

American Dahlia Society

Board meeting

November 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm EST by President Brad Freeman.

### **Present**

Board members present were Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Tony Evangelista, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Jerry Landerholm, Harry Rissetto, Ron Miner, Dana Miller, John Morton, James Romer, Alli Richards, Lou Paradise, Alan Fisher, Heather Ramsay, Cheryl Shores, Mel Epstein Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Debbie Pavich, Larry Smith, Roger Walker, Marilyn Walton, Anna Kandra and Sharon Swaney. Guests Steve Lamb and Lynda Quinn were also present.

### **Remembrances**

Dean Thomas of the Greater Philadelphia and National Capital Dahlia Societies passed away recently; we had a moment of silence for him and any others who recently passed.

### **Minutes**

**Bob Schroeder moved, and Lou Paradise seconded to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2021 meeting with a correction of the wrong date at the top. The motion passed.**

### **OFFICERS REPORTS**

#### **President**

Brad Freeman reports the 2021 growing season is coming to a close. It is time to dig and divide the dahlias to prepare for the next growing season and to provide stock for the spring tuber sales by local dahlia societies. Some individuals elect not to dig and divide their dahlias each year; in certain regions that is ok. There were more dahlia shows and related activities in 2021. The National Show hosted by the Dahlia Society of Ohio was a success and was enjoyed by those in attendance. The 2021 Seedling Bench Evaluation results are tabulated and now available on the ADS website. We are looking forward to the 2022 CHD that Lou Paradise and others have devoted many hours to prepare, thank you. The Executive Committee met on October 31st for an informal discussion on many topics. Going forward, the Executive Committee will be meeting on a regular basis. This will be helpful in establishing the operational priorities for the ADS and setting the agenda for upcoming Executive Board Meetings. We have two new vacancies on the Executive Board that need to be filled. Art Haskins has resigned as the Chair of the National Exhibitions Committee. This is a position the Executive Committee is working on filling. Another position that is open is the ADS Store Manager; Cammi Waggoner has resigned from that position. Brad will be drafting a brief description of the duties of the ADS Store Manager which will be emailed to all the ADS Reps. He is interested in hearing from individuals who are interested in this position. He is in the process of forming an ad hoc committee to conduct and tabulate the results of a survey of the ADS membership. There has been a surge of new memberships over the past couple of years; it is time to gather information from our

members which should be helpful for planning the future activities of the ADS. The survey will be emailed to all ADS members this winter. During our meeting on October 31st the Executive Committee agreed that we should have an in-person Executive Board meeting in the spring of 2022. A tentative date for the meeting will be March 4 – 6, 2022 at a location to be announced once we have confirmation from the local society hosting the meeting. Once that date is confirmed a schedule for the Executive Board meetings in 2022 will be prepared and disseminated to the Executive Board members.

### **Treasurer**

Charles Miehme reported the large net income includes the amount for the Genome Project. Below is the Treasurer's Report as of Oct 31, 2021. The ADS has exceeded the requirement for the Genome Project matching funds, but he will continue to accept contributions. The investment accounts are not doing well right now. There is nothing we can do with the A T & T account; Charles will look at the other holdings to see if we can do something better.

**Mark Oldenkamp moved, and Lou Paradise seconded to approve the financial report subject to audit. The motion passed.**

#### **TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 10/31/2021**

Ameriprise Account (restricted)	\$ 50,520.00
Ameriprise Account (unrestricted)	\$ 21,164.99
Vanguard Account	\$ 73,956.76
	<u>\$ 145,641.75</u>

#### **TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 08/31/2021**

Wells Fargo Bank Account	<u>\$ 93,534.94</u>
	\$ 239,176.69

#### **RESTRICTED FUNDS**

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

Virus Fund - Sheetz-Chuey Foundation	\$ 1,998.02
Genome Project	\$ 65,535.04
2021 National Show	\$ 50.00
2022 National Show	\$ 2,775.00
2023 National Show	<u>\$ 1,300.00</u>
Total Restricted	\$ 71,658.06

### **First Vice-President**

Mark Oldenkamp reports it is fairly quiet in his ADS role at this time. He needs to confirm updates to the ADS Reps and ADS Presidents in the GroupVine communication portal. He also will be updating the ADS org chart. He is pleased that the ADS Board is supportive of a 2022 planning meeting.

