

American Dahlia Society

Board meeting

June 27, 2021

President Brad Freeman called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm EDT.

Present

Board members present were Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Tony Evangelista, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Harry Rissetto, Dana Miller, John Morton, Alli Richards, Jessica Becker, Lou Paradise, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Anna Kandra, Alan Fisher, Claudia Biggs, Heather Ramsay, Cheryl Shores, Mel Epstein, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Debbie Pavich, Larry Smith, Kristine Albrecht, Roger Walker, Marilyn Walton, and Sharon Swaney. Guests present were Nick Weber.

Memorial

Brad Freeman asked for a moment of silence for Larry Manwell, of the Seattle and Snohomish County Dahlia Societies who recently passed away in March.

Minutes

Mark Oldenkamp moved, and Lou Paradise seconded to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2021 meeting as written. The motion passed.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Brad Freeman reports the interest in the dahlia continues to be strong especially for home gardeners and the cut-flower trade. This interest has helped keep the membership in the ADS within its normal range; we did not experience a sharp decline in memberships over the past twelve months. There will be more ADS activities this year as the COVID-19 health and safety requirements are relaxed. However, we still need to be prudent and keep abreast of any changes that may affect what is planned for the year. Over the past year many local dahlia societies were able to keep engaged with their members through on-line meetings and events. I am concerned about those local dahlia societies that have been dormant for over the past year and how well they will bounce back. We need to be vigilant and help those local dahlia societies as needed. I am pleased to announce that Mel Epstein of the Rhode Island Dahlia Society has agreed to Chair the Insurance Committee when Cheryl Shores steps down. Mel is retired from a career in medicine and the bio-tech industry. In retirement he is devoting his energy towards growing, exhibiting, and hybridizing dahlias. In addition, Mel is an ADS Accredited Judge and avid photographer as well. In my conversation with Mel about the ADS insurance program we discussed how the ADS should be helping the local dahlia societies understand and mitigate the risks inherent with their activities. Mel's background as an executive in the bio-tech industry will bring a new perspective on the insurance offered by the ADS. Recently I received an email from Jessica Becker of the Dahlia Society of Ohio regarding the open positions on the ADS Executive Board. My response was to let her know that the ADS was looking for an Advertising Manager for the Bulletin. Jessica responded favorably to taking on this

role and will be contacting both Linda Holmes-Cook and Teresa Bergman regarding the Bulletin advertising. Jessica is a newer dahlia grower with a background in web and digital design and has worked for other non-profits. The updated National Show Guidelines are being edited and will be ready for review this fall. We have National Shows scheduled for the next several years. However, we do need to find locations for National Shows starting in 2025. I know that I sound like a broken record on this, but this is important for the ADS. Also, I know the work that is involved with planning a National Show; the more time available to prepare, the better. The ADS is here to help any local dahlia societies interested in hosting a National Dahlia Show; just ask. One of the topics of discussion for the Executive Board meeting on June 27th will be the intellectual properties of the ADS. An interesting inquiry was made this spring regarding using the ADS four-digit classification system for dahlias in a phone app that an individual is developing. The individual making the request is an ADS member and is familiar with the use of ADS classification system. A licensing agreement would be negotiated and signed prior to allowing this individual to use the ADS classification system in this phone app. It is yet to be determined if there would be any financial reward for the ADS for granting the license. Please give this some thought in the context of these questions: 1) do we want to license our intellectual properties, 2) to whom we would license our intellectual properties and 3) for what purposes would we license our intellectual properties. He is pleased to have individuals who have stepped up to take over vacant or soon-to-be vacant positions and their support of the ADS. Brad received responses from individuals in the Southern States Conference to be a regional vice-president for the ADS.

Treasurer

Charles Miehme reported The Society is in good condition financially. The major change from the last report is the investment accounts. The decline in the Vanguard account is due to a drop in the value of Intel and AT&T stocks. The Ameriprise account is down due to a decline in the AT&T stock but is currently stable. Since this report was sent, he has received additional membership funds and a donation to the Portland National Show.

