

**American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Board Meeting
February 23, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm EST by President Brad Freeman.

Present

Board members present were: Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Tony Evangelista, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Harry Rissetto, Ron Miner, Jerry Landerholm, Drew Brant, Lou Paradise, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Nick Weber, Sharon Swaney, Kristine Albrecht, Anna Kandra.

Remembrances

Brad Freeman asked for a moment of remembrances. Dick and Danielle Parshall are facing some significant health struggles. Richard Tailleux, a long-time member of Kitsap County Dahlia Society and the ADS suddenly passed away recently. Katie Bannister and Dean Barnes, Monterey Bay Dahlia Society recently passed. A moment of silence was offered in remembrance of these individuals.

Minutes

Bob Schroeder moved, and Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook seconded to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2019 Board Meeting, as corrected. There were some changes made to the structure but no content changes.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Brad Freeman states he enjoyed reading the reports from various members of Executive Board that have arrived over the last couple of weeks. There are a lot of activities going on with social media, research projects – both virus and genome, website, etc.

In January Brad added a Social Media Committee to the Executive Board, which is being Chaired by Anna Kandra. Social media is about creating an on-line presence or awareness of the ADS as an organization. Anna is already posting colorful pictures and short informative messages on both Facebook and Instagram. The Social Media Committee will be working hand in hand with the Publicity/ Marketing Committee which is currently focused on print media. The foundation of the ADS social media program will be the website, so we all have a responsibility to keep the information on it current. If you have something that you feel is important to share on Facebook and Instagram please contact Anna.

This week the Executive Committee was informed by Claudia Biggs that the computer used for the Image Library had expired. The Executive Committee authorized Claudia to purchase a new computer dedicated to the Image Library for approximately \$900.00.

Dr. Alex Harkess has agreed to give an update on the dahlia genome project at the 2020 National Dahlia Show in Wenatchee, Washington. The Executive Committee

allocated \$500.00 from the dahlia genome funds to cover Dr. Harkess travel expenses. In 2019 \$500.00 was allocated for same purpose but those funds were not used. A total of \$1000.00 has been extended to Dr. Harkess to cover his travel expenses this year.

The Spring Executive Board Meeting is set for the weekend on April 17 – 19 in Denver, Colorado. A draft agenda for the meeting has been emailed to the Executive Board. There are many agenda items to cover over what will be a busy weekend. This is the most important meeting of the year for the Executive Board which really sets the tone for ADS for the upcoming year(s). He hopes that all members of the Executive Board will find the time to attend the meeting.

Treasurer

Charles Miehm submitted the following report. As of February 9, 2020, the Ameriprise Account has \$75,240.00 that is restricted and \$17,564.80 that is unrestricted. In the Vanguard account there is \$87,442.27. The Lake City account is closed, and the Wells Fargo account has \$63,178.76. Of the amounts in the Wells Fargo account, there is \$2,589.83 in the Virus Fund, \$36,777.06 for the Genome Project. There is \$100.00 for the 2020 National Show, \$50.00 for the 2021 National Show, \$2,775.00 for the 2022 National Show and \$50.00 for the 2023 National Show. The total restricted amount in Wells Fargo account is \$42,341.89. There is a total of \$243,425.83 in all accounts. Charles reports the ADS has a net income for 2020 to date, of \$27,230.83. Charles also noted he received some checks from Elva since this report and the new PayPal account is up and running. There were significant contributions from the Boyers, both cash and foregoing some reimbursements. A letter was sent acknowledging those contributions.

Rosemary Freeman moved and Mark Oldenkamp seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. The motion passed.

First Vice-President

Mark Oldenkamp reports other than sending a few emails; requesting Bulletin reports, requesting tuber sale dates and locations, informing about the 2020 virus testing, the ADS work had been quiet. I have received several notifications of changes in either ADS Reps or new ADS Society Presidents. These have been updated on Groupvine and shared with others that keep this information. While Groupvine works for our email needs, it is not a good report tool for making publishable lists of the group members. I would like to explore further to see if this is my learning curve of just something this software is not intended to be used for.