## **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT – Tony Evangelista**

Tony Evangelista reports he is looking forward in 2022 to:

- Finishing the revision of Guidelines to Judging Dahlias with our fine committee.
- Helping survey new members
- Working with Ron Miner and Randy Foith to increase participation in the Clean Stock Initiative in the Midwest Conference.

## **THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT – Ken Jensen**

Ken Jensen reports the Alberta Dahlia and Gladiolus Society will have their first meeting on Sunday since 2020. They will be hosting the 100<sup>th</sup> Canadian Glad Society celebration and the North American Gladiolus Conference annual meeting. They are always disappointed to not be able to send in leaf samples for virus testing as it takes too long to get through customs. Harry Risetto stated he sent a note to Ken about whether we have an outreach program in eastern Canada; it ought to be something we at least investigate.

## **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

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

Dana Miller reports heavy frost has come to The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society area. Needless to say, the dahlias are done, and the big dig has begun.

The pandemic continues to affect the society's operations, although to a lesser extent than in 2020. They were able to hold an in-person society picnic in August at the home of Wes and Annette Bowers. It was good to see everyone face mask to face mask! Educational seminars were conducted, and flower arrangements were made. A business meeting was held to figure out how we were going to put together a dahlia show at Longwood Gardens despite the absence of key society people, many of the usual exhibitors, a limited amount of lead time (one month!), a change of their regular show date from the third weekend to the second weekend in September, and major renovations at the venue.

Despite these challenges, the show came off well. They had over 80% of the usual display of entries (also somewhat hampered by the lateness of people's blooms coupled with the show being a week earlier). Due to the last-minute nature of the entire process, they were not able to procure their usual "flower show" judges. So, a major change had to be made in the Artistic Design division of the show. They eliminated our normal Artistic Design division and expanded their "Dilly Dahlia...ing" division to three classes. Two of these classes had guidelines (much like artistic design) and one was our normal "whatever you want to do" class. Since the winners of our Dilly Dahlia...ing division are chosen in a vote of the Longwood Gardens guests, the vote was extended to three different classes. The public enjoys this participation, and many are now expecting it to be there as soon as they enter the display area in the ballroom. Over 1500 votes were cast this year! They will consider this same approach to artistic design for next year's show, as getting judges is an increasing challenge.

Longwood's renovations have made meeting space unavailable to them for now. They will have a Zoom meeting on November 30, at 7 pm. Hopefully the March meeting and May tuber sale will be at Longwood Gardens once again.

Gettysburg Dahlia Society's 14th Annual Show in Harbaugh-Thomas Library in Biglerville, PA, on September 2-4 was well represented with spectacular entries. Attendance was up for what was probably one of their better shows to date.

The National Capital Dahlia Society will continue having their monthly hybrid meetings. On the last weekend in September, their annual show returned to beautiful Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland. It was well attended with lots of high-quality blooms. For the weekend of September 11 and 12, the club membership split up, with some attending the National Show in Wooster, Ohio, and others competing in The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society show. Members had many entries make it to both head tables.

The NCDS Trial Garden had a successful year educating people about dahlias as well as wowing them with its spectacular array of color. There were many new introductions which received much needed Trial Garden scores and provided subjects for their members on which to practice judging. The group of very dedicated volunteers put the Trial Garden to bed on a perfect Halloween day

### **MIDWEST CONFERENCE – Randy Foith**

Randy Foith reports the Midwest DC closed the season with some local societies holding open meetings and others zooming. Fears of Covid are still quite real and they pray that all can be safe. Some of the local societies are struggling with filling executive board positions and expanding membership. All are the recipe for success! The MDC Board proudly welcomes the addition of two exceptionally good and qualified people in Monique Volden of the Minnesota DS and Keith Berven of the Southeastern Michigan DS.

