

American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Board Meeting
April 19, 2020

Present

Board members present were: Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Tony Evangelista, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehme, Harry Rissetto, Ron Miner, Jerry Landerholm, Dana Miller, Drew Brant, Lou Paradise, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Alan Fisher, Claudia Biggs, Cheryl Shores, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Debbie Pavich, Larry Smith, Nick Weber, Roger Walker, Marilyn Walton, Sharon Swaney, Don Dramstad, Kristine Albrecht, Anna Kandra, Steve Lamb.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm EST by President Brad Freeman. Brad talked about the unusual spring we have had and how most things have come to a screeching halt. Most societies are struggling with how to do tuber sales, since in-person sales cannot occur. It's important to roll with things as they come up and adapt to our current situation. As all know, the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers has had to cancel the 2020 National Show and they are looking at moving it to 2024.

Remembrances

Brad Freeman asked for a moment of remembrances. Dawn Anselmo, longtime member of Inland Empire Dahlia Society in Spokane passed away last Thursday. She was a wealth of information and highly active for many years until her health declined this past year. Jon Soule, longtime member of Minnesota Dahlia Society, passed away Thursday. Brad asked for remembrances for those persons who perform essential functions and continue to work as well as those who have passed. The board had a moment of silence for all.

Minutes

Drew Brant moved, and Art Haskins seconded to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2020 Board Meeting, as corrected. There were a few changes made to the structure and conciseness but no content changes.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Treasurer

Charles Miehme submitted the following report. As of March 31, 2020, the Ameriprise Account has \$58,300.00 restricted and \$16,975.93 unrestricted. In the Vanguard account there is \$73,386.57. The Wells Fargo account has \$65,101.49. Of the amounts in the Wells Fargo account, there is \$2,589.83 in the Virus Fund and \$36,777.06 in 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 \$213,763.99 in all accounts. Charles reports it appears that our dues may be down this year, but it is hard to say. This can be due to several reasons, including societies not having meetings for the last month. Our investment account, Ameriprise,

has gone down, due to the current economic situation. We are in good shape financially. **Bob Schroeder moved, and Alan Fisher seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. The motion passed.**

First Vice-President

Mark Oldenkamp reports he was not surprised to learn of the decision to cancel the 2020 National Show. The Covid-19 situation has far reaching implications and certainly many societies have had to adjust on how to fundraise by selling tubers and plants online. It is hoped that most have found this reasonably successful and that most societies will be able to have some sort of show season. The planning of the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference annual spring meeting has been impacted; they are currently trying to see if early June will be workable but may need to resort to a Zoom video meeting.

Mark updated the ADS Org Chart with the new Trial Garden leadership. He has received several notifications of changes in either ADS Reps or new ADS Society Presidents and these have been updated on GroupVine and shared with others who 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. He will explore further to see if this is a learning curve or just something this software is not intended to do.

Second Vice-President

Tony Evangelista reports, after examining and reconciling the different ADS lists being used to report show results to Donna Lane and awards results to Lou Paradise, he recommends we use the list provided by our Membership Chair, Elva Sellens, to compile compliance data. Her list is current and complete. Other lists include societies that had no members paying dues for several years, Maine Dahlia Society, South Coast Dahlia Society of California, and the Southern Oregon Dahlia Society. The other lists also omitted some current societies. There is one society that submitted a show report in 2019 but is not on Elva's list, The Society of Toronto. It may be a subsidy of one of the other Canadian societies. If anyone knows let Tony and Elva know. Elva's list also has current contact information for all societies so achieving compliance will be more efficient. Lou Paradise stated he has an article in the June *Bulletin* describing the differences in the reports. The report sent to Lou has been called the show report for years and the report of society's head table or honor table has also been called a show report. After much discussion, **Bob Schroeder moved, and Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook moved to change the titles to CHD Show report for Lou's report of blues and higher and Bulletin Show Report for the Honor Table/Head Table awards. The motion passed.**

Third Vice-President

Ken Jensen reports the Canadian postal service has put out a dahlia stamp. If anyone would like to purchase any, let Ken know. The Alberta Dahlia and Gladiolus Society had an online tuber sale and completely sold out of tubers.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference

Dana Miller reports the Mid-Atlantic Conference spring and early summer meetings and tuber sale schedules went by the wayside due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is suspected that most of the conferences across our ailing country have been affected the same way by the stay-at-home orders. Although the situation is improving slightly, it's too early to tell how the rest of our dahlia year will go.

