

American Dahlia Society
Conference Call Minutes
November 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm EST by President Don Dramstad.

Present

Those on the call were: Don Dramstad, Brad Freeman, Terry Schroeder, Mac Boyer, Wayne Shantz, Harry Risetto, Ron Miner, Eleanor Shantz, Charles Miehm, Lou Paradise, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Alan Fisher, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Martin Kral, Nick Weber, Jerry Landerholm, Sharon Swaney, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Kristine Albrecht.

Remembrance

Don Dramstad asked for a moment of silence for those who have passed since our last meeting.

Minutes

Bob Schroeder moved and Kristine Albrecht seconded to approve the minutes from the Spring Planning minutes, April 1-2 and Board Meeting, April 3 as presented. Motion carried.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Treasurer

Mac Boyer reported there is a total in all accounts of \$183,807.84. There is \$86,742.03 in the Ameriprise account, with \$73,580.00 in restricted/designated funds. There is \$65,420.27 in the Vanguard account, \$36,826.32 in the Lake City account, with \$23,140.02 as restricted/designated and \$489.22 in PayPal. There is \$4,330.00 to be deposited in the Lake City Account. Of the total amount, there is "96,720 in restricted/designated accounts, leaving about \$96,000 available. A payment of \$1,400.00 for the ADS commitment for the 2017 Annual Show at Central States Dahlia Society has been sent. IRS and New York States tax reports have been sent. Replies for additional information have not been received. Mac reported he foresees adequate funds to cover year-end expenses and that he expects membership revenue to be received and deposited before year end. There is a total of \$12,580 in the Genome Fund, but not all is included in the above numbers. **Jerry Landerholm moved and Mark Oldenkamp seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit.**

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic (Eastern States)

Charles Miehm reports the growing season is over for most of the mid-Atlantic region. Even with the dreaded summer they had, the three societies staged six shows with great participation and good results. National Capital Dahlia Society dug the plants at their display garden at the end of October. To help deter the transmission of virus, all cutting tools, even shovels were dipped in a bleach solution between cuts. The tubers

looked nice, despite the weather they endured. These will be much of the stock they will sell next year. Philadelphia is compiling a list of plants that did well in their region this year. The Gettysburg Dahlia Society is having a luncheon and meeting for installation of officers and discussion of ways to move the society forward after a rough year.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

Randy Foith reports the Midwest Conference has concluded another show season. The number of blooms for much of the conference were down due to extreme heat and lack of water for much of July and August. The Western Michigan Dahlia Society reported their show was less affected by those extremes. This year's Midwest Show had to be cancelled due to the venue being unavailable at the last minute. The 2017 show will be hosted by the Central States Dahlia Society in unison with the 2017 National Show in Chicago. The conference has been on alert as to the virus program with some clubs contributing to help get member's plants tested. They have been rouging out plants showing signs as well as those testing positive. They made some subtle changes to their bylaws and are working to acquire 501 (c) (3) status by 2017.

Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference

Wayne Shantz reports their members are busy digging their tubers. Several of their societies participated in the virus program, sending in plant samples. The South Oregon Dahlia Society has disbanded.

Pacific Southwest

Lou Paradise reported for John Morton the PSDC had a judging seminar this year that was well attended. Their shows were well attended, but one society did not have a show due to lack of membership and there is a possibility they won't survive. Harry reminded the board to remember that one of the areas that the board wanted to work on was to help societies that are struggling.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Brad Freeman reports the Governing Board of the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers has selected Wenatchee, Washington as the site for the 2020 American Dahlia Society National Show. Wenatchee is on the east slopes of the Cascade Mountains and is one of the prime agricultural areas of Washington. You will have an opportunity to taste fresh fruits and superb wines produced in the area. It truly will be a different experience for our visitors, but with the home-town feel of Wenatchee, one that you will enjoy. The date has been set for September 12 & 13, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bulletin

Harry Risetto reports Buddy Dean has promised to write an article about the National Show, but it has not been received. They have received the results from the National Show and will send to Linda to be posted on the website. The National Show article may not appear until the March Bulletin. They had trouble getting show reports and had to push back the deadline to get ample reports. Thanks to Mark and Alan for working

with ADS Reps to obtain that information. There are only a few ads for the Bulletin; Harry sent inquiries to former advertisers to get ads in. They are still in need of an Editor to lead the committee and help ensure that things run on time.