The Dahlia Society of Ohio should be proud of their hosting of the National/Midwest Show in Wooster, Ohio. There were many blooms for the public to see; more than was expected. That's a good thing! The ADS web site is loaded with photos by Alan Fisher and a video by Bob Schroeder, so take time to view them. They appreciate the Dahlia Society of Ohio putting on a successful national and Midwest conference show.

They will be working on the "Clean Stock Initiative" to promote more awareness in getting virus free plants to our members. Under the guidance of Ron Miner and with the help of Tony Evangelista and Randy Foith to lead this team effort they feel confident that this will improve the push for clean plant stock. "If in doubt, throw it out"!

As this is written, they are getting the first snow of the season. Dahlias are all put to bed for their long journey toward spring. The third issue of the Midwest Dahlia Report is set to be emailed in a few days. Board Trustee and editor, Jim Kassner, pushed this idea to fruition. The great news is that the Canadian/USA border is slowly opening. After all, "We have many members and friends north of the border". Let us look forward to an even brighter 2022 season of dahlias.

### **NORTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE – Ed Bonci**

Brad Freeman reported he will try to contact Ed Bonci to talk with him about his availability to continue as the North Atlantic Conference representative as we haven't had any information from that conference in a while.

## **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE – Mark Oldenkamp**

Mark Oldenkamp reports it is a quiet end of the season time. It is hoped that next year some of the societies most impacted by the Covid situation will be able to have regular meetings and will feel comfortable hosting an annual show. The annual conference meeting will be held in the Spring. They will be hosting the ADS annual planning meeting in early March.

The Portland Dahlia Society will soon be ramping up the planning for the 2023 National show. They look forward to hosting a spectacular celebration of dahlias in late August 2023. Fundraising for this National Show hopefully will allow them to keep the participation costs affordable for a large participation.

## **SOUTHERN STATES CONFERENCE – JAMES ROMER**

James Romer reports Covid-19 put a damper on many of the regularly scheduled activities in the Southern States Conference. No society-supported shows were held in 2021. However, county and state fairs were held, many of which had a dahlia division as part of their competitive exhibits. One of the last to be held was at the North Carolina State Fair October 21.

Alabama had two meetings this past year due to Covid-19. They hope to start monthly meetings this coming spring in March, held at members' homes.

The Georgia Dahlia Society had no show in 2020 and 2021. They do have a good mentoring program. The society is healthy with 66 ADS memberships and a total of ninety-nine members.

Many members said that 2021 was one of their best growing seasons. In Tennessee, they have been meeting at members' homes and gardens this year and are having a wonderful and informative time seeing the different ways their members grow dahlias. The meetings have been well attended and members were drawn closer and learned from one another.

Their next meeting will be held in February to get a new season started and plan for their spring tuber sales. Southern States welcome the Central Carolina Dahlia Society as the newest in the region. They had their first meeting in the middle of July and have been going strong ever since. Their August meeting had nearly forty people in attendance. A monthly newsletter is published with good dahlia information and highlights a different member of the society.

Thanks to those who helped contribute information for this report. They look forward to getting back to a more regular schedule in 2022!!

## **FEDERATION OF NORTHWEST DAHLIA GROWERS – Alli Richards**

The Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers has had a wonderful year coming out of a non-year. Most of our clubs were able to hold shows this year. While they might not have been as well attended as in the past, our members and the public were out in force to enjoy the blooms and learn about dahlias.

Our judging workshops were also well attended. We have discovered that we need to focus a bit on the newer micro classes. There is still some confusion in the judging and set up of these classes. This will be thoroughly addressed at our 2022 workshops. Many of our members attended the Tacoma Trial Garden judging class to judge seedlings. It

seems there will be a few judges advancing to their next level for the 2022 season. The Federation recommends using the term mignon instead of micro if this becomes permanent.

Each club has discussed their show dates for 2022. There are a few shows on the same weekend, but they are geographically distant, so conflicts are kept to a minimum.

The Dahlia Legacy Project is continuing to move forward. A “short” list of legends to start gathering information on has been created for each club. A couple of reports/interviews have been started for our past legends. Our member clubs are actively engaging with this project. Noticeable progress should be able to be made for 2022. We are also using this project to help our members complete their judging advancement project. This will be a benefit to our members, the clubs, the FNWDG, and the dahlia community as a whole.

