognize and thank them for their support when you meet a representative.

The award winners are: First Place: Kimberly Walters-Felcher (Michigan State Univ.) "Molecular characterization and disease reaction of transgenic potato plants carrying a fungal glucose oxidase gene." co-authors: Wenbin Li and David Douches

Second Place: Joseph Coombs (Michigan State Univ.) "Field evaluation of potato resistance mechanisms for control of Colorado potato beetle." co-authors: David Douches, Wenbin Li, Edward Graffius, and Walter Pett

Third Place: Ingrid Berlinger (Oregon State Univ.) "Verticillium wilt suppression with a broccoli green manure." co-authors: Mary Powelson and Ken Johnson

Fourth Place: Dilson Bisognin (Michigan State Univ.) "Progeny evaluation of late blight resistant clones." co-authors: David Douches, K. Jastzebski, and William Kirk.

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## 1999 Graduate Student Competition

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Fifth Place: Alfonso del Rio (Univ. Wisconsin-Madison) "Association of eco-geographical variables with patterns of genetic variation in native wild US potato populations determined by RAPD markers." co-author: John Bamberg

Members of the graduate student competition committee were: David Douches, Michigan State Univ. Kathy Haynes, USDA-ARS, Maryland, Larry Hiller, Washington State Univ., Steve Johnson, Univ. Maine, Steve Vaughn, USDA-ARS, Illinois and myself, Univ. Nebraska-Lincoln, as Chair.

Alexander D. Pavlista  
Chair, Graduate Student Awards

## Letter from the President

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As you can see, we took some giant strides in what we hope is a forward direction. We still have many important issues to address as we face the future. Any changes that are made will effect each of us as members of PAA. I urge all of you to become involved in helping us direct the modernization efforts. The more ideas we have to choose from, the more likely we are to find the best ones.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Love, President

## A letter from our past president

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effort to heighten industry interest. Related to this, you will be hearing from the PAA 2000 Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Mary Powelson, which will help chart our course as we move into the new millennium. In the years to come other initiatives undertaken this year will become apparent.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our committees and many dedicated individuals. Thanks to all and special recognition to Mel Henninger, Ed Lulai and Lori Wing for their exceptional contributions. The future is bright for PAA.

All this is to say that I have every confidence in our new Executive Committee under the able leadership of Steve Love, and that the Association is headed in the right direction, and will continue to provide improved services to its members and the potato industry.

-Creighton Miller

## 1998 Outstanding Paper Award

The paper "Potato fungicides interfere with entomopathogenic fungi impacting populations of green peach aphid", A. Lagnaoui and E.B. Radcliffe, University of Minnesota, was selected from seven nominations as the best paper published in the American Journal of Potato Research in 1998. The award was presented to the authors during the 1999 annual meeting of the Potato Association of America in Somerset, New Jersey.

The other six papers nominated for the award included:

"Breeding progress for potato chip quality in North American cultivars", S.L. Love, J.J. Pavek, A. Thompson-Johns, and W. Bohl. University of Idaho, Aberdeen, Idaho.

"Foliar leptine production in segregating F1, inter-F1, and backcross families of *Solanum chacoense* Bitter", C.M. Ronning, L.L. Sanford, R.S. Kobayashi, and S.P. Kowalski. ARS, USDA, Beltsville, Maryland.

"A plant growth promoting rhizobacterium and temperature effects on performance of 18 clones of potato", S. Bensalim, J. Nowak, and S.K. Asiedu. Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Canada.

"Prevention of stem growth inhibition and alleviation of intumescence formation in potato plantlets in vitro by yellow filters", J.E.A. Seabrook and K. Douglass. Agriculture Canada, Fredericton, NB.

"Effects of blanching conditions on the mechanical properties of french fry strips", A. Agblor and M.G. Scanlon. University of Manitoba.

"Transmission of *Phytophthora infestans* in cut potato seed", D.H. Lambert, A.I. Currier, and M.O. Olanya. University of Maine.

## Inside Information

## New Officers &amp; Section Chairs for 1999-2000

President: Stephen L. Love; President Elect: Oscar Gutbrod; Vice President: Joe Gunethner; Secretary: Steven R. James; Treasurer: David H. Lamber; Past President: J. Creighton Miller, Jr.; Director: H. W. (Bud) Platt (3 yrs); Director: Thomas R. Owings (3 yrs); Director: Gregory A. Porter (2 yrs); Director: Larry K. Hiller (1 yr); Director: Susan (Rikki) Sterrett (1 yr); Editor-in-Chief: H. W. (Bud) Platt; Technical Editor: Barbara Harity (Interim).

