

American Dahlia Society

Board meeting

February 28, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm EST by President Brad Freeman.

### **Present**

Board members present were: Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Jerry Landerholm, Harry Risetto, Ron Miner, Dana Miller, John Morton, Alli Richards, Teresa Bergman, Lou Paradise, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Alan Fisher, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Debbie Pavich, Larry Smith, Nick Weber, Kristine Albrecht, Roger Walker, Anna Kandra, Marilyn Walton, and Sharon Swaney.

### **Memorial**

This week we lost another giant in the dahlia world with the passing of Annie Radcliff. We also lost Dick Kohlschreiber passed away in September. We had a moment of silence for those who have passed or dealing with serious health issues.

### **Minutes**

**Bob Schroeder moved, and Tony Evangelista seconded to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2020 meeting as written. The motion passed.**

### **OFFICERS REPORTS**

#### **President**

Brad Freeman reports there is much to consider due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic as individual dahlia societies within the ADS begin their activities for the year. There is hope we will be able to have dahlia shows this summer and fall. However, for at least the first half of this year, he sees a continuation of virtual meetings and events. The Club Reports in the December 2020 *Bulletin* are worth reading to see what activities the local dahlia societies had last year. You may pick up some ideas that you can adapt for your society. The USPS was overwhelmed in December 2020 resulting in an inconsistent delivery of the December *Bulletin*. The delays varied widely by region and affected all classes of mail including first class. These delays were outside our control; however, this will be an on-going challenge the Executive Board needs to address for our membership. Think about this and bring your thoughts to the April Executive Board Meeting. The ADS Executive Board will not be meeting in-person this spring. It is unfortunate as these meetings have been instrumental in developing the goals and future activities for the ADS. He expects that we will meet in person in 2022. The leadership of the Research and Education Committee has changed with Nick Weber stepping down as Chair. Ron Miner has agreed to Chair the committee and will continue to lead the virus research project. Kristine Albrecht will continue to lead the dahlia genome project. There is a need to find replacements for the Chairs of the Image Library and Insurance Committee. The current Chairs, Claudia Biggs, and Cheryl Shores, respectively, have asked to step down from their positions at the end of the year. The ADS Bylaws have descriptions of the duties of these committees. Brad hopes to have new individuals lined up by the middle of summer so the transition process can

begin. If you know someone who may be a likely candidate, please email Brad at President@dahlia.org. Thanks to both Claudia and Cheryl for their dedication and commitment to the ADS over many years. This year will continue to bring challenges and we must be flexible and adaptable to deal with them. Growing dahlias is a great hobby to maintain our mental, spiritual, and physical health. Until we can meet again, stay safe and let us help each other get through these challenging times.

### **Treasurer**

Charles Miehme noted there were questions about the number of Bulletins being printed. In looking at the numbers from the previous few years, the numbers were about the same and Elva needed some. We have received some additional money since this report including donations from Dick Parshall and Mac Boyer for the digitization of the *Bulletin*. Finances remain about the same otherwise, although the A T & T stock continues to go up and down. **Art Haskins moved, and Alan Fisher seconded to approve the financial report subject to audit. The motion passed.**

### **TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 01/31/2021**

Ameriprise Account (restricted)	\$ 57,260.00
Ameriprise Account (unrestricted)	\$ 17,003.20
Vanguard Account	<u>\$ 78,167.63</u>
	\$ 152,430.83

### **TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 02/22/2021**

Wells Fargo Bank Account	<u>\$ 77,098.04</u>
Total Funds Available	\$ 229,528.87

### **RESTRICTED FUNDS**

(these funds are included in the  
Wells Fargo bank balance listed above)

Virus Fund - Sheetz-Chuey Foundation	\$ 2,318.02
Genome Project	\$ 37,977.06
2021 National Show	\$ 50.00
2022 National Show	\$ 2,775.00
2023 National Show	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total Restricted	\$ 43,170.08

### **First Vice-President**

Mark Oldenkamp reports we all hope that 2021 brings renewed enthusiasm for growing our dahlias for exhibition, flower sales, enjoyment and sharing. One side effect of the Covid pandemic has been the return to gardening for many and several are including dahlias in their plantings. Tuber sales have been quite strong for many commercial growers and Mark is aware that many societies will have online sales for fundraising this year. He is hopeful that shows will be able to happen this year and that the planned National show in Ohio will be able to happen this season. We have received word of several changes to ADS reps and/or society presidents. As those are reported, the GroupVine database is updated. We also make sure that the *Bulletin* and website information is updated. Mark is glad to see the number of societies that have figured out how to meet electronically. He hopes those who are struggling with it to reach out to someone about getting some assistance.