Classification

Lou Paradise reports the committee had requests to change the classification of 17 cultivars, with enough votes for almost one-half of the cultivars, 8, to change classification for the 2017 season, which will be listed in the 2017 CHD. They already have 17 change requests for next year. The 2017 Classification Book is complete and sent to the printer. They waited several days past the deadline, hoping to get a 100% return, but that did not happen. There was one society that did not turn in a report, despite emails and phone calls and seven societies that did not have shows this year. Due to that, there are fewer cultivars listed in the 2017 CHD, 1829. They are still experiencing cultivars reported from shows as being ready for inclusion in the CHD and then find that they were reported incorrectly without a numeric prefix. Lou has asked hybridizers, originators and introducers to send him a list of their introductions for inclusion or exclusion in the CHD, but only one is following through. **Lou Paradise moved and Bob Schroeder seconded to offer the winner of the Stanley Johnson photo contest an option of a framed copy of the print or \$200.00 in cash.** Lou explained the number of entries has decreased and at times there is only one. Although \$200 may seem high, the whole process of getting a plaque, framing the cover and mailing the framed cover now costs over \$200. After much discussion, Harry Risetto called for the question. **The motion passed, with one opposing vote.** They will be working on the Cream of the Crop and the Fabulous Fifty next and hope to have them completed in the next several weeks. Congratulations to Kathy Iler on winning the Stanley Johnson award for **Fancy Pants**. Lou reported sadly that Buddy Dean has requested to step down from the Classification Committee.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports contributions are coming in, including ones for the genome project. There is ample funding to cover year-end expenses.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reports she has received about 73 photos of new introductions and is waiting for more. She hopes to have the New Introduction CD completed by the end of November or early December,

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports the collection of information for the 2017 Judging Roster will begin in early January 2017. The deadline for submitting information will be April 1, 2017 for publication with the June Bulletin. He is planning a judging seminar on Friday afternoon before the Spring Planning session, which will be held in Leesburg, VA from March 31 to April 2.

Membership

Alan Fisher is processing memberships and sending out materials to new members. He needs information on new membership, upgrades from individual to family and address changes in the coming week to meet his deadline to send address labels to the printer for the December Bulletin. Mark Oldenkamp and Ken Jensen have sent requests to the ADS Reps for this information. The 2016 membership report showed that we were up a bit from 2015. The report will likely be in the March Bulletin, but could be put on the Members Only page and he will send it to any board member who would like a copy.

National Exhibit

Art Haskins reports National Shows are planned through to 2020. He has an inquiry from a society for 2021 and is tentatively holding the date for them. If another society comes forward for that date, he will ask for a firm commitment or it will be given to the newer inquiry. As a follow-up to the discussion regarding micro mini dahlias in the Classification meeting in Asheville, he has corresponded with Jerry Landerholm to include them in the 2017 National Show in Chicago. Jerry suggested an article be written about the micro mini dahlias for the December Bulletin and Art has done so.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary reports she has not received any additional requests for new society information. Alan added that he received seven new members from the New England Dahlia Society. He thanked Rosemary for providing information to them.

Photography

Martin Kral reports the photo contest is open and accepting submissions until November 30. The online version of the instructions was corrected and since, he has had only one inquiry.

Publicity/Public Relations

Lois Ann Helgeson reports she is working with Sharon and Linda to get the press release kit for local societies up on the website. There is also a need for contact information/contact person to be added to the Bulletin for the submission of material for The Bulletin. Lois Ann will put out a press release on the Stanley Johnson medal as soon as she receives the rest of the information.

Research and Education

Don introduced Nick Weber as the new chair for the Research and Education committee, replacing Brent Grant, who resigned in September. Nick reports he is coming up to speed on the virus and genome projects. There are other things he wants to explore. He asked if there was a list of other research and education projects that have been done or discussed. He would also like to read the articles that Dr. Pappu has written. His technical articles are on the Washington State University website and his ADS articles are on the ADS website.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports he is waiting for the reports from the 2016 Seedling Bench Evaluation and Trial Garden to have the Hart, Dudley and Gullikson medals engraved. He also is waiting for the result from the Classification Committee on the winner of the Stanley Johnson medal so it can be engraved. He is still in the process of determining a manufacturing source for medals that will put a reasonable strain on the ADS treasury. He has no inventory on gold medals and has received approval from the Executive Board to replenish those. He was hoping to find a supplier that could provide the same quality medal at a lower cost, but that appears to not be possible due to that the shape of the medal is oblong and companies prefer to create circular dies and medals. Jerry will continue with the same company for the gold medal. Jerry will present an estimate to the Board to have the other medals struck, once he receives an estimate.