We voted on our officers for the next two-year period. President – Wayne Lobaugh, Vice President – Alli Richards, Secretary – Terry Schroeder, Treasurer – Rosemary Freeman. They are looking forward to the new introductions and a successful 2022!

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Advertising**

Jessica Becker reports for the December issue of the Bulletin, there are eight retailers who are advertising. There are three full page, three half page and two quarter page ads.

The most notable departure from the previous December issues is that Swan Island and Dan's Dahlias didn't advertise (usually they have the front cover/back cover positions). Multiple calls and emails were made with no response. Swan Island has a larger presence on social media advertising than last year, so perhaps they're changing where they advertise. There might be the opportunity for us to also offer advertising through our social media channels in the future - might be worth discussing and she would be happy to work with Anna if there is interest.

In total, 113 different retailers have been contacted, I will reach out to all who didn't commit to advertising sometime in December to see if they're interested in the March issue. She is keeping a running spreadsheet of who she has contacted and shared it with the board. She is open to suggestions about someone to contact.

### **ADS Store**

Brad Freeman reports Cammi Waggoner resigned but will continue through the end of the year. He is in the process of looking for a new store manager. The position will require storage for a certain amount of inventory.

### **Classification**

Lou Paradise reports for the 2021 growing season, the Classification Committee had requests to change the classification of twenty-seven cultivars. Nineteen of these cultivars will change classification for 2022. The 2022 Classification Book is complete and sent to the printer. Because there were no cultivars that were removed from the 2022 CHD, the book has grown from 1882 cultivars to 2087. This added eight more pages to the CHD. Once the pilot period is over for the micro classification, if it is

recommended to keep these classes, the classification committee will decide whether to call it micro or mignon.

They will be working on the Cream of the Crop and the Fabulous Fifty next. They hope to have this completed in the next several weeks; but want to take a much-needed break from looking at numbers.

This year we had a tie for the Stanley Johnson Award, HOLLYHILL BLACK BEAUTY and BLOOMQUIST JEAN. Congratulation to Ted & Margaret Kennedy and Paul Bloomquist for winning the Stanley Johnson awards. This is nice since there was no winner for 2020. The winner of the Stanley Johnson photo contest this year is Richard Parshall. He has decided to accept a framed CHD cover. The new Connell Award was captured by Clearview Butterscotch originated by Richard Parshall.

Thanks to everyone who helped them with our questions and get all the data to them.

### **Editor**

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports the 2021 December *Bulletin* is completed and final proofed as of November 7. The Show Report Booklet is in the process of being collated and prepared for press as well. They received an excellent response to the call for Show Reports. It is still a bit of a challenge but improving. Thank you to Donna Lane, Show Reports Editor, for her work above and beyond to get club reporters to use the excel format for reporting, or failing that, for her work re-formatting or re-typing reports. They are making progress and are optimistic about continuing to bring more clubs on board with the established format. Thanks to all who have helped with this. Thank you also to our new Advertising Manager, Jessica Becker, for her initiative and endurance, following up on our regular advertisers, and bringing new advertising on board. We are indeed fortunate to have Jessica and Donna on our Editorial Team; our Bulletin can only be better for the addition of such hardworking, committed, and capable people.

They look forward to a timely mailing of the Bulletin, Show Report Book and the 2022 Classification Guide and Handbook of Dahlias. Lou is putting the finishing touches on this important resource, and look forward to it when all is computed.

### **Finance**

Harry Risetto reports the Society is in good shape financially, notwithstanding market vibrations. Membership increases have helped. The treasurer will continue to monitor the financial markets.

The Contributions envelope generates sufficient income to warrant continuing it. We have been advised that the Genome Project has achieved its current fund-raising goal. The Insurance program continues to provide value to the Local Societies.

At the Spring Meeting, the ADS Executive Board should consider a project that will provide value to the members and Local Societies.