### **Second Vice-President**

The Dahlia Society of Ohio continues to hold regular planning meetings for this year's National Show in Wooster Ohio. We sure hope everyone can safely attend.

### **Third Vice-President**

Ken Jensen reports that they are doing well but having a cold weather. He brought up the suggestion of printing the *Bulletin* for January instead of December. It is agreed that we do need to look at the December *Bulletin* issues. Having the *Bulletin* available online does help. The Piper Creek Trial Garden is slowly filling. He's been busy with the planning of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gladiolus Society along with the 76<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the National Gladiolus Council along with their regular show. If the border opens, it will go this year, if not it will be postponed to 2022.

## **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

### **MID ATLANTIC CONFERENCE – Dana Miller**

Dana Miller reports it is hard to believe that it has been more than a year since the pandemic hit and even harder to believe that it is still going on. Needless to say, Covid-19 canceled The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society's dahlia activities since last March. Most of us, however, continued growing dahlias. If you think about it, that is still the main purpose, so it's all good. The meetings, tuber sales, picnics, and shows are all bonuses. He is surprised at how much he's missed them.

GPDS is looking forward to getting back to not only growing dahlias, but to all the social functions that go with the society. They are planning a club-wide Zoom meeting the end of March and a newsletter soon. Their spring tuber sales, however, have been canceled. They plan to make extra tubers available to members with distribution sites at a few members' homes, as last year. Meetings are still in limbo. In July, Longwood Gardens is planning to decide on the September 2021 Dahlia Show, which they hope will be possible.

The National Capital Dahlia Society is continuing their virtual monthly meetings. They will conduct their second annual virtual tuber sale in April, followed by an in-person sale at Derwood Park in May. If normal dahlia shows can't be held, they will once again have socially distanced shows at the Derwood Park open-air garage. The Trial Garden will be

planted and maintained, giving the society such a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about dahlias.

The Gettysburg Dahlia Society has some sad news. Founding member, mentor, and friend Annie Radcliff passed away on February 22nd. Annie was known for her masterful dahlia flower arrangements. Annie created original magnificent massive dahlia arrangement at shows using leftover and cast-off blooms. They often attracted more visitors' photos than any other entry in the show. She had been living in Michigan where she was close to her family. She will be missed, but in the Mid-Atlantic Dahlia Conference, whenever we see particularly nice dahlia arrangements, we'll think of Annie.

### **Midwest Dahlia Conference**

The members of the MDC are trying to put the winter doldrums behind. Snow ranging from 5" to 3' throughout the conference is a real challenge to overcome. The Executive Board is moving ahead with planning the annual schedule of events with the foresight that much of the pandemic will be abated. Life must move on. We do feel the pain of our losses from the virus.

The societies are planning their local shows and events. The Dahlia Society of Ohio is busy with the National/Midwest Show scheduled for Sept. 9th thru 12th in Wooster, Ohio. Amish Country surrounds this quaint community. They are looking forward to hosting all and plan for a great time.

The Elkhart DS members are in the process of again hosting all the Midwest growers for the MDC Spring Meeting and Plant Auction in Elkhart, Indiana on June 5th. They do a wonderful job each year. Then in August they host the Judging Clinic and Picnic at the Bonneville Trial Garden in Elkhart.

Growers here are again asked to be very observant of virus and disease in the plants; it is important for us all!

### **Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference**

Mark Oldenkamp reports this is a new year and new dahlia season. Mark senses enthusiasm is building for a better year than 2020. He took some cuttings this week, the first of the season, and is looking forward to helping make 2021 more colorful and fun than 2020.

PNDC has scheduled the annual meeting for online again this year. We are incorporating a couple of guest speakers which we expect to encourage more participation. One speaker will provide a mini judges training session. At this point a formal judges training hosted normally by the Portland Dahlia Society has been delayed one year.

The Canby Trial garden was fully reserved early this season. The 35 spots will be planted in mid-May using pre-started tubers or cuttings as the hybridizers provide. We are grateful for the support of Swan Island Dahlias for hosting the trial garden site. We look forward to a trial garden judging season not impacted by the smoke that hampered us in 2020.