Trial Garden

Ron Miner reports the Trial Garden results have been completed and sent to the publisher of The Bulletin. One report was received two weeks late and did get included. Roger Walker and Ron could resolve the differences between the Trial Garden and Seedling Bench Evaluation classifications. Trial Garden medals were won by Dick and Danielle Parshall, Ted and Margaret Kennedy, John Spangenberg, Steve and Sandy Boley and RaeAnn Lobaugh. Passing scores were achieved by 62 new cultivars. Ron is disappointed to report the Great Smoky Mountain Trial Garden will be closed in 2017. Buddy Dean has indicated a desire to reopen the garden in the future pending a wider base of support in the area. Ron is delighted to report the National Capital Dahlia Society will reopen the Mid Atlantic Trial Garden next summer. They will operate as a probationary garden in 2017 where it was located previously. John Spangenberg will serve as director of the trial garden. The results from 2016 should be on the website by the end of November. Ron also reported Jerry Zierdt is retiring as director of the North Central Trial Garden and Larry Bagge will be assuming that role again. Jerry has agreed to help Ron and Marilyn Walton collect and rationalize the Trial Garden results from all the trial gardens.

Virus

Ron Miner reports approximately 20 clubs/individuals took advantage of the opportunity provided by Jim Chuey and the Scheetz-Huey Foundation to have their plants tested for virus at WSU. After the results have been completed and reported to the growers, there will be an analysis of the number, the type and the distribution of virus around the country. The objective is to have at least a preliminary analysis of the results ready for the March ADS Bulletin. They also are working to get an agreement to extend the testing arrangement into next year. The preliminary review of the data suggests that our original results from 2015 was atypical with about 25% of the plants showing virus. The current results are showing a much higher incidence of virus. Brad visited Dr. Pappu and feels that our current offense is the correct one. We should be pulling plants that look virused and practice careful sterilization of our cutting tools.

Website

Linda Holmes-Cook reports Sharon has been working on cleaning up the website and they are grateful to everyone who helps them to update/verify information when asked.

They ask anyone who sees inaccurate information to let them know so they can fix it. They have completed the following in the last couple months: They have updated the 2016 Photo Contest Rules. They provided information about the 2016 ADS National Show and will post a full list of the winners when they have it. Don Filand has added photos to many of our entries in the online classification guide and is working on getting photos for the many award-winning dahlias through the years. They have posted two new videos, on hybridization and virus, as well as judging videos that are on there. Bob Schroeder has offered to make a video on digging, dividing and storing to add to our vimeo files. Bob made videos of every dahlia show he attended and has made those available. Dahlia University has continued to develop, with nine class modules on the site, available to anyone who visits the website. The focus of Dahlia University is on basic dahlia growing information. Information on the genome project and the virus study is posted on the home page. There are now 1173 members of the ADS Facebook group. This has become a useful forum for many people with questions about dahlia growing and a way to share photos and information quickly.

NEW BUSINESS

ADS Genome Sequencing Project

Don Dramstad reported they distributed over 200 brochures about the Genome Sequencing Project at the National Show in Asheville. Kristine had dinner with Dr. Walbot to learn more about the project. In June 2016, Dr. Virginia Walbot, Stanford University, gave a presentation about research on the genetics of color. Afterward, she shared her dream of sequencing of the dahlia genome. A low-class sequencing costs \$30,000. To do a second sequence would cost an additional \$8,000. Kristine approached the ADS and the project was approved by Harry Risetto, Don Dramstad and Ron Miner. In July, the trifold was created and then distributed in September at the National Show in Asheville. By November 3, the ADS had received or been pledged \$17,000 toward the project. Three societies have donated and additional societies will be encouraged to donate. It was also reported that a donation from a fourth society had been received just a couple days before the meeting. Don encouraged all executive board members to support this project. Requests will go out to all members, who will be asked to give at a level they are comfortable with. Kristine will send letters to ADS Reps to send out to the societies. Once the sequencing is done, the information can be put into the US Government databank. It can also be held privately, but Dr. Walbot feels it is better to be in a public databank so that others can access it and use it for research. Harry Risetto wrote a short article for the September Bulletin and a longer one for December. Dr. Pappu and Dr. Walbot have met so that the sequencing project can be linked with the virus research. After the sequencing is complete, Dr. Walbot and Dr. Pappu are talking about writing a National Science grant to get a high pass sequencing, which costs about \$200,000. They have also talked about additional ways to raise money for the high pass sequencing, which makes it easier for scientists to use. For the low pass sequencing, they will be sequencing the species dahlia, *Dahlia coccinea*. The genome committee is working to locate the correct species dahlia. The only composite to be sequenced to date has been the sunflower.

Don said he would like to have the ADS donate \$5,000 toward the dahlia genome project. **Alan Fisher moved and Brad Freeman seconded for the ADS to donate \$5,000 toward the dahlia genome sequencing project. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.**

Ron Miner moved and Bob Schroeder seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm EDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder, ADS Secretary