Art Haskins moved, and Bob Schroeder seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. The motion passed.

TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 05/31/2021

Ameriprise Account (restricted)	\$ 58,860.00
Ameriprise Account (unrestricted)	\$ 19,784.14
Vanguard Account	\$ 81,366.69
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	\$160,010.83

TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 06/20/21

Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$ 74,364.77
	\$ 234,375.60

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	\$ 50.00
Total Restricted	\$ 43,170.08

First Vice-President

Mark Oldenkamp reports things have been quiet since the April board meeting. Most everyone was busy with dahlia sales and planting. He has made updates to the GroupVine system and need to make more updates. He also will make the updates to the org chart for the various positions where changes are happening.

The Central Coast Dahlia Society contacted Mark seeking guidance on how to conduct a first society run show. This society is growing and enthusiastic.

He has heard from many sources that demand for dahlia tubers was high this year and hope this means new growers and future ADS members.

The 2020 ADS Trial Garden medals won by hybridizers in our region have been or will be presented to the winners soon. Some of our clubs have started to have meetings again so this should create an opportunity to do this with a bit of fanfare. Our biggest positive is getting volunteers for the open positions we have or will have. Mark will add them to the appropriate accounts on GroupVine.

Second Vice-President

Tony Evangelista reports the Dahlia Society of Ohio continues to work on the details of this year's National Show. Registrations are starting to come in and everyone is looking forward to a nice and safe show. The Guidelines to Judging Dahlias committee continues to make excellent progress on updating the manual. Cooperation and idea sharing have been extremely satisfying and rewarding. They hope to finish in a timely manner.

Third Vice-President

Ken Jensen reports they are starting to open. The Trial Garden in Alberta is planted. Some shows are going ahead. Hopefully, they will be back to normal soon and be able to travel back and forth soon.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Dahlia Conference – Dana Miller

Dana Miller reports The National Capital Dahlia Society continues to have their monthly Zoom meetings, but soon will have in-person gatherings. They have a mid-summer show scheduled August 22, 2021, in Derwood, Maryland, at the Montgomery County Agricultural Historical Park. Their annual show will be held once again at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland on the weekend of September 24-26. A core group of members faithfully maintains the Mid-Atlantic Trial Garden in Derwood.

Gettysburg Dahlia Society has their show on Friday, September 4th.

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society is still not anywhere near back to normal. No meetings are scheduled, but rumor has it they might have a picnic/meeting in August. Longwood Gardens has not yet given permission for the annual show to be held September 17th through the 19th but may be a go. They are supposed to get the final answer sometime in July. However, based on our tuber sales (conducted by members out of their homes!) and public interest in dahlias, I foresee a boom in our membership as well as attendance at our shows when things get back to normal. We can only hope that will be sooner rather than later.

MIDWEST CONFERENCE – Randy Foith

The Midwest Dahlia Conference has a full slate of activities scheduled for this year. The 2021 Spring Meeting and Plant Auction in Goshen, Indiana was the first event to jump start the conference on June 5th. The weather was great, and the attendance was spectacular. Everyone was waiting to get together after the long haul dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. The event was hosted by the Elkhart DS. The meeting was followed by a program entitled, "Diagnosing Dahlia Viruses" by Robert Emmitt, a plant pathologist working with Agdia, Inc. of Elkhart, IN. All enjoyed the program! After the program, we all enjoyed a delicious box lunch and then on to the Plant Auction. Jim Kassner and Tony Evangelista shared the auctioneering. These two livened the sales up to a high level! The Dahlia Society of Ohio will host the 2021 combined National/Midwest shows in Wooster, OH. The proceeds from the plant auction will help them offset costs of that show. The National/Midwest Show will be a nice show to attend. Wooster, OH sits in the heart of Amish Country, laid back with so much to do. And again, "Won't it be great to re-establish our old friendships. Hope to see you all there, my friends!