Tuber sales this year are likely to not be in person. Portland is planning an online sale which was successful for them last year. Societies rely on tuber sales for annual fundraising to support their annual shows. For Portland, this fundraising is important as

they are preparing to host the 2023 National show. That planning effort is developing as theme selection is happening and the organizational structure is being fleshed out.

Some societies are holding Zoom meetings on a monthly schedule including a virtual show and online photo contest. It is nice to see so many of the members adapting to this method of sharing. Some have asked if the zoom streaming could still happen for those that have a difficult time attending the in-person meetings.

I hope the vaccine will be available to everyone sooner vs later. Good luck getting scheduled for yours when available.

### **Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference**

John Morton reports they regret to announce the passing of Dick Kohlschriber. Dick was a member of several dahlia clubs in the Southern California area. The Monterey Bay Dahlia Society and San Leandro Dahlia Society will hold online tuber/plant sales. The San Leandro club will be only for members in the area around San Leandro. Buyers will get an invoice and a time for the pickup; members will then put the product in the trunk of their cars. San Leandro will not do any mailing. He believes two of the societies in the Pacific Southwest will be holding an outdoor tuber sale.

### **Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers**

Brad introduced Alli Richards, the new ADS Rep for the Federation, as Drew Brant has moved out of the area. Alli reports the Federation, and our member clubs are continuing to have regular meetings by Zoom. The change has been embraced by most members and has been successful with many clubs gaining new members this year. Evening club meetings have been well attended by enthusiasts from all over the country, Canada, and Australia. The blooms the Australian growers are sharing are just the bit of dahlia love we all need in this dreary Northwest weather! Our clubs are either holding their springtime tuber sales online or in person as restrictions allow.

FNWDG will be hosting their spring workshop on March 20<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. The main topics to be covered are soil testing and amendments as well as an ADS website tour and navigation presentation. There will be a special presentation on the newly approved and launched Dahlia Legacy Project. This year we will again be holding our Jack Crawford Memorial tuber auction. It will either be during the spring workshop, or the following Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, depending on the number of tubers to auction and the length of the workshop. We want to be cognizant of the amount of time our members are sitting through a Zoom meeting. The summer workshop and judges training will probably be by Zoom as well. We are in a holding pattern to see how gathering restrictions and vaccination rollouts will affect our upcoming workshops.

The Dahlia Legacy Project is designed to gather and create a repository of dahlia knowledge and information. This will include past and present members of the FNWDG. Profiles will be created in a format similar to a Wikipedia page with links to articles published on the dahlia gurus, for example. This will be published on the Federation's website with access to all that are interested in dahlias. Each club in the Federation will supply profile information. Our goal is a total of 12 or more profiles each year. We are hoping to pair newer, less experienced members with dahlia elders to gather their wisdom by using a standard set of interview questions as well as being in the gardens with them whenever possible. This will allow for consistency in profiles. If they desire, members can participate in this project and have it count towards their qualifying judge's

advancement projects. Think back to the people that helped mentor you on your dahlia journey; wouldn't it be wonderful to have captured all their tips and tricks in one easy to locate resource? Each of you has probably forgotten more about growing dahlias than our newest members know. If you have any questions on this project, please feel free to reach out to me as it's difficult to condense this down to a paragraph.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Advertising**

Teresa Bergman reports she was not able to accomplish as much as she hoped. She also felt the interest in advertising was down as many sellers were sold out as soon as they opened. She anticipates being able to spend more time on advertising for the next *Bulletin*.

### **ADS Store**

Brad Freeman reports he knows the store is functioning as he continues to receive orders from the ADS Store as the Book Sales Manager for PSDA. According to the number of orders he receives, there is a lot of interest in dahlias.

### **Classification**

Lou Paradise reports there is not much going on in classification. Lou fields questions now and then about a particular cultivar or will get an email concerning originators. He received a question about a cultivar that was introduced 40 years ago but was difficult to find much information that far back. All in all, things are at a standstill until we get some shows going. Both Don Filand and Lou are working together to get the Les Connell award incorporated into the future CHDs. He has most of the spreadsheets so we can move forward with this. Lou is working on the correct wording for the CHD and will run it by Don Filand. If we have an adequate number of shows this year, we will have a new CHD and a new composite.