The National Capital Dahlia Society is trying to compile a list of members' available surplus tubers, with the intent of selling them to fellow members. Both the Greater Philadelphia and Gettysburg societies have considered doing the same, but soon realized that it was logistically very difficult and likely won't do this.

The Gettysburg Dahlia Society and NCDS will, no doubt, be rescheduling meetings and work parties at the earliest opportunity. Hopefully GPDS will be able to have their regular picnic/business/educational meeting in August. Since it's at one of our members' homes, we do not have to depend on Longwood Gardens, our regular meeting venue, to be open. The GPDS September Dahlia Show at Longwood Gardens has been cancelled as Longwood has cancelled everything through September 30.

At least the quarantine and social distancing haven't affected our ability to work in our gardens and prepare to grow our favorite flower. In fact, people are noting that they are ahead in their progress! Showing dahlias is an outstanding opportunity to show the world the staggering variety of colors, sizes, and forms of dahlias. It will be a shame if our shows don't come to pass. If they don't happen, our dahlia gardens will be "all dressed up with nowhere to go."

This report is just chuck full of platitudes. Gettysburg president John Rost related to Dana his own outlook and it's an inspiring one. "This too will pass.... Better days are ahead. Stay true and we all will make it through."

Midwest Dahlia Conference

Randy Foith reports as all our elderly members have been passing the time dealing with this dreaded "virus", all are excited to spend time and care with tending to our dahlia tubers and cuttings. The Midwest Conference wants to express sadness for the Federation's hard decision of cancelling the National Show in September and fully support them; surely, another reason for our graying hair. The Elkhart DS is moving forward with hosting the Midwest DC Show on Labor Day Weekend. This after the MDC Board and Elkhart DS canceled the Spring Meeting and Plant Auction on June 6th. We had a program on "Virus Testing" scheduled for the event. The next conference event will be Judging and Picnic at the Bonneville TG at Bonneville Mill County Park in Elkhart on August 15th, "If we get the all clear!" Thanks to the Elkhart DS, especially Mac Boyer and Steve Kuiper for tending to the functioning of the Trial Gardens there.

They are expecting some awesome dahlia blooms this year. In closing, "We want all to be safe and ask that everyone use their common sense!" After all, "We love spending time with you all."

Pacific Northwest Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reports the planning of the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference annual spring meeting has been impacted by the Covid-19 virus. They are currently trying to see if early June will be workable but may need to resort to a Zoom meeting.

Pacific Southwest Conference

Lou Paradise reports their conference meeting in early February was well attended, although no one attended from Southern California, as there are not many members in that part of the state. There were over 60 people in attendance, whereas typical attendance is around 30. The Central Coast Dahlia Society, a new society in the Pacific Southwest Conference, is very active. They had a lot of discussions with less business and more dahlia information, including floral arrangements, seedlings, getting tubers ready for planting. It was a full-day conference, with dinner and an auction afterward. It was a great meeting for new members, with a variety of information given. They are concerned about being able to have shows this year but will see what happens.

Southern States Conference

Brad Freeman reports he spoke with Ray Phillips, who is no longer going to be the regional vice-president. At this time, the Southern States Conference has not identified anyone to take over that position. One issue is the distance between the societies. They are unsure how they will move forward until they have their annual meeting. Brad will follow up with Ray in a few months.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Drew Brant reports some of the societies in the Federation are trying online sales as none can have in-person sales. Their spring workshop scheduled for mid-March was postponed to May and subsequently cancelled. They made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 National Show in September. They are looking at a date in September 2024. They are not sure if they will be able to have their summer workshop but are thinking of doing it via Zoom if it is not possible to have it in person.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Classification

Lou reports this is the slow time of year for classification so there is not much to report. There are a lot of questions about the upcoming season and how the reporting process will work.