### **Garden Dahlia**

Alan Fisher reports it's a busy time in our area trying to dig up and process tubers before the ground freezes. Nothing new for garden dahlias this time of year. Remember to visit us at the ADS National Show next September. Dahlia calendars still available -- great holiday gifts.

## **Historian**

Harry Risetto reports he received a *Bulletin* from 1920 but still needs the rest of that decade. Roger states he has some and will send to Harry when he has the time

## **Image Library**

Heather Ramsay gives thanks to all who have sent in photos for the New Introductions Slideshow this year. Hopefully, the program will be ready for the website in a week or so. Two versions, one in PDF, downloadable and clickable and another that will be voice over and downloadable. Both will be available on the website. Once it is ready, Mark will send an email to ADS Reps.

## **Insurance**

Cheryl Shores reports the insurance front has been quiet. She received one request for a Certificate of Insurance (COI) for 2022 for dates after our current contract year. She informed them that Mercer can't issue a COI until we have a new contract for 2022-2023. Cheryl will be turning everything over to Mel Epstein at the end of the year. Mercer is getting some quotes from other insurance companies. Mel will investigate D & O insurance for the board in the first part of 2022.

## **Judging Accreditation**

Bob Schroeder reports he will be collecting club judging information from judging chairs for the 2022 ADS Judging Roster after the first of the year. The committee for updating the *Guidelines to Judging Dahlias* is still meeting and plan to release a draft to the ADS Board soon. They won't know costs until they can get bids once it is formatted, but they anticipate costs will be similar to what it has been. The curriculum committee is also progressing with a curriculum for the three levels of judges and visual programs for assisting in judges training.

## **Membership**

Elva Sellens reports this has been a busy year for new membership. As of 11/12/21, there has been 633 new memberships - 595 U.S. and 38 Canadian. Of these memberships, there were 487 U.S. individual and 36 Canadian individual memberships, and 107 U.S. family membership (x2 = 214) and 2 Canadian family memberships (x2= 4) for a total of 741 new members. This is more than double from the previous year. There was no way to predict this increase in new members for this year.

We have three new dahlia societies in 2021 – Yankee Dahlia Society, Central Carolina Dahlia Society, and a recently formed dahlia society – Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society. Of the three new societies, Yankee Dahlia Society is only an Affiliated Dahlia Society with seven members of which five are new members. Central Carolina Dahlia Society has thirty-seven members of which twenty-five are new members. Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society has seventeen members of which fourteen are new members. We have hit top marks with membership this year with 2,645 members.

## **U.S. Membership**

There are 1,897 memberships - 1,372 individual memberships and 523 family memberships (x2 = 1,046) for a total of 2,418 U.S. members. We have 57 Participating Societies and 3 Affiliated Societies.



## **Canadian Membership**

There are 161 memberships - 112 individual memberships and 49 family memberships (x2= 98) for a total of 210 members. They have 9 Participating Societies and 1 Affiliated Society. The Affiliated Society, New Brunswick Dahlia Society notified Elva that they disbanded in July 2021 but will be included since dues were paid for 2021.

## **Other Foreign**

There are seventeen other foreign memberships.

## **Total Membership**

The total members including the three above categories as of 11/12/21 is 2,645.

## **National Exhibition**

Brad Freeman reports that Art Haskins has resigned his position. Brad thanked him for his dedication and service for 32 years in the position as National Exhibition Chair. Brad is working on finding a replacement.

## **New Society Coordinator**

Rosemary Freeman reports there continues to be a lot of interest in starting new societies. She received seven requests for information since early July (with 5 in October), two from Washington State, 1 in California, two from Southern New Jersey, one from Western North Carolina, and one from Southern Vermont into New Hampshire. She will check back with these individuals to talk about their progress or see if they have any questions.

In the future, she would like to be able give those trying to start a new society the Regional Vice President's information in the area about their interest and ask them to help new societies in any way they can. She is knowledgeable about the West Coast area and know the people that will help and how things are done here in our societies. There are regional differences, so she hopes the Regional VP's will consider helping our new societies as part of their job too.