### **Editor**

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports the March issue of the ADS *Bulletin* was printed over the February 13-14 weekend. She sends thanks to Donna Lane for her work helping to proofread and edit many of the club reports in this issue. Dave should have it in the mail this week or next so it should be received timely.

We are hopeful the March *Bulletin* will be arriving in mailboxes during the first two weeks of March. However, with problems still existing in the post office, it is hard to know what will happen. The December *Bulletin* finally arrived in most ADS member mailboxes by the beginning of February, with the exception of a couple from Greater Philadelphia. Elva was asked to mail them a replacement *Bulletin* when Linda heard they had not received their copy.

Elva requested that Dave print 2110 copies of the March 2021 *Bulletin*. Linda is not sure how this compares with March *Bulletin* printings in the past, but suspects it is an increase, commensurate with our higher membership numbers.

Password changing: Yes....Just when you've memorized it, things change! However, this was in the March *Bulletin* on page 5. Starting with May 1, the password to the member section will be [CVEdie2019@ADS](mailto:CVEdie2019@ADS)

Linda is going to start tightening up deadlines. When she took over the *Bulletin*, things were somewhat more relaxed, probably because we hadn't had an editor for some time. However, she plans to have a goal of getting the lion's share of the *Bulletin* content to Dave within 5 days after the deadline. It may take a couple cycles to get it right, but will try, all the same. Thanks for all the help and support you can provide us to get this done.

## **Finance**

The ADS is in a good position financially. As the Treasurer's Report reflects, the ADS has more than \$100,000.00 unrestricted, liquid assets. There are no significant unpaid expenses. Looking forward, the local societies have mostly been active, considering COVID restrictions. They are encumbered by the lack of public sales and meetings -- venues to increase membership. Memberships seem to be holding their own, although we are in the 2021 sign-up period.

The Insurance premium for 2021 is \$685.00, less than the \$904.00 in 2020. As local Societies become more active the year, they should renew their insurance. While the policy does not address the issue, we doubt that it covers COVID claims.

Contributing to help progress the ADS Digital Bulletin Project have been generous donations, \$1,805. Special thanks go to Dick Parshall, and Mac Boyer. More than \$6,500 in donations were received for the General Fund. We are adding some additional older Bulletins from 1915 to 1920 and filling some holes. The collection is weak in the 1920s and can use help. PSDA may have some older *Bulletins* as may Mark Oldenkamp.

The Genome project has been slowed down by COVID.

The Overseas Supporters Project has been a disappointment thus far. Perhaps 2021 will be a better year.

## **Garden Dahlia**

Alan Fisher reports he occasionally responds to questions from general gardeners moving into dahlias. When something of interest comes up, he shares it with Linda and Sharon to go to a broader audience.

He could use help on sources for information on growing dahlias in containers as this subject comes up frequently. If you know of a volunteer to write on this subject, please let Alan know. With respect to information for general and new dahlia growers, the preference is always for suggestions that work in general rather than geared to specific parts of the country.

As vaccination spreads, and hopefully the risks from coronavirus go down, perhaps we can resume dahlia shows and meetings. Hoping for good summer weather and a successful year in dahlias.

There was a question about reproducing the DVD that Steve Nowotarski completed on Growing Dahlias in Containers. The person he used to make those DVDs has passed away, as has Steve. There is an organization that is listed on the DVD cover showing they have a copyright; Harry has tried to reach them. Harry would like to do a search of copyright files to ensure this company has the copyright but has been unable to find

something that is reasonable. It is thought since all the principals involved are deceased, we may be able to copy it. Another option is to recreate the DVD with updated information.

### **Image Library**

Claudia Biggs reports it's been slow in the library. She's had a total of ten requests for the New Introductions DVD. That likely means they were shared with ten societies and their members. She has completed the 2019 Fabulous Fifty Dahlias DVD, and it is available in the ADS store.

Claudia has requested to retire from this volunteer job. She has had it for 16+ years. Due to health reasons, she feels it should be taken over by someone else, especially with all the new technology available. Thanks to Claudia for her time given to the ADS doing the Image Library.

### **Insurance**

Brad Freeman reports that Cheryl Shores has asked to step away from that Chair position. The insurance policy for the ADS has been renewed. Information for local societies will be in the March *Bulletin*.