Mark is pleased we have a Social Media person in place. The organizational chart has been updated to reflect any recent changes. Anna has begun to post on Facebook and Instagram and is developing a list of topics to post on. She will be coordinating with Larry, our PR person, to leverage the content that he produces. Everyone on the board can assist the spread of these messages by liking and sharing them. If you are not getting the messages yet, this is an opportunity to help broaden the circle of those who will see these communications.

Second Vice-President

Tony Evangelista states the ADS asks member societies to submit their show results for publication in the Bulletin. It also requests the results of the shows be submitted to Lou Paradise so the ADS can accurately tabulate the blues and higher awards for cultivars in the Classification & Handbook of Dahlias published annually. He was tasked with examining the problem of non-compliance with both requests and to hopefully improve response.

In 2019 there were 20 societies that did not submit show results for publication in the ADS Bulletin. Seven of those societies did not have shows. Lou Paradise reported that there were four societies that had not reported any blues or higher information for the past two years. Only two societies failed to report both. Two different lists were used to compile the results; unfortunately, neither list was complete. There were different omissions on each list. Tony recommends we devise a comprehensive and complete master list of societies with updated contact information so we can accurately track submissions or lack thereof.

Tony will bring copies of both lists and the deficiencies of each to the spring meeting in Denver in order to reconcile them. We can then easily personally contact non-compliant societies with gentle reminders to increase response. There was some discussion about court of honor reports for the *Bulletin* and show reports to report blues and higher awards to Lou. We need to make sure the two reports are named correctly. This will be discussed further at the spring planning meeting.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference

Dana Miller reports a remarkably warm January and early February has blessed the mid-Atlantic region this year. It is possible that the mid-Atlantic will still experience some cold temperatures or even snow into late March.

Gettysburg Dahlia Society will host the Mid-Atlantic Conference Show on September 4 & 5 in Biglerville, Pennsylvania, the site of their annual show. According to John Rost, society president, the Gettysburg club is growing and there is an increased interest from the Harrisburg PA area. Vice President Steve Trumpower, Secretary Anne Rost, and Treasurer Dona Maguire round out the current slate of the society's officers. Tuber sales are scheduled on April 28 & 29 in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and May 16 in Hanover, Pennsylvania; a plant sale will take place on June 14 in East Berlin, Pennsylvania.

The National Capital Dahlia Society continues to be an active, vibrant group. Many functions and tuber sales make for a busy schedule. Their sales are scheduled for March 11 and April 7 in Bethesda, Maryland; April 18 and 19 at the Leesburg, Virginia Garden Festival; and May 19 at the Silver Springs Maryland Garden Club sale at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland. Their annual show on September 25-27 is held at Brookside Gardens. NCDS also provides an early show opportunity on August 23 in Derwood, Maryland. Rich Gibson continues as President, with Dave Smith Vice President, Ellen Ash Secretary, and Cliff Johnson Treasurer. Director John

Spangenberg oversees, and many volunteers maintain, an impressive Dahlia Trial & Exhibition Garden in Derwood, Maryland.

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society plans to hold two tuber sales, one in downtown Kennett Square, Pennsylvania on April 25, and the big sale at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square on May 9. In the interest of spreading the Gospel of Dahlias in a new way, they voted in November to make donations to the Chester County Master Gardeners and the Williamson College of the Trades, with the qualifier that these groups would use the funds to generate interest in growing dahlias with their members and students. They expect a report next fall from the groups outlining how they accomplished this. Beth MacMillan takes over as their new president, Rich Bucko moves up to first vice president, and Wayne Geller is our new second vice president. Rick Lazarick continues as treasurer and Deane Armstrong is taking on secretarial duties. Finally, our annual Dahlia Show will be held in beautiful Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, on Sept 18-20.

Pacific Northwest Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reports their annual meeting will be held at the end of March and they plan to have an expanded educational program, with Brad and Rosemary Freeman attending. They look forward to the ADS perspective being added to the gathering. They will present ADS seedling medals to the winning hybridizers connected to our conference at this meeting.

The Canby Trial Garden was fully reserved by mid-January; Linda Taylor is the new director. Teresa Bergman deserves much thanks for her many years of service in compiling results and getting them submitted. Entries are to arrive in early April to be potted up and pre-started for planting in mid-May. There is an effort to involve club volunteers in the care of the garden. Judging will probably begin in early August; judging supplies are on site for any who wish to participate.