Editor

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports the deadline for the June 2020 Bulletin has just passed, and she received several reports, as well as articles for this issue. Ordinarily the cover for the June Bulletin would have been focused on the upcoming ADS National Show, with all the final registration information included inside. However, this year, the National Show has been cancelled, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She will re-think what to have on the cover for June. Thanks to everyone who submitted articles, especially those who regularly contribute. Many of the club reports received so far have been reporting cancelled tuber sales and club meetings, due to the Corona Virus. It is a strange time for us.

There was a significant delay in delivery of the March 2020 issue of the Bulletin. Members in various sectors of the country had to wait as long as a month or more past the time that other members had received their copies. Dave Hines had to go to the post office to talk to someone there, before the rest of the issues started arriving in Oregon, National Capital, New York, Illinois, and other parts of the US. It is unclear as to why this should have been the case. Linda states she has dealt with bulk mail many times in the past and has never had a situation like this. Our members deserve better than that; she does not want this to become a pattern. She is unsure as to what can be done to influence a better relationship with the post office (since that is what appears to be the problem). We work hard to get the Bulletin out on time, and when it takes such a long time to get to our members, it is hard to explain.

Hope you are all staying well and enjoying your garden time.

Garden Dahlias

Alan Fisher reports with local societies unable to hold meetings or tuber/plant sales, it is difficult to know how to reach new growers who want to move up from mass merchant tubers (if available) to the (hopefully) better stock that our societies make available. Hopefully, we can provide useful material again once we can return to normal conditions. Waiting four years to get to Wenatchee is a big disappointment. Hopefully, at least some shows can go on this year. For public gardens, social distancing makes it difficult to know how we can do work and judging sessions. In a world of social distancing, videos would be a next best way to proceed.

Perhaps a good way to go for garden dahlias, in addition to videos, would be to set up a committee of experienced growers and judges who would take questions and become mentors at a distance for those new to dahlias. If others like this idea, perhaps we could get a few volunteers to work with Alan by virtual conference to get this sort of thing going. We could then take notes and provide summaries of interesting or informative sessions for the Garden Dahlia section on the ADS web page.

Alan stated he would like to see a small committee to answer questions for new growers. Kristine said she sent an email asking those in her area who would like to be mentored and she was able to get them hooked up with mentors. It could be done on Facebook, other social media, and the web page. We would need people from various parts of the country and Canada.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reports the Image Library has been slow the past month with only one request, that being a Canadian request. She suggests we charge more for the Canadian purchase as first class to Canada is \$12.50 which is the cheapest and fastest way to send a DVD. A single DVD order is \$13 US and it cost \$12.50 to mail to Canada. Maybe raise it to \$17 and a double or deluxe to \$24. That would cover the cost of a DVD, case, and insert.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reports we are currently under contract.

She received payments from 16 Societies. Two Societies have sent paperwork directly to Mercer, but she has not received payment. She has not heard from the remaining 30 societies.

We are still early and with what is going on in the world and everything being cancelled, it is understandable that this is not a priority. So, she won't be a stickler for having to have the information and payments to her.

She just received a call from our representative on Friday, April 17. The underwriters are unsure whether they are going to cover our Canadian clubs next year. They will cover them for this year. Our rep said she will keep Cheryl informed, but it does not look good for next year; they are looking at only covering the continental US. There was discussion about putting out an RFP. Cheryl stated the last time we did an RFP, our current carrier provided a much more favorable rate than others. Ken Jensen stated Alberta gets their own insurance as their show venue requires a higher amount than they could get through the ADS. He will talk to a member who had worked in insurance and see what she says. Perhaps the Canadian societies can get insurance at a cheaper rate through a Canadian provider, with all of them going together. There are two societies currently that get insurance through the ADS. Ken will see what he can find out about getting an insurance carrier for the Canadian societies.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports the request for updating the 2020 judging roster was sent to all club judging chairs with a deadline for all to respond by April 1st. Reports were received from all clubs except for one. The updated 2020 judging information was sent to both the webmaster and editor of the bulletin, the updates have been installed on the ADS website, with the 2020 Judging Roster booklet coming out with the June Bulletin. Many clubs reported new candidates and advancing judges. Certificates and pins have been sent to all club judging chairs who reported new or advancing judges. He requested the purchasing of additional senior judging pins, which have been ordered and should be delivered about the end of April. The cost will be \$2.75 per pin. He received a request for a candidate to be advanced to accredited status after only one year as a candidate, and the request was denied; the rule for advancing to accredited is a minimum of three years as a candidate. There has also been some confusion on the minimum time required for advancing from candidate to accredited by other club judging chairs. The requirements for advancing to accredited are listed on the ADS website, but after reviewing the requirements, it may be confusing. Bob would like to add a statement in the Accredited Judge Requirements, #6, "Serve at least three (3) year apprenticeship as a Candidate."