### **Judging Accreditation**

Bob Schroeder reports the question of what to do with the judging program for 2021 should be discussed. Should we continue with the hold on advancing or allowing judges to advance? There was discussion about these questions. It is recommended that Bob come to the April meeting with a proposal for some emergency rules to be able to continue moving forward.

The two committees, Updating the Guidelines to Judging Dahlias and the committee for developing a curriculum for the candidate, accredited and senior judges are making progress and will be made available to the board for approval upon completion.

If anyone is interested in sharing any training videos, let Bob know.

### **Membership**

Elva Sellens reports the following information about membership. She is having some problems with some small societies sending their dues and she is following up with them. She will be sending out to local societies a list of members who have not renewed to see if they plan to renew.

#### **2021 US Membership**

We have 1,322 memberships - 922 Individual and 400 Family ( $x2 = 800$ ) for a total of 1,722 members. There are 5 small societies that have not yet paid their 2021 ADS dues. I am working with them trying to get their memberships in. We have 230 new memberships - 187 Individuals and 43 Family ( $x2 = 86$ ) for a total of 273 new members.

She is still getting 2020 memberships that are renewing. We have 469 memberships - 353 Individual and 116 Family ( $x2 = 232$ ) - total of 585 members who have not yet renewed. Of these 469 memberships, there are 153 memberships - 126 Individual/27 Family ( $x2 = 54$ ) = 180 members that joined ADS in 2020 and will probably not renew in 2021. She estimates that between 200-250 of the 469 memberships will renew later this year.



## **2021 Canada**

We have 129 memberships - 79 Individual and 50 Family (x2= 100) for a total of 179 members. There are only 7 Individuals that did not renew their 2021 memberships.

## **Other Foreign**

There are 16 foreign memberships.

## **National Exhibition**

Art Haskins reports there have been no new requests to host a future National Show. As of now we have shows scheduled as follows:

2021 Ohio Dahlia Society

2022 National Capital Dahlia Society

2023 Portland Dahlia Society

2024 Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

The committee of Rosemary Freeman, Jerry Landerholm, Ken Jensen, and Art Haskins set up to revise the National Show Handbook have finished the document and are preparing to have it proofread before sending it to the ADS Board for approval and placing it on the web site. He thanks this committee for all their great work.

## **New Society Coordinator**

Rosemary Freeman reports she had quite a few requests for information on starting a new dahlia society, all in areas that are some distance from other dahlia societies. She has had contact with a couple of ladies in the Boston, MA area since last September, Misty Florez and Carol Palmer. They have been working and planning hard since then. They have registered with the State of Massachusetts and opened a bank account for their new club. Their first check was written to the American Dahlia Society to join the ADS as an Affiliated Society, The Yankee Dahlia Society. They have both Facebook and Instagram accounts already set up.

She has also talked with two other newer growers, one in Noblesville, Indiana and one in Wilmington, North Carolina that would like to learn more about growing dahlias and hope to be able to start a new society in their area in the future. They have been given suggestions on how to start planting "seeds of interest" locally.

Another newbie grower in Boise, Idaho, Randy Miller, has contacted Rosemary and others with loads of growing questions. He has interest in starting a new society and is learning new technology, with Facebook and Instagram. He's found 20+ individuals in his general area, also interested in joining a group. I've suggested he join the North Central Dahlia Society located in Wenatchee, WA as they share the same hot, arid climate west of the Rocky Mountains.

There is a silver lining to the pandemic; Zoom meetings that are open to all, and we don't even have to leave home. The more we share our meetings with others with an interest in dahlia growing, the more members we will have.

## **Photography**

Debbie Pavich reports she initially had two goals for this committee: to increase the number of entries and to transition to an online format. This year, there were 81 photographers who submitted nearly 700 photos. It was an international contest with entries from Canada and Europe. The popularity this year was likely helped by promoting the contest on the ADS Facebook page and Instagram. A big thank you to Anna and Sharon for their help with this. Only one person submitted photos via mail.

A huge thank you to Larry Smith, ADS Publicity Chair, for creating the videos. The videos made the contest special during this unusual year. If you are looking for information for your Zoom meeting, this is wonderful content to show.

Trevor Hoff will take a year off from the contest to lend a hand. Processing the entries was time consuming this year. The photos are sorted into folders in Adobe Lightroom and shared with the judges via Dropbox. Trevor and I are interested in finding a program that will be more “open” so that the photographer can upload their photos to a file. We would like the winners to be chosen via a “People’s Choice” vote. If any Society used a particular program for their photo contest and found it useful, Debbie would be interested in more information about it. The photos are submitted without the photographer’s name as to “blind” the contest.