## Other PAA Officers:

Business Editor: Ronald H. Knight; Administrative Asst.: Lori Wing; Archivist: Edwin S. Plissey.

## PAA Section Officers:

*Breeding & Genetics*  
Chair: Craig Yencho  
*Certification*  
Chair: Hossien El-Nashaar  
*Entomology*  
Chair: Ted Radcliffe  
*Extension*  
Chair: Bill Bohl  
*Pathology*  
Chair: Jonathan Whitworth  
*Physiology*  
Chair: Susie Thompson-Johns  
*Production/ Management*  
Chair: Greg Porter  
*Utilization & Marketing*  
Chair: Al Bushway

A full listing will soon be available on our website.

## PAA Background

### PAA Executive:

**President:**  
Steve Love

**President-Elect**  
Oscar Gutbrod

**Vice President:**  
Joe Guenthner

**Secretary:**  
Steve James

**Treasurer:**  
Dave Lambert

**Past-President:**  
Creighton Miller

**Directors:**  
Bud Platt  
Tom Owings  
Greg Porter  
Larry Hiller  
Rikki Sterrett

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
H. W. (Bud) Platt

**Technical Editor:**  
Barbara Harrity (Interim)

**Business Editor:**  
Ron Knight

**Annual Meeting:**  
July 23-27, 2000  
Colorado Springs, CO

**PAA Insider** is published bi-monthly, starting in January and alternating with the American Journal of Potato Research, by the Potato Association of America, 5715 Coburn Hall, Room 6, University of Maine, Orono, ME, 04469. E-mail [umpotato@maine.edu](mailto:umpotato@maine.edu). The Editor is John Walsh, McCain Foods Limited, Florenceville, NB, Canada. Tel (506) 392-3237, FAX (506) 392-8338, E-mail [jrwalsh@mccain.ca](mailto:jrwalsh@mccain.ca)

## Position Announcements

Postdoctoral Position, USDA-ARS, Fargo, North Dakota RA-99-49L. A two-year postdoctoral position is available to conduct research on potato tuber phellogen (cork cambium) cell wall stiffening initiated during phellogen inactivation and tuber periderm maturation. The research will include: determining the changes in phellogen cell walls and related enzymes/proteins that cause stiffening, and identifying markers and signals associated with the initiation of phellogen cell wall stiffening in maturing wound and native periderm. The goal of the research project is to determine the biochemical changes responsible for the development of resistance to tuber periderm injury. Candidates must have a strong background in plant

biochemistry/physiology. Experience with cell wall and protein/enzyme isolation, characterization and blotting techniques is desirable. Knowledge and skills in the use of molecular biology techniques are helpful. Certain citizenship restrictions apply. Starting salary is \$39,960 per annum plus benefits. Please send curriculum vitae, a statement of research experience and three letters of reference to: Dr. E. C. Lulai, USDA-ARS-NCSL, PO Box 5677, Fargo, ND 58105-5677; telephone 701-239-1352, fax 701-239-1349, e-mail [lulaie@fargo.ars.usda.gov](mailto:lulaie@fargo.ars.usda.gov). USDA-ARS is an equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. More information is available at <http://www.ars.usda.gov>.

## Lawrence honored by CPS

The Canadian Phytopathological Society recently honored retired Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientist, C. Harold Lawrence, who has worked on common scab (*Streptomyces scabies*) of potato for many years. At their joint meeting with the American Phytopathological Society in Montreal, Canada in August, the Canadian Phytopathological Society awarded Harold an honorary life membership.

Harold Lawrence was recognized for his contributions to plant pathology in the Atlantic region of Canada and for his potato common scab research internationally. Harold, fellow research scientist, Russ King, and their

colleagues were the first to discover and characterize the *Streptomyces scabies* phytotoxin \*Thaxtomin A\*, and thus opened up a new field of common scab research. Although he has been retired for several years Harold has been active in common scab research, and the work on \*Thaxtomin A\*, was conducted after his retirement. He has contributed to the development of scab-resistant potato cultivars, provided many disease diagnoses and has reported on techniques for the production of microtubers in vitro.

Submitted by: Jane Seabrook,  
Agnes Murphy and Russ King  
Potato Research Centre, AAFC,  
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

## Membership Drive

President Steve Love would like to increase membership during his term of office. Duane Preston chairs a committee that is working to increase sustaining members, but President Love also plans to launch an effort to increase individual membership. He has asked Vice

President Joe Guenthner to assist him. Members who were involved in previous membership drives, have ideas to share or can help with this drive are encouraged to contact Joe (Phone 208-885-6056, Fax 208-885-5759, e-mail: [jguenthner@uidaho.edu](mailto:jguenthner@uidaho.edu))