The combined show rules and show schedule publication is nearing completion. There have been good discussions and some interesting changes in the spirit of making things similar from show to show, while keeping simplicity in the judging and clerking process and leaving room for each society to have their unique elements. One significant change is dropping sweepstakes tallying. Having the sections more consistent from show to show will be helpful to exhibitors.

Many are looking forward to the National Show in Wenatchee, where they expect a significant attendance from PNDC members. The Portland group will be keeping close watch and detailed notes as the planning for 2023 will ramp up soon.

Pacific Southwest Conference

John Morton reports much of California is in a drought situation now, while the rest of the country seems to be having floods. They are hoping for some rain.

The Monterey Bay Dahlia Society, with much help from the John E. Stowell Dahlia Society, will be holding the PSWD Conference meeting February 22-23rd. They had a good meeting, with 66 people in attendance. This is good news as the last few conference meetings have had twenty to thirty in attendance. More news after the Conference meeting.

Southern States Conference

Ray Phillips reports he will not be on this conference call, as he is resigning his position as Southern States Vice president. The Southern States is busy planning a spring that has great promise; tuber sales, Southern States meeting in March, a new season of growing dahlias. Due to health limitations many will be scaling back on their gardens this year, but energetic newer members will soon be taking up any slack this causes.

The Southern States has four great clubs, and each is willing to help the others meet their goals. There will be three shows in Southern States this year: Carolinas, Georgia, and Tennessee. Alabama will not host a show this season as this is their rotation out.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Drew Brant reports all is well here in the great Pacific Northwest. Everyone is gearing up for our upcoming dahlia season. Local Societies are preparing for their spring tuber sales and summer dahlia shows.

The Federation will be hosting the following events in 2020: Spring workshop on March 21, summer workshop on July 18, judging classes on July 25, trial garden judging class on August 2 and the ADS National Show in Wenatchee, WA on September 11-13.

Their annual meeting will be in October. They are making final preparations for the 2020 ADS National Show. Information will be online and in the March *Bulletin*.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advertising

Linda Holmes-Cook asked Teresa Bergman if she were planning to contact garden suppliers and Teresa said she would, once tuber-ordering season was complete.

Classification

Lou reports the Cream of the Crop and Fab 50 reports were tabulated and sent to both Sharon (web) and Linda (*Bulletin*).

Unfortunately, there were many errors in the 2020 CHD. Corrections will be published in the June *Bulletin*.

There have been requests for 15 cultivars for reclassification for the 2020 growing season. Likely a few more will filter in before the list is sent to the Classification Committee members in July.

Editor

The March 2020 Bulletin is currently in the process of printing, sorting, labeling and mailing. Keeping with ADS tradition, the March cover features the ADS Photography Contest grand prize winner "Pinky" by Nancy Riopelle. Several other photo contest winners were included on inside covers.

Turn-around time from date of submission to Dave returning the proofs was much improved over previous years. It looks like *The Bulletin* might be arriving in mailboxes by the beginning of March.

The password for the "Members Only" portion of the ADS Website was published in this issue. It will change on or about May 1, 2020. The new password will be CVD@n2018.

The username will remain member. Until May 1, 2020, please continue to use the password ACB3n2017.

There were 35 club reports received, out of a total of 65 societies. The reports received will be published in the March 2020 Bulletin. This is better than some months, but Linda would still like to see more.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports the ADS's finances are in good order and sufficient to meet current obligations. Gifts to the genome and virus projects will be helpful. The ADS is looking forward to progress in understanding the family tree of the current cultivars. The virus project is beginning to reach practical recommendations. Increased funding will permit expanding the availability of virus-free stock.

Garden Dahlias

Alan Fisher states he has nothing new to report. Dahlia season for his region starts March 1.

Historian

Brad Freeman reports that we are doing well with the historical data for the ADS and need to continue to work with the Cherokee Library.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reports since mid-December, she's had 27 requests for New Introductions, almost one a day. She is currently working on the 2019 ADS Fabulous Fifty Dahlias and hopes to have that program done by the end of February.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reports she is in the process of renewing ADS insurance. She is waiting for the final paperwork, which is expected any day now. She has received several clubs' renewals and have sent their checks on to Charles. Once we have a contract, she will let the board know.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports his requests for updates for the 2020 Judging Roster have been emailed to all judging chairs. There has been a good response with many new judges entering the program. The deadline for sending in information is April 1st (no joke).