If the ADS wants to use the photo in a press release the individual retains the rights to the photo and must be credited/named as the photographer. The photographer signs a note when they submit their photos saying ADS can use the photos without their information in ADS publications/ websites but for other media they retain the copyright.

## **Publicity/Public Relation**

Larry Smith reports it has been a busy quarter. He created 12 YouTube videos highlighting the ADS Photo Contest entries. This was an effort, for the first time, to highlight more than just the award winners and give some well-deserved recognition to all the entrants. Thanks to Debbie Pavich, contest coordinator, for providing access to the photos and other pertinent information. Sharon Swaney expeditiously added the videos to the ADS website and Larry forwarded them to Anna Kandra to add to social media. Encourage others who might be interested to check them out. The “Year in the Canby Trial Garden” video has had several views and is featured on the website. In a previous ADS Board meeting, it was suggested that the Publicity Committee should be focusing on print media but noted realistically that much of that is being phased out. Larry has given this consideration and recommends the Board put further thought into creating a clear vision going forward for what ADS Publicity could and needs to accomplish. Cold calls to print media have not been fruitful. His recommendation is that creating additional YouTube videos on various subjects has the most potential to gain positive public relations, interest in dahlias and shine a positive light on the ADS. Suggestions regarding subjects to be covered are welcome. He is also willing to reach out to print media outlets if given leads regarding specific contacts.

## **Research and Education**

Brad Freeman reported Ron Miner is the new Chair for Research and Education. Brad thanked Nick Weber for heading up that committee for the past several years and is pleased Nick plans to continue with the virus research. Ron Miner, along with Kristine Albrecht thank Nick Weber for his contributions as the Research and Education Chair; It

has been a pleasure to work with him. The best news is that he has agreed to continue to share his expertise with us on the Virus team. Ron is excited to report they will be expanding the staff in the Dahlia Resource Center at WSU. Professor Pappu identified staffing issues as the key bottleneck to more rapid progress on the resolution of several practical dahlia virus questions. Jim Chuey, through the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation has agreed to provide the funding required to support an MS level virologist to work in Professor Pappu's lab at WSU. The new donation will cover the costs of that position for 3 years, after which we anticipate that the income from the Chuey Chair Endowment will be able to cover the costs. The donation will also cover the purchase of a new growth chamber to be used in the Tissue Culture project to produce clean dahlia stock.

Ron reports that Professor Pappu has agreed to continue to provide virus testing services for us and that the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation has agreed to cover the cost of the testing. The availability of clean starting stock is an important limitation in our quest to achieve clean dahlia gardens. We hope to encourage more ADS local Clubs to participate in the "half-price" sale for testing this season. Several clubs have already indicated they plan to participate. It is a good way to improve the availability of clean stock locally! We plan to continue to do vendor tests and key team tests. Details for applying for the programs will be on the website soon. In the meantime, he hopes each Executive Committee member will encourage their local clubs to participate in the project.

The virus results from 2020 were limited by Covid-19. Professor Pappu needed to enforce all the safety requirements in his lab, which substantially reduced the volume of work they could perform. The results are presented in detail in the March Bulletin. While the results were largely consistent with previous experience, we encountered several examples where clean gardens were invaded by Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) or Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV).

With Genome Sequencing, Kristine Albrecht reports Dr. Walbot sent most of the *Dahlia* genus plant material in her freezers to the Harkess Laboratory at HudsonAlpha late last year. This laboratory is still slowly building given their new start during COVID, so it has been difficult and slow to get new projects moving. This is not specific to the Dahlia project; much of academic science has grinded to a slow halt given family obligations, teaching responsibilities increasing over Zoom, and the inability to purchase and receive molecular biology reagents due to global shortages. However, they have some new momentum as of the last couple months. An ADS member, Zach Meharg, has been accepted to join Dr. Harkess's laboratory as a two-year Master-level candidate; they will find out in the next month if he decides to join the lab. If so, his project would specifically be on generating the Dahlia genome.