Starting a new society is a little like starting dahlias from seed, only one in a thousand will actually bloom into a beautiful flower. Since we started this project in the year 2008, we have helped seventeen societies become a part of our ADS dahlia family. And we have a brand-new society to vote into our dahlia family today.

Randy Miller and his group in Boise, Idaho have worked long and hard to get going. They have sent their membership information and funds to Elva to become a Participating Society in the ADS. Their society name is The Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society. Please vote them in and welcome them to our dahlia family.

## **Photography**

Debbie Pavich reports the deadline for submitting photos is Dec 1, 2021, to [photocontest@dahlia.org](mailto:photocontest@dahlia.org). Entries have been coming in so spread the word. The "people's choice" photos will be judged online in January.

## **Publicity/Public Relation**

Larry Smith reports dahlia activities remained limited this year, but there have been some events to cover. Larry Smith created a Ten-Minute Tour of the Canby Trial Garden video, published to YouTube and Vimeo, providing education on how a trial

garden works and showing photos of the entries. This is also available on the ADS website and social media, <https://youtu.be/30nDktn1PNY>. Also available on YouTube and the ADS website is a highlight video of the Portland Dahlia Society 2021 show. Due to covid restrictions, the show had to be a private event this year, members and exhibitors only, but attracted a respectable number of blooms, <https://youtu.be/30nDktn1PNY>. Please do share the videos with anyone who may like to see them; they were created to spark interest in dahlia growing and showing.

Larry contacted several print media outlets with press releases highlighting ADS member successes in this year's National Show. To date, two publications printed articles regarding National Best of Show winners who found ways to successfully carry blooms across the country in an airplane cabin. He has not been able to get traction making cold calls as an unknown, it is imperative that Larry get help from ADS Board members with getting contact names of media members in different areas of the country that can help us shine the light on the good work which our organization is doing. This is an ongoing request; we will be much stronger with such teamwork.

Brad Freeman had previously announced that the ADS New Introductions "CD" be done electronically this year to be more easily shared as a resource to societies and members. Larry was asked to create the video and is awaiting additional information.

There was a suggestion to have a video from each trial garden; if someone can take a video and send to Larry he can edit and produce. There was discussion about local societies getting information to Larry and how he can assist with local publicity. There was discussion about putting press releases on the website for media to pick up and use. The medal winners have been announced so if you would like Larry to help get information out locally about any of these winners, please contact him.

### **Research and Education**

Ron Miner reports Professor Pappu's team at WSU completed the 2021 virus tests a couple of weeks ago and are in the process of analyzing the results. There is continuing evidence that shows following the recommended practices makes it likely that a clean garden will stay clean over the season.

Ron was disappointed that only eight clubs took advantage of the opportunity to test sets of thirty samples at half cost. Mixtures of TSWV, INSV, and TSV were detected in each of the sets analyzed. The DSO samples showed the least virus with four of the thirty samples testing positive for INSV. Results from the other clubs ranged from 26% to 70%. The key point is that even the club that tested 70% positive for virus had nine clean plants and a lot of clean tubers to use in their spring propagation and plant sales projects next spring.

Clean stock is a valuable commodity. I invite each Executive Board member to encourage their club to participate in the project next year. Jim Chuey has agreed that the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation will again cover half the cost of the tests.

Ron congratulated Kristine Albrecht on succeeding to acquire the matching funds required to cover Zach Meharg's genome project thesis work with Professor Alex Harkess at Auburn University.

## **Genome Sequencing**

Kristine Albrecht reports there are a few exciting fronts on the ADS Genome Project. First, the \$23,000 Phase Two Genome Project match generously offered up by the Scheets-Chuey Foundation has been matched with donations from ADS Dahlia Societies, individual donors, and friends of ADS. Thank you to all who donated to this important work.

Second, Zach Mehard, the graduate student doing the work for this section of the project, has switched to a PhD program. The dahlia will now get five years of study not just two! Dr. Harkess is working on two grants to help fund the extra three years.

Third, see below Dr. Harkess' report and the work that is currently being accomplished.