Membership

Elva Sellens reports all but 2 dahlia societies have submitted their 2020 membership lists. The two remaining dahlia societies have been called and should get their membership lists in shortly. There are two societies that have less than ten members to be a Participating Society: one in Canada and one in the U.S. She is trying to work with them to get their ADS memberships up to the 10-member quota; otherwise, they would need to join as an Affiliated Society.

US Memberships

We have 56 Participating Dahlia Societies and 2 Affiliated Societies. For 2020, we have 1,282 paid memberships, 848 individual members and 434 family members (x 2= 868), for a total membership of 1,716.

There are 421 memberships that have not yet been renewed, 318 individual members and 103 family memberships (614 members). A breakdown of these members show 127 memberships (101 individual/ 26 family membership (x2=52) for a total of 153 members that joined in 2019, and 294 memberships, 217 individual/77 family (x2=154) for a total of 371 members that joined prior to 2019. It seems that some members tend to join ADS around their society's tuber sales, so Elva expects a portion of these members rejoining ADS. So far in 2020, we have 166 new memberships which breaks down to 132 individual members and 34 family membership (x2=68) for a total of 200 new members.

Canadian Memberships

We have nine Participating Dahlia Societies and one Affiliated Dahlia Society. We have 124 paid memberships, 80 individual and 44 family memberships (x2=88) for a total of 168 members. There were 19 memberships which were not renewed, 16 individual memberships and 3 family memberships. Of these 19 memberships, there were six 2019 memberships that did not renew, five individual and one family membership. For memberships prior to 2019, there were eleven individual and two family memberships that did not renew. We had 7 new Canadian memberships, six individual and one family membership

Other Foreign Membership

We have 14 paid individual memberships for other foreign countries.

There was discussion about a trend Elva is seeing. Some families are joining as a family in one year and then one will join as an individual the next and then the following year as a family. This means that every other year she is having to send an additional CHD separately. This will be discussed further at the spring planning. In 2020 so far, we have 1,898 paid ADS members.

National Exhibition

Art Haskins reports he has nothing new to report, other than the National Show booklet revision is still ongoing. He anticipates having a draft ready for the spring planning.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman reports communications with interested parties wanting to start new dahlia societies has been hampered by her ill health and pain but is doing well now. The communications will soon be open again. She has received interest from someone in Haines, Alaska and from someone in Columbia, New Jersey.

One of the topics that usually comes up is where to get tubers to start a society. She assumed while finding individuals interested in joining a new dahlia society, there would be a few with experience growing dahlias and storing tubers during the winter to start the new year off with plenty of tubers to share with new members and with the public. This is not always the case.

How can we, as a group, support these newer societies with our leftover tubers. Most sales are from March to Mid-May; planting time can be from mid-April to mid to late May, and there are always leftover tubers that didn't sell. What do we do with them; just throw them away? Also, there are pot tubers and cuttings; what do we do with those? Again, how do we disburse our leftovers to these new societies? Most won't have the funds to buy tubers, so we would be donating them to a good cause.

Can we have a place on the ADS Website where newer clubs could ask for tuber donations so they can start and maintain a new society. Rosemary stated they always have leftover tubers that don't make it into the ground or a pot for our use. It would be a much better use for us to mail them to others to use. The newer clubs would have later planting times and perhaps not get many blooms that year, but they would be building their own tuber stock for their next year's sales. Would you and/or your society be willing to be a part of this outreach to help struggling societies? Let Rosemary know and let's see what we can accomplish for these new societies.

Photography

Debbie Pavich reports forty-six individuals submitted over 220 photos, mostly online rather than mail. Winners and photos are posted on the ADS website and Instagram. The grand prize winner will be revealed in the March ADS Bulletin. Thank you, Sharon, Linda and Anna for your assistance with this. Winners have been sent their prize money. I still need to put together a slide show of all photos for the ADS website.

There are several items to consider and discuss at the Spring Planning Meeting. Her recommendations are below.