Bob stated he is interested in putting together a committee to update the *ADS Judging Manual*. He will be doing this soon.

Membership

Elva Sellens reports the bulk of ADS memberships have come in. ADS usually gets new members during the months of April and May when societies have tuber sales but this year things are different due to the virus situation where many are having to cancel their tuber sales.

US Membership

We have 56 Participating Societies and 2 Affiliated Societies. There are 934 individual memberships and 481 family membership ($x2 = 962$) for a total of 1,897 US members. There are 280 memberships from 2019 memberships who have not yet renewed. Of the 280 memberships, there are 237 who belong to a dahlia society, of which 83 were new members in 2019, and 43 are members at large, 15 of those were new members in 2019. For the dahlia society members, Elva is trying to contact each society to see if these individuals are still members of the local society in order to follow up on dues. We do tend to lose a percentage of new members each year as people who start growing dahlias lose interest. Currently, we have 151 new 2020 individual memberships and 41 new 2020 family memberships.

Canada

There are 9 Participating Societies and 1 Affiliated Society. There are 83 individual memberships and 46 family memberships ($x2 = 88$) for a total of 171 members. There were 19 memberships from 2019 who did not renew for 2020. We have 2 new 2020 family memberships and 6 new individual members.

Other Foreign

There are 15 other foreign memberships. John Thiermann and Alan Fisher had been sponsoring some foreign members. Alan stated he is willing to continue to sponsor all of those they had sponsored.

Summary:

We have total of 2,083 ADS members.

National Exhibition

Art Haskins reports there are changes to the scheduling of National Shows for this year and into the future, which will be discussed under new business at this meeting. The committee to revamp the National Shows Handbook has been preoccupied of late with other matters but we are still moving forward with the project.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman reports she has been communicating with six different organizations and individuals from last August to today. Two were from clubs that had ADS procedural questions, or just needing someone to answer their questions. The others were from individuals wanting to start a club. I occasionally receive questions from ADS members when they have general questions. Earlier this year someone asked me about the ADS Rep Booklet that has been mentioned in some of our online documents. I happened to have one, so I copied it and sent it to them. I then asked our webmaster to put it in the Member's Only section for all those ADS Reps that have heard of the booklet but have never seen it. They now can print off one of their own.

Rosemary received two new society inquiries in January and the others were received in late 2019. She has communicated with all those who indicated interest and asked their progress or if there was anything I could do to help. More information will be provided as she receives it.

Photography

Debbie Pavich reports she has sent the 2020 ADS Photo Contest information to be published in the next ADS Bulletin. She added a class for “ Dahlia Selfies”. The deadline was changed from the end of November to mid-November, so the judging could be finished before the holidays.

Policy

Ron Miner reports a new draft of the Policy Manual was prepared and posted on the website in March. Please review the changes and let him know of any changes that are appropriate.

Publicity and PR

Larry Smith reported considerable time was spent in writing press releases and attempting to arrange publicity for Hart, Johnson, Gulliksen, 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 he concentrated on those who did. Much time was spent contacting the various print media with specific press releases written and sent, including photos of the winning cultivars. He has not heard whether any of the information was published. He is aware there was one article written about Portland area winners, in their local paper. If anyone knows of other articles written, let Larry know; it would be good to post them on the website. I 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.

Response has been minimal to media outside Larry’s local area since he is not known. He has had success in getting free publicity in his local area as he has the benefit of having had a few years to develop a presence with our media contacts. Currently, social media is a more effective way to reach a larger audience and it is essential for the Publicity Chair to work very closely with our new Social Media coordinator.