The Dahlia genome project is moving forward quickly. Recently, Zach Meharg has switched to a PhD due to his immense progress and drive on this project. Kristine Albrecht has secured three growers nearby in Huntsville, Birmingham, and Ringgold GA, who have successfully grown rhizomes from several dahlia species, at least one of which we hope to be a tetraploid instead of octoploid. Zach extracted DNA from all five dahlia species for shotgun sequencing to assess species heterozygosity, ploidy, and genome size. He has sampled diverse floral and vegetative tissue for RNA sequencing. They will only attempt sequencing a tetraploid species for the genome project: octoploid will be impossible with current funding and personnel. Currently, they have Illumina genome sequencing data in hand for four species — rudis, coccinea, brevis, and sorensii, plus the Thomas Edison cultivar. Zach is currently running GenomeScope2 to estimate genome size, heterozygosity, and ploidy of these individuals. Additionally, he will assemble chloroplast genomes for phylogenetic use. Zach has also reached out to globally located gardens and herbaria to collect tissue from all species of dahlia to build a phylogenetic tree that will help elucidate the putative parents of the modern octoploid cultivar. If anyone in the ADS has wild species dahlia tubers they are willing to send, we would be appreciative!

## **Seedling Bench Evaluation**

Roger Walker reports the 2021 seedling bench evaluation results are posted on the ADS website and will be published in the December *Bulletin*.

As expected, the number of bench evaluation entries was down from pre-pandemic times. The average number of passing scores per year from 2017 to 2019 was 204; in 2021 we had 125. This is a snapshot of only the number of scoring entries; those that don't score are not reported. However, with fewer than twenty bench evaluation scores reported in 2020, the trend is certainly in the right direction. For 2022, Roger will have the application and materials on the website for societies to print.

There was discussion about how soon information on trial garden and seedling bench can be made available on the website. The board decided it can be put out as soon as the information is completed by Marilyn, Roger and Lou and should be done no later than mid-November.

Kudos to Lou Paradise for his assistance in reconciling the wild classification disparities among the various trial garden and bench evaluation reports.

## **Social Media**

Anna Kandra reports the following stats:

Facebook followers: 4,022

Facebook group members: 5,856

Instagram followers: 4,936

Anna will post reminders about the photo contest and other end-of-year events. There are currently 3,500 subscriptions to the ADS newsletter.

## **Special Awards**

Jerry Landerholm thanked all involved in the Dahlia Society of Ohio for hosting a great 2021 ADS National Show. It was nice to reunite with friends and especially rewarding for Special Awards to make medal presentations once again at this year's event. Specifics regarding "who was awarded what" appears on the ADS website and will be printed in the December 2021 *Bulletin* and the General Secretary's report of the Annual Meeting.

Over many years, the ADS has maintained a close relationship with the National Dahlia Society (NDS) of the United Kingdom. During that time, we have provided our ADS Bronze Medal for their show awards program called the "American Medal Class." We replenished their supply late this summer and based on prior usage, they should now have enough for five or six years. The NDS sent us three beautiful medals suggesting they be awarded at our national shows. I will coordinate sending this medal to the National Show host societies for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024.

When Special Awards receives information on the 2021 winners of the Seedling Bench, Trial Garden, Stanley Johnson, and Lester Connell competitions, Jerry will have those medals engraved and distributed. Supplies are getting low on the Dudley, Hart and Gullikson and will need to get pricing

## **Trial Garden**

Marilyn Walton reports all the trial gardens ran in a normal fashion this season. Judging commenced and was completed in a timely manner. She had communication problems which she hopes can be resolved during our off season. Together, our trial gardens scored just less than 80 entries. She is printing the certificates for originators. Certificates will be mailed to Brad for his signature and mailed to Terry for her signature and the gold seals. Once Marilyn gets them back, she will mail to the originators.