Contest deadline - Move it two weeks earlier to Nov 15th. Winners to be chosen by Dec 31st, posted to ADS website and Instagram in early January. Instagram users will have an opportunity to vote for a People's Choice winner, by clicking "like". The People's Choice winner could be the Grand Prize winner. I recommend the Grand Prize winner be announced in the March ADS bulletin as it is currently.

Categories - Add a cell phone photo category which might be a good way to have photos submitted to Instagram. For example, a Dahlia selfie contest could be in this category.

Process - Provide more structure in terms of labeling /identifying entries, formatting online entries, and limiting mail-in media to USB devices.

Publicity and PR

Larry Smith reported considerable time was spent writing press releases and attempting to arrange publicity for Hart, Johnson, Gullikson, and Dudley Award winners for 2019. Information for the winners has been included on the ADS website.

Contact was made with all the hybridizers for the award winners to obtain the sources of their local newspapers and gardening magazines. Some of the hybridizers chose not to reply, so Larry concentrated on those who did. Much time was spent contacting the various print, sending specific press releases with attached photos of the winning cultivars and forwarding the package to them. To date, since he doesn't have access to the publications out of his local area, he has no idea if they included articles. He does know that there was one article written about Portland area winners in their local paper.

If anyone knows of other articles written, let it be known; it would be good to post them on the website. Larry also sent information to The American Gardener publication, which we did an ad exchange with recently, and a few other national publications as suggested by ADS Board members but did not receive any response.

The challenge Larry anticipated and found to be true is that no one in media outside of his local area knows him and, therefore, contacting them is a "cold call." Response has been minimal. He has had great success locally getting free publicity for Portland area events, as he has the benefit of having had a few years to develop a presence with the media contact people. He does not have that advantage on a national level and am not sure, at this point, of a better approach to use. Social media is a more effective way to reach a larger audience and feel it is essential for the Publicity Chair to work very closely with our new Social Media Chair.

In January, Larry reached out to Linda Holmes-Cook to offer assistance in promoting the 2020 ADS National Show. Response will likely be best if local people reach out to their media sources, but he can coach them on approaches to take. It would also be beneficial to take an aggressive approach of promoting the show on social media.

Much can be gained by producing short informational videos about dahlia culture as well as happenings in the dahlia world. They could be posted on the ADS website and on social media platforms. Members and casual growers would benefit, which would in turn promote the ADS. He has many years of production skills and own rights to professional editing software as well as years of experience as a TV show host and "spokesperson" experience for events. If ADS would be interested in purchasing some type of camera or recording device, it would be simple to produce some short videos to put on the website and distribute through social media. Some could be done locally, for example, from the Canby Trial Garden. Cell phone cameras may be acceptable for our purposes.

Research and Education

Nick Weber reports Ron Miner and the ADS virus team along with Dr. Pappu and his team at WSU are ready to begin another virus testing season. Ron has prepared update reports for the March Bulletin that outlines the activities by the Virus Team. Ron has also updated the procedures for testing by various groups on the web site. Ron's article in the Bulletin notes the efforts by local dahlia societies this past season to participate in the virus testing program. This should help them bring virus-tested stock to their tuber and plant sales as well as to help emphasize the efforts needed to maintain and improve the quality of their member stock. Nick noted that all work on virus testing is supported by the ADS, Washington State University (WSU) and the Sheetz-Chuey Foundation. Likewise, an update on the efforts to support vendors to improve the quality of their stock and their reaction to this effort through free virus testing is an important subject of the report. It appears that this effort is paying off by evidence that vendors are mentioning in their advertisements that they are employing virus testing of their stock. Final mention in the report is made of the meristem and tissue culture efforts being undertaken at WSU to help provide virus-free stock methods for future use by the society and the industry. One of the virus team members is developing a pictorial review of all our virus types. Undoubtedly, an excellent number of useful images will become

available with time. Linda Taylor has compiled an extensive collection of pictures of viruses. They can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/141837887@N08/albums>,

Kristine Albrecht has also prepared a report on the developments in the Genome Project which indicate that efforts have begun to gather material for sequencing at HudsonAlpha Genomic Sequencing Center in Auburn, Alabama later this Spring. *D.coccinia*, *D. rudis*, *D. sorensenii* and *D. brevis* are the species being used at this point. See Kristine's report for additional aspects of the work.