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, and it would promote the ADS. Larry can assist with this as he has many years of experience in this area and professional editing software. Below are a couple of short PSAs Larry put together to promote local events. The community television stations ran the PSAs for free and he put them on YouTube in order to send them out to others to share wherever they saw fit. These are examples of short videos that could be created to add to the ADS website and sent out on social media. He also hopes to create some informational "how to" videos, such as how to take cuttings, how to plant dahlias, how to top dahlia plants, and various other dahlia care and culture subjects. To grab attention, such videos would need to be short and snappy. To do this, we would need some equipment,

including something to record video and possibly a microphone for improved audio. We also might be able to create some training videos that would be of use to judges seeking refresher credit. If people are interested in pursuing doing some educational videos, there are resources that can be contacted for more information within the ADS: Larry Smith, Anna Kandra, and Kristine Albrecht. Perhaps an article can be put in the September *Bulletin*. The links can be posted on the website as well.

https://youtu.be/YvOwa_1TB-Q <https://youtu.be/1jFDqPWBuRE>

Research and Education

Nick Weber states to follow up on Larry Smith's Publicity report, he believes societies could use YouTube videos as an alternative for some training this year. Educationally, the use of Zoom could be helpful as well. Brad indicated the Federation will be trying an educational conference via Zoom Conferencing. This could be a viable option for ways to reach out to some of the more isolated societies, such as New Mexico and Utah. We should share ideas about what worked or did not work well after trying some of this out. We could do online local society meetings and informational videos. After different societies/conferences try it out, we could find out what does and doesn't work. There could be a tremendous opportunity for education. Can also put short, informational videos on YouTube, Vimeo, or Instagram. Larry states he could assist in editing the videos. Most smart phones can produce videos for this purpose. It would be helpful to have a short article describing how to do get the videos onto a platform.

Seedling Bench Evaluation

Roger Walker reports applications to hold a seedling bench evaluation at 2020 shows will be mailed to ADS representatives in June. Those applications will need to be returned by July 1.

It is currently unknown whether the coronavirus pandemic will affect the 2020 dahlia show season in any way. But to be proactive, we are instituting temporary changes in trial garden and seedling bench rules, so growers are not adversely affected if some shows are canceled. The changes as shown below will allow a three-year window for growers to accumulate bench and trial garden scores before releasing a new introduction. Scores from all three years would count when Dudley and Hart medals are determined. Hybridizers are certainly not required to wait an extra year to introduce their seedlings; the changes are simply to ensure no growers are harmed if shows are canceled. And if no shows are canceled, a handful of growers will have an extra year to accumulate scores. The ADS will continue to monitor the situation. If further changes are needed, they will be posted on the ADS website and in the *Bulletin*.

Here are the two 2020 seedling bench and trial garden rule changes. Information is posted on the ADS website and will appear in the June *Bulletin*.

SEEDLING BENCH RULES

No variety is eligible for entry in the A.D.S. Seedling Bench Section for more than 2 consecutive years and if entered contrary to this provision, its most recent scores shall be discarded. A variety may be entered the second year in a show held by the same society in which it entered the year before, and if so entered, the higher score will be certified. **However, because of the extraordinary global health concerns of 2020,**

dahlias that scored in 2019 – but were not introduced in 2020 – may accumulate scores for 3 years: 2019, 2020, and 2021 if requested by the grower.

TRIAL GARDEN RULES

No variety is eligible for entry in the ADS Trial Gardens for more than two years, which shall be consecutive and if entered in the same Trial Garden the second year, the higher score will be certified. **However, because of the extraordinary global health concerns of 2020, dahlias that scored in 2019 – but were not introduced in 2020 – may accumulate scores for 3 years: 2019, 2020, and 2021 if requested by the grower.**

Social Media

Anna Kandra reports due to a combination of personal surprises as well as uncertainty about what to post while the Covid-19 pandemic was unfolding, our social media feeds were quiet during March and early April. The original plan was to highlight tuber sales, and many of those were cancelled. She is hoping to get back to more regular posts over the coming weeks, while keeping in mind that different member clubs in different parts of the country are under different restrictions due to the virus. She will keep in contact with Sharon regarding new information added to the website regarding trial gardens, judging, and other advice from ADS to member clubs as we continue to navigate changes to normal procedures and operations as we progress through the growing season. As always, please feel welcome forward her photos or links that you think might be appropriate to share across social media. Any items you would like posted to Instagram must include a photo; Facebook posts can be made without a photo (though they're generally viewed more if they have one).