There are changes at several of the longtime trial gardens. Gary Plowman who has served as the director of the Inland Empire TG in Spokane has resigned. He will be replaced by Sally Colwell who is enthusiastic to get started. We thank Gary for his dedicated service and his many TG reports over the years. The director of the North Central TG in Minnesota has also resigned, and he will be replaced by Heidi Zierdt. I do not know Heidi but have heard some very encouraging reports that she is perfect for the job. Several weeks ago, she received an email from Phil Newton in Victoria, BC asking if it would be possible for their club to once again support a trial garden. He indicated that the club has had an exhibition garden for 5 years in a public park where they have volunteers that meet each Tuesday during the season. Phil is willing to take on the job of director. While he admits that they currently have a shortage of certified judges, he

has two plans to take care of the problem. First, he hopes to get more judges on board and to get an educational program up and running. Second, the club will invite judges from Vancouver and Fraser Valley clubs to come for a judging day. I do think it is an exciting idea to have two trial gardens in Canada, making it a little easier on the Canadian originators. Phil also understands the garden would be probationary for two years and that scoring entries would not be included in medal totals. We should remember that the clubs who support our trial gardens are doing all of us a favor. Learning how varieties grow in other parts of the countries is helpful. The judges also get hands-on training to see how different a variety will look in a garden versus a show venue.

### **Website**

Sharon Swaney continues to update the website as information is provided. Lots of National Show follow-up has been posted, as well as information about ADS awards (to people), Seedling Bench results, and partial ADS awards (to blooms).

Some local show results were posted. Only about a quarter of the local societies submitted information even with the very relaxed rules for 2021 submissions. One high point, however, was the very inventive report from The Portland Dahlia Society. They provided a video of their show!

Many of the trial gardens have submitted pictures for 2021. Thanks to photographers Bob Schroeder, Claudia Biggs, Debbie Hatt, Cammi Waggoner, and Linda Taylor for their contributions. The pictures are formatted and ready to go. Lou Paradise reported he received a request from the originator of CHiTos requested the name be changed to CHiWalker.

Please remember, Sharon can only post information that has been provided to her. She requests that ADS Representatives and ADS Committee Chairs help keep the website updated and interesting by providing pertinent, timely information. ADS members are also encouraged to provide information. Ideas for improving and enhancing the website are always welcome.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **National Show Booklet**

Brad Freeman reported the booklet is still being worked on. They need to get the final edit done and then out to everyone.

#### **Membership**

Brad Freeman reported we have many at-large members. We discussed having the ADS Reps help them find a local society for them to become involved with in the hopes it would help with retention of these members. Hopefully, Elva could produce a list, perhaps by zip code and then she and Mark could get this information sent to the regional vice presidents so they could contact people and provide them information on a local dahlia society in their area.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society**

Brad Freeman reported we have a new dahlia society, the Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society. Rosemary Freeman stated Randy Miller has been working on getting this

society together for over a year. He's been successful in getting members. We would like to vote them in to the ADS. **Alli Richards moved, and Mark Oldenkamp seconded to accept them as a participating dahlia society. The motion passed.** Sharon Swaney asked for a couple of sentences to put on the website to welcome them.

### **Regional VP for Southern States Conference**

Brad Freeman reported we have a new regional vice-president for the Southern States Conference. **Ron Miner moved and Jerry Landerholm seconded to accept James Romer as the regional vice-president for the Southern States Conference. The motion passed.**

### **Trial Garden Videos in 2022**

Brad Freeman mentioned that he would like to have a 10-to 15-minute trial garden video from each garden for 2022.

### **Spring 2022 Executive Board Meeting/2022 Meeting Calendar**

We are looking at March 2022 for the executive board meeting in Portland, OR tentatively March 4-6. Brad intends to get a schedule out for our meetings in 2022.

Harry Risetto reported that he is involved in finances for the 2022 national show. They have been trying to determine ways to raise money so they can keep registration costs down. The show will be at the Sheraton Dulles Hotel. One thing they plan to do is to have people to sign up to sponsor awards for either a society or individual. Anyone who contributes \$100 or more will receive a golf shirt as a patron of the show. He asked about using the ADS Reps/President distribution list to send information about donations to support the 2022 national show and all agreed that would be appropriate.

The next board meeting will be February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm PST or 4 pm EST.

**Lou Paradise moved, and Bob Schroeder seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm, EST.**

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder

ADS General Secretary