The next conference event on August 14th will be a judging clinic and picnic at the Bonneville Trial Garden in Elkhart, IN. Some of the best judges from throughout the Midwest conference will be there to judge the Trial Garden. Starting the latter part of August, all the local society shows will be in high gear. Most of the Exhibitors will have the tires turning and heading from show to show to compete. Let us hope for a good growing season for all!

The Midwest DC started putting out "The Midwest Dahlia Report" via email to keep the members in the loop. Jim Kassner is the Editor with help from Sharon Swaney with formatting. We all have a read for those empty time slots during the off season. See you in Wooster!

Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reports weather markets are common for corn and soybean farmers. PNDC dahlia farmers are experiencing a weather market. Rainfall totals for April, May and June are far below normal and near historical lows. On the day of this ADS meeting

the Portland weather forecast predicts an all-time high temperature of about 115 degrees. Despite this, the interest in growing dahlias has increased significantly.

The societies of the PNDC vary widely in how they have been affected by Covid-19. Portland seems to have prospered and tried to be supportive of the other groups, especially in Oregon. Nanaimo has very effectively used zoom meetings to present quality programming. As the end to the major Covid-19 restrictions seem to be ending, it is hoped clubs that have struggled will rally. There are reports that most societies are planning a show this year. Formal judges training in the conference is not planned for 2021, but members are encouraged to take advantage of other online opportunities.

The Canby Trial Garden entries were planted in mid-May. It is hoped that the blooms will be fabulous and there will be plenty of judges to get them scored.

Laura and Mark have registered for the National show in September. He hopes others (who have been vaccinated) will be able to gather in Ohio. Shows dates in PNDC were adjusted to eliminate the conflict with the National show date.

Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference

John Morton reports the Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference is slow to get started from the Covid-19 issues. The John E. Stowell Society, Dahlia Society of California and San Diego County Dahlia Societies will not have shows as venues have not opened. The County Fair in Monterey will have an opportunity for members to show but no formal Monterey Bay Dahlia Show. The Central Coast Dahlia Society will hold their first annual show in August. The San Leandro Dahlia Society is scrambling to find a venue as they would very much like to have a show this year.

Southern States Conference

Brad Freeman reports he has been in contact with a couple of people in the Southern States Conference to try to get a Regional Vice President for them. He has some prospective persons to take on this position.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Alli Richards reports their summer workshop is planned for July 17th via Zoom. Attendance is reaching a wider range of members being by Zoom. They may investigate having hybrid workshops in the future to keep all members engaged. The presentation for the summer workshop will contain the following: staging blooms for the shows, making basket entries. The last presentation will be each club's representative detailing their club's show information. Federation members are excited to have shows again this year! It will be great to see the blooms and all the smiling faces of our extended dahlia family.

Our judging workshop is scheduled for the following Saturday, July 24th. The accredited to senior and candidate to accredited classes will be held via Zoom. Typically, we have two workshops on this weekend, one in the northern area of Washington State, and one that is more southern to help with travel times for our members. By utilizing Zoom this year all participants will benefit from having the northern and southern instructors in one class. What a great way to learn from the comfort of your home! For the beginning class, entry into judging and learning to become a candidate judge, there will be class work sent for the participants to complete on their own as well as an in-person class. Since the Canadian border is closed, there will be one class in Washington State and

one in Vancouver, BC. They will be in outdoor venues that will allow for social distancing as well as plenty of ventilation.

Our Dahlia Annual and Combined Show Book is at the printer. This is a publication that our FNWDG eagerly await in the spring. To allow for more time for the clubs to determine if they could host a show as well as adjust their show schedules if needed, it is being printed later. It is so nice knowing this publication is being created for the 2021 season and we can have shows, even if they might be a little more limited than typical years. I know one club eliminated some of their special classes to allow for more room to spread out entries while still catering to what the public loves to see. There has been a suggestion to add some additional people to our Zoom Judging Class if we have space.