Kristine recently organized the shipment of dahlias to several hobby growers in the Alabama area. Our inability to sample tissue closely to us has been a long-standing limitation to the genome project, which seems to have been solved, thankfully. Kristine has Marcy Holt in Ringold, GA and Kathy Whitfield in Birmingham, AL. They would like one more experienced grower to help. If anyone knows of someone in the Huntsville, AL area, that would be great as that is where the lab is located. Now we will be able to bring liquid nitrogen to these growers' houses and sample the exact tissues we need for the project. The plan is to generate Illumina PE150 shotgun data for at least four species of Dahlias to identify the one with the smallest genome size, ploidy, and heterozygosity. The goal is to find the "easiest" of the dahlias to generate a genome for,

then we will move forward with that species for the reference genome. Given the drop in genome sequencing prices, there is a high probability that we will be able to boost the impact of the project by generating additional genomes with the existing funds. Further, Alex Harkess is actively writing grants that can fund dahlia work. Late last year they submitted an NSF GRFP award that could fund Zach Meharg for his graduate work. In the next four months, we anticipate having generated and analyzed the first round of sequencing data in preparation for the genome.

### **Seedling Bench Evaluation**

Roger Walker reports growers were given the opportunity to delay introduction of seedlings in 2021 that received 2019 SBE scores, but were not introduced in 2020, in the hope they could achieve additional SBE scores. For most growers, it was impossible to enter their dahlias in SBE competition in 2020 and accumulate those additional scores. Therefore, this rule change was approved by the ADS board:

**Note this temporary change in rule 3:** 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.**

Every grower who had seedlings that scored in 2019, but were not introduced in 2020, was individually notified. Additionally, each club was notified of the rule change by email and the change was also posted on the ADS website. Most growers decided to not take advantage of the rule change, but four varieties that scored in 2019 were not released. Those four varieties are eligible for SBE in 2021.

While no one can predict the 2021 show season, we will proceed as if 2021 will be closer to normal than 2020. ADS bench evaluation applications will be mailed to each ADS-affiliated dahlia club in June.

### **Social Media**

Anna Kandra reports the following information on social media:

Current stats:

Facebook followers: 3,427

Facebook group members: 4,044

Instagram followers: 1,689

We'll be thinking spring starting March 1, mixing in the photo contest winners with some waking up your tuber posts and information about local clubs and the benefits of ADS Membership.

I'm finalizing the formal rules for the private Facebook group, and will send those to the board to review when they're ready. As I said in November, a couple of minor administrative issues have popped up and it would be more efficient to give members feedback if there were rules established to point them back to. For example: Including a cultivar name on photos if it's known, including growing location when asking for

growing advice, checking permissions of shared posts so that all members can see content, limiting the scope of questions and comments to dahlia growing and showing, etc.

### **Special Awards**

Jerry Landerholm reports the 2020 Seedling Awards were limited to Trial Garden entries: the Derrill Hart and Evie Gullikson Trial Garden Awards. Processing of the medals and congratulatory letters that accompany the medals is in progress.

We try our best to personalize the presentation of the medals. He will be in contact with others on the ADS Board to determine the best opportunities for making "live" presentations. Hopefully, 2021 will allow the resumption of more activity from Special Awards.

### **Trial Garden**

Marilyn Walton reports after two emails to all eight of the gardens, she has heard from five. Those five indicate everything is running as it did last year and that going forward, we will have a normal year. Only Piper Creek indicated they had a few spots left and some of the gardens have a waiting list. Two of the gardens have not communicated with Marilyn during this off season; the Eastern (NY) and the Inland Empire (Spokane) gardens. If anyone involved with these gardens would whisper in the ear of the director that we must have communication, it would be appreciated.

We are all still waiting to see how things will go this year for our local clubs, regional organizations, and everything nationally. It is hard to plan! But it seems that trial gardens will be fine.

### **Website**

Sharon Swaney reports since the last meeting she has continued to update the website as information is provided. Most notably the photo contest winners and pictures have been added, and this year a new feature, videos showing the winning photographs, set to soothing music. Thanks Larry! Larry also provided a video of the Canby Trial Garden. Awards information for 2020 has been added, including the new Les Connell medal awards.

Much of the underlying software for the website has been updated to the latest versions to improve the security and stability of the site. There were a few challenges with the firewall which are resolved. Thanks to all who helped during the testing.