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports he shares the disappointment regarding the cancellation of the 2020 National Show. However, he applauds the efforts many are making to keep the ADS moving forward.

Special Awards will work with both the Seedling Bench and Trial Garden committees to recognize the 2020 winners of the Hart, Dudley and Gullikson medals. He is not sure how the revised rules for 2020 Seedling Bench Evaluation Program will impact awarding the Dudley and Gullikson medals. Extending the option on scoring an additional year shouldn't preclude there being winners this year, providing we still have shows. The thought of too few shows is not funny at all. At the time of this report, things are looking quite bleak. Let's look forward to better days!

Trial Garden

Marilyn Walton and Jerry Zierdt report they are hoping all is well and are getting ready for the new dahlia season. Last month Marilyn wrote to all the TG directors and asked if any of the gardens were anticipating any problems this year. She only heard from one garden and that person wanted to know why they were concerned. Therefore, as far as they know, all the gardens will be planted and operate as usual. It is hard to know if it will all go as planned but so far everything is ok. If things go sideways later, we will let the board know. Jerry has sent out the excel sheet that he wants the gardens to use. This year we plan to get everything done as early as possible so we can check each other's work for mistakes. There is a slight game of "telephone" going on with all

the information coming initially from the originators or their introducers. Then the directors send that information to Jerry. Then Jerry sends that information to me and we create a huge spreadsheet. All along the way, there is a chance of mistakes. Only the directors KNOW exactly what the originator said on their entry form. Anyway, this year we hope to be mistake free!!

Virus Update

Ron Miner reports most of the Pullman campus has been shut down as a result of the corona virus pandemic. Professor Pappu's lab team can continue their main projects by working in shifts to maintain social distance guidelines. The laboratory work on growing roots by tissue culture is proceeding slowly. Professor Pappu is acquiring inputs from his European colleagues.

Plans are in place for improving the availability of clean stock for our ADS societies. All are encouraged to take advantage of this project. Please see the ADS website and the March and June Bulletins for details. Ron states he will likely have some clean stock he will be unable to get rid of due to the current pandemic. If anyone knows of someone who can use some and is using appropriate disinfecting practices, he would be happy to send some if there are extras. Sharon stated she can set up the Dahlia Society of Ohio Store if he would like. He will figure out what is available before doing so.

Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht reports the ADS Genome Project is progressing despite the coronavirus outbreak. The species seeds were grown out in December 2019. In Early March 2020, Dr. Walbot took tissue samples before the shelter in place orders and has them on ice at Stanford University. Dr. Harkess was planning on coming to California in March to take additional samples and bring them back to his lab in Georgia. Unfortunately, due to the virus, his trip west was canceled. I took samples for him and have them frozen until Dr. Walbot can travel to Santa Cruz with dry ice to retrieve them. She is unable to travel at this time due to State shelter-in-place orders. Dr. Harkess's lab is currently shut down due to the virus. The species plants are growing now in my garden. Later this summer Dr. Harkess will need to identify the plants once they bloom. Lastly, I will need to collect blooms from each of the species plants when they bloom so they can be frozen.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports she has posted the trial garden information to the site. Sadly, most of the gardens did not send pictures. Thanks to Larry Bagge, North Central Trial Garden, and Bob Schroeder, Tacoma Trial Garden, who did send pictures. She also published the bloom awards: Hart, Dudley, Gullikson, and Stanley Johnson. Thanks to Colin Walker who sent many pictures and Claudia Biggs, who forwarded pictures from the New Originations DVD. Pictures are so important to a website!

She has begun to post 2020 information and forms such as seedling forms, judging rosters, and new items for the store. Sharon states she put the PayPal information last month. They investigated delivering the New Originations DVD electronically, but it did not come to fruition. If there is a need, she can revive it next year.