Nick has begun to gather information on making fall cuttings that would be useful in three ways. First, to preserve good or important cultivars that are poor root makers. Second, to preserve stock of first year seedlings that are promising, but whose tuber making potential is unknown. Finally, to multiply plants that have been virus tested and found clean. He is working with a cut flower friend who grows 5000 dahlias but does not harvest tubers. He propagates 12,000 cuttings each year by taking a 72 tray of cuttings from each variety in mid-September into October. He takes further cuttings at the beginning of the year and once more after that. He is currently working on a project with Nick, using plant material from a single (perhaps last) plant of Taratahi Lilac, which is a terrible tuber maker. Starting in mid-October, he used a mixture of tip and stem cuttings, obtained a 72 tray of cuttings from the plant and recently reported there are at least 180 rooted cuttings from the plant. He hopes to write a short article for the June Bulletin about the process.

Seedling Bench Evaluation

Roger Walker reports paperwork to request permission to hold a seedling bench evaluation class at local dahlia shows will be mailed to ADS reps in June. It would be most helpful if each club could ensure that there is good contact information.

Social Media

Anna Kandra reports an ADS Instagram account was established at the end of January, and the first post was made on February 1. Instagram Statistics are as follows: 9 posts have been made so far - roughly 2 per week. For the week of Feb 15-21 Instagram states estimated discovery of 414 accounts (414 Accounts that have seen posts and 892 Impressions which is the total number of times posts have been seen) and 182 interactions (including 162 Profile Visits and 20 Website Clicks). We have 351 followers as of Saturday, Feb 22 with 37% of followers falling in the 35-44 age range, 20% in the 25-34 age range and 20% in the 45-54 age range.

Posts to the ADS Facebook Page are duplicates from Instagram, so the content on both platforms has been the same this past month as things get going. Ideally, we'll be able to post additional information on Facebook via shares from ADS member clubs and other resources.

Facebook Insights are given for the past month, so these are for Jan 25-Feb 21. Currently there are 2,447 total page likes. Post reach 3,345, Post engagements (likes, comments, shares) 1,361, and 59 new page likes. The page has been viewed 229 times in the past 28 days, with 59 new likes, 60 new followers and 1 click through to the website.

The goal for posts through March and April is to continue to highlight news, information and articles from the ADS website, and to encourage membership in local societies and

ADS. If anyone has any favorite articles or resources from the website that you think would be helpful to highlight and share on social media, please feel welcome to pass those along to Anna and she will use them to create social media posts. Feedback is also welcomed on what's been posted so far from those of you on social media. It will help to ensure that the tone and the information being shared is what the board expects to see representing ADS as an organization

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports the Johnson, Hart, Dudley and Gullikson medals have been engraved and sent to the various helpers for presentation. Thanks so much to those people who personalize these presentations. We replenished our supply of some medals in 2019 and should be in good shape for at least 3 years. At that time, we will need to replenish the inventory of Hart, Dudley and Gullikson medals. The difficulty is to get our supplier to agree to minting quantities less than 100 each.

Virus Update

Ron Miner reports the basic requirements to grow a dahlia garden with decreasing amounts of virus have been established. They include 1) starting with virus-free stock, 2) removing plants with strong signs of virus from the garden, and 3) avoiding contaminating clean stock by disinfecting garden tools after working on each plant. The second and third steps above require self-discipline and a little extra effort. The first step can be the most difficult and is the focus of our 2020 field research activities. With the ongoing financial support of the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation and the commitment of Professor Hanu Pappu at WSU, the ADS will be able to provide three areas of offense in making more clean stock available to our members.

The first approach is the local club project that was recently announced through the ADS Reps. Professor Pappu will test sets of 30 samples for each participating ADS club at half cost (\$150). The plan is that the clean plants that are identified will serve as the starting point for the propagation of clean stock for the clubs' 2021 spring plant sales. The details for that project are available on the ADS website, dahlia.org. The second approach will be a continuation of the process of testing a limited number of vendor plants at no cost to the vendors. Vendors who have participated in the project over the last two years have achieved improved results as well as increasing adherence to virus reduction practices. Finally, clubs and individuals will be able to submit samples to Professor Pappu for virus testing at the subsidized rate of \$10 per sample for between 30 and 60 samples.