She is moving forward to make the site more "compliant" and user privacy oriented. You've probably noticed the bright pink cookies warning? She made progress in determining how to remove old information from the store and the software used for the store also continues to make "compliance" improvements. She chose the replacement product for our analytics, so that we can remove the too-intrusive Google Analytics, and it should be implemented soon.

Don Filand continues to do a great job editing and providing pictures for the Online Classification Guide. Thanks Don! Keep the information and pictures coming.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **National Show Booklet**

One question the committee has was regarding the Eugene Boeke award requirements. The information they have indicates all exhibitor groups are eligible for the award. It must have an award greater than its color class to win the award. After much discussion and reading the wording of the agreement, it was suggested to table this until April. Harry Risetto has several emails and other communication that he would like to peruse. We need this piece resolved so we can get the National Show Handbook completed. We need to come up with a way to honor the agreement but make it practical for us to use. We can put it in the National Show Book once we do that. Ohio can go ahead with what they have planned for 2021. Charles will send information to both Brad and Harry for them to go over and have a discussion with them. Another point about national shows is that some areas have venues that are too expensive so that is another point to consider. Costs that will make registration fees or hotels too high will discourage attendees. Hopefully, this guide will assist.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Open Committee Chair Positions**

Brad Freeman reported there are a few committee chair positions to be filled. One is the Image Library. The DVD is becoming old technology. Everything is now streaming, video, online content. In talking with Claudia, it is felt we need to move ahead to the new technology. Perhaps we could meld the Image Library with Publicity and Larry Smith would produce a video of the new introductions and make it available to societies and to the public. As a service to our hybridizers, we could put that information out there. We might be able to have a YouTube channel so that we can get information out to the public, including new introductions, trial garden, seedling bench evaluations. After much discussion, **Alli Richards moved that we combine the Marketing and Public Communications with the Image Library committee to have one overarching image ability to use for all things marketing and communications in ADS.** This would require Larry Smith to be the Chair of both Public Relations and Image Library. It is felt to include the scores and retail information. It was also requested that there is a way to have the individual pictures. Let's move this ahead to make this idea grow. Due to a lack of a second, the motion fell to the floor. We do have a membership in Vimeo, which Sharon feels is a little more professional.

### **2021 National Show**

Ron provided an update on the 2021 National Show. Dahlia Society of Ohio is proceeding on the assumption they will have a great show in Wooster, OH the weekend of September 9<sup>th</sup>. There are some important facts to be aware of. A signed waiver will be required for ADS, Midwest, DSO, and the organizers to not be held responsible. They may end up with limitations on the number of registrations. They are not sure how much advertising they will do, due to Covid limitations. The tour will require people who have been vaccinated and judges will be chosen based on vaccination. They plan to have seminars from both Dr. Pappu and Dr. Harkess. Donations will be accepted to help with the costs. For the ADS Annual meeting we may need to have a hybrid meeting with in-person and Zoom access.

## Seedling Evaluation Scorecard

Roger Walker provided information on a proposed update to the Seedling Scorecard. There is a committee working on updating the Judging Guidelines, so it makes sense to update the scorecard at the same time; it was last updated in 2011. There was discussion about the basic design and a model will be brought to the April meeting for discussion. The scorecard would not be used until the 2022 show season. Roger provided a history of the changes in scorecards from 1953 to the present. This design would provide form and color with half the score (50 points) with the remainder of the characteristics also worth 50 points. It is suggested that distinction be removed from the scorecards as it is not a physical characteristic and is not always used accurately. At this point the recommendations are:

- Form be placed before color
- Form be 30 points, color 20 points and all other characteristics be 10 points
- Judges subtotal the first two characteristics
- Judges subtotal the final five characteristics
- Distinction be eliminated
- Changes will go into effect in 2022
- Updated scorecards will be in the 2022 *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*

There was a suggestion of leaving a 2-point bonus for distinction for a truly distinctive dahlia. Dick Parshall presented the proposed scorecard to a few people for comments and most felt that a distinctive dahlia will score well, and it doesn't require more points for distinction. It is recommended to use decimals instead of fractions. We will look at it in April and then vote on it in June. There was discussion about the points and whether it would be better to use 60/40 or 70/30 rather than 50/50 since the bloom is the most important characteristic.

Brad thanked everyone for attending today for a longer than normal meeting.

The next meeting will be April 18, 2021, via Zoom, at 4 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

**Brad Freeman adjourned the meeting at 6:59 pm, EDT.**

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder

ADS General Secretary