The 2020 Classification information was loaded to the website in early February. Thanks, Lou, for the approximately 10,000 lines of information. This is a tricky process

to get the info onto the site and linked with the pictures. The process was different this year because of the new Online Classification product, but she now has a repeatable procedure worked out for this job. Don Filand continues to prepare and submit pictures for the Online Classification Guide; Sharon is very appreciative of his ownership of this project. As you can see, it takes a village to keep a website updated and vibrant. Keep the information and pictures coming.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no discussion today on any old business. Items will be carried over to a future conference call or the next Spring Executive Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

New ADS Seedling Medal

There is a proposal for a new medal to be done in honor of Les Connell. The Washington State Dahlia Society and Puget Sound Dahlia Association are paying for the cost of a 25-year supply of the medal. It was to be given this year for the first time at the National Show. They will determine when and how to give out the medal this year. The medal will be for a new origination that has won the most blue and higher ribbons for the five years since the first year of introduction. This is to award varieties that last over the test of time. This year the first medal will go to Les Connell as well as one to the originator of the bloom originated five years ago that won the most blues and higher over this five-year time period. There is no overlap with existing medals. The medals will be kept by the Special Awards Chair, as other medals. Lou Paradise indicated he can determine which variety wins each year and provide that to Special Awards, as he does with the Stanley Johnson. It was felt since it is an ADS medal that it should be stored with Special Awards as all other ADS medals are.

Alan Fisher moved and Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook seconded to adopt the Les Connell medal as a new ADS medal. Les Connell is an outstanding hybridizer and it is appropriate to have a medal to honor him. Jerry Landerholm wanted to emphasize that any new ADS medals need to be approved by the ADS Board. **The motion passed.**

2024 National Show

The Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers have applied to host the 2024 National Show since they had to cancel the 2020 National Show. The show dates will be September 12 to 16, 2024 in Wenatchee, WA. **Art Haskins moved, and Charles Miehm seconded to accept the bid from the Federation for the 2024 National Show. The motion passed.** ADS has already sent the money for the show for 2020; the Federation will keep this money in their separate National Show account and use it for the 2024 National Show.

Canby Trial Garden

Portland Dahlia Society would like to request the Canby Trial Garden Director be changed to Linda Taylor. Linda has helped maintain the Trial Garden for the last couple of years and is now a senior judge. **Lou Paradise moved, and Bob Schroeder seconded to approve Linda Taylor as the new Director of the Canby Trial Garden. The motion passed.**

Judging

Due to the current stay-at-home orders across the United States and Canada, there is uncertainty about the show season and the ability of judges to do what is needed to maintain judging status. It was decided to have a one-year hiatus for the process for judges to maintain status. It will be as if 2020 did not happen. There was discussion regarding being able to advance to accredited or senior judges in 2021.

Annual Membership Meeting

We are still required to have an annual membership meeting, even though there will not be a National Show this year. Since travel may still be restricted in September, we will have the annual membership meeting via conference call on September 13. The ADS website will have information with the log-in for members to join. It was suggested to use Zoom video conferencing for ADS meetings instead of the GoToMeeting that we have been using.

Bulletins

There has been some discussion about having the ability to do a global search of the bulletins online. This would allow a person to search all the bulletins for a keyword. Currently, it is an extremely arduous task as you must search each Bulletin issue separately. Harry Rissetto would like to put several additional older bulletins online. The *Bulletin* issues currently go from 1965 to present. Sharon Swaney reports this can be done but would require removing the password from the *Bulletin*. There would continue to be the password to get into the member site, but none on the bulletins. The cost would be about \$100 per year. **Ken Jensen moved and Alan Fisher seconded to approve a pilot project that would entail moving toward a global search of the *Bulletin* contents at a cost of approximately \$100 for the pilot, and require removal of the password from the individual issues of the *Bulletin*. The motion passed.** This will be a pilot project to have a global search of *Bulletin* content, costing \$100 for a year and requiring removal of the password on the *Bulletin* area of the members only site. If, after the pilot, we find it does not work as we hoped, we can back out. Hopefully, this will make it more accessible and user-friendly.

The next meeting is set for June 28 at 4 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

Alan Fisher moved, and Lou Paradise seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 pm EST. The motion passed.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder
ADS Secretary