Virus Team members will continue to study the garden behavior of the various dahlia viruses. Linda Taylor has compiled an extensive collection of pictures of viruses. They can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/141837887@N08/albums>,

Professor Pappu and Dr. Prabu Gnanasekaran, the Director of the Dahlia Resource Center, continue to do basic research on dahlia viruses. They are making good progress on meristem tip culture and tissue culture projects. Those techniques will, in the future, provide laboratory approaches to the production of large volumes of clean stock. They are also beginning to develop a proposal for work on a project with Professors Walbot at Stanford and Harkess at Auburn that would study the possibility of using gene editing techniques to reduce viruses in dahlias

Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht reports dahlia species seeds have been germinated to produce plants that will be used to take DNA for the sequencing of the dahlia for the ADS Genome Project. The seeds being used are: *D.coccinia*, *D. rudis*, *D. sorensenii* and *D. brevis*. The plants are about one foot tall; Dr. Walbot placed foil over a portion of small leaves for 14 days to get a palm full of pale leaves for the sequencing process. She used liquid nitrogen to flash freeze the leaves. Dr. Harkess will be traveling to California to take more leaf samples in late March or early April. The samples will be processed at HudsonAlpha Genomic Sequencing Center in Auburn, Alabama. Next, the plants used for sequencing will be grown out to check that the plants are the specified variety. The seeds being grown out were collected in Mexico by Dr. Walbot through funds raised by ADS for the purpose of supporting the ADS Genome Project. Kristine is collecting tubers from some of the older varieties as Alex would like to do some research on that in the future.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports website activity this time of year is all about information – posting information to close out the 2019 dahlia season and posting information to kick off the 2020 season.

Information has been posted for the following areas:

- Awards to Blooms (Stanley, Hart, Dudley, Gullikson). I received nice pictures of these winners.
- Fab 50 and Cream of Crop
- Classification changes
- Trial Gardens
- Seedling Bench
- Virus
- Photo Contest winners
- Updates and additions to the Online Classification Guide (this is the first batch of changes since moving to the new OCG, so I am still figuring out the most efficient way to update the OCG)
- And more...

A highlight of the postings is the beautiful Photo Contest winning photos. A disappointment has been that only one 2019 trial garden has supplied pictures to the website.

Don is in the process of preparing the New Introduction pictures (provided by Claudia, thanks) for the site.

When newsworthy information is posted to the site Sharon is notifying the new Social Media chair, Anna, so she can decide what is appropriate for Social Media. Anna and Sharon expect to work closely together.

New products have been added to the ADS Store and the Store receipts and PayPal “buttons” have been moved to the new PayPal account. Sharon thanked Charles and Mac for their help. Claudia and Sharon are still working on a reasonable way to deliver the New Introductions “DVD” electronically.

Local society tuber/plant sale information has been solicited. Once the information is received, Sharon will post this information until March 15.

Previously it was mentioned there is one issue left from our moving to the higher-level hosting environment. Though the problem remains (and maybe always will) Sharon has found an acceptable workaround so that the issue won't impact what is wanted/needed to be done on the site.

Per a request from Harry, Sharon has investigated being able to search the Bulletins stored on the site. There are still a few unknowns, but she can likely make this available for about \$100 per year and at the cost of having to remove the passwords from the Bulletins. She will need some guidance as to whether this is worth it, a priority, and if the board is ok with removing the passwords.

Brad reported we would move old and new business to the spring planning meeting as there is nothing pressing for right now.

Bob Schroeder states Colorado Dahlia Society has requested any judging information. Bob felt that providing information about micro dahlias would be useful and Calvin Cook agreed. He asked if anyone who plans to attend would be willing to be the lead speaker or to be on a panel provide a program on micros. It is felt we should also be talking with the societies about the importance of having a national show, if they have a larger membership.

The next meeting will be on April 17-19 in Denver.

Lou Paradise moved, and Tony Evangelista seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:09m EST. The motion passed.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder
ADS Secretary