We wish everyone at the ADS a bountiful growing season and many blue ribbons!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advertising

As noted in Brad Freeman's report, there is an interest from Jessica Becker, from the DSO in the advertising chair position. She is talking with Teresa Bergman and Linda Holmes-Cook to determine if this is a good position for her.

ADS Store

Brad Freeman reports he knows the store is functioning as he continues to receive orders for PSDA publications.

Classification

Lou Paradise reports there is not much going on right now in classification; he can't wait for the show reports to come in. He will be sending out the show reporting form to societies before July.

Editor

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports the ADS *Bulletin* arrived in a timely manner during the month of March. Many were literally stunned when the issues showed up in our mailboxes within the first 5 days of the month! They will strive for the same regarding the June issue, but the postal service outcomes are always hard to predict. Linda is happy to have help with proofing the *Bulletin* from Donna Lane and Debbie Pavich.

They are receiving content with many of the Club Reports arriving on or before our April 15 deadline. The password for the Bulletins will change on May 1. The new password will be CVEdie2019@ADS and username remains member.

Information and registration details on the 2021 National Show will be featured in the June *Bulletin*. Registration numbers will be limited this year, due to COVID protocols. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Bulletin, currently or in the past.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports the Society's finances are on a solid footing. The Genome Project would like the ADS to start a drive for about \$35,000.00 to match a contingent gift from the Chuey Foundation.

Eventually we need to have a policy for the appropriate time for a host society to begin fundraising for a future National Show. The NCDS is being very conservative in this regard.

Garden Dahlia

Alan Fisher reports due to our increase in membership, the ADS is tasked with how best to retain all these new members. What will interest these members and convince them to stay? There is information that shows many new members are looking for information for general gardeners, and they get bored and scared when we become technical and focus too much on judging/shows. Most Board members for dahlia societies and ADS tend to be exhibitors, judges, and hybridizers. We may not always share priorities of many new ADS members.

Harry Risetto started an Internet group some years ago for general gardeners, and many of them have joined various forms of social media. New dahlia growers have opportunities to share questions and information on Facebook and other forms of social media. While ADS must maintain standards and continue to improve judging and shows, we cannot neglect beginners and more casual dahlia growers.

In preparing for the 2022 ADS National Show, NCDS is thinking in terms of two forms of meetings -- sessions for serious exhibitors in one conference room and sessions in another room devoted to issues and information for new growers. The Dahlia 101 sessions at previous national shows set an example. Hopefully, we can build on this concept at the 2022 National Show. He welcomes submissions and information from others that we can use to build resources for new and casual dahlia growers. For example, I would appreciate if those who have resources for new growers would permit Sharon and me to add links from the Garden Dahlia web page to your information.

So far for 2021, weather patterns have been opposite of normal. Many parts of the eastern part of North America have had periods of cooler weather than normal while much of the west coast has had record heat. Hopefully, those of you suffering with weather typical of the east are gaining an appreciation for our struggles and finding a way to keep your dahlias alive until you get cooler weather. Your struggles with hot summer weather may make you more sensitive to the need for information relevant to new growers in parts of North America with challenges from heat, humidity, drought, and other adverse conditions that you normally do not face.

Historian

Harry Risetto reports they still need Bulletins from the 1920s. Roger Walker will see if he has any to donate.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reports she has mailed the ADS computer and supplies to Heather Ramsay. Everything arrived safely and no damage. She is excited that Heather was chosen to replace her and will assist her as needed.

Claudia has enjoyed the 16+ years with the ADS Image Library. She's made friends and been able to match names with faces when traveling to national shows. She is planning to go to Wooster and hoping to meet Heather.

Heather Ramsay reports she is excited to have the opportunity to serve as chair of the Image Library. Claudia has been very generous with her time in explaining the

responsibilities of the job, and her organization and obvious dedication to the position in her 16 years of service is appreciated.

Since the transition, she has not received any inquiries about the Image Library. She will try to collect photos from Trial Garden Directors.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reports she has not heard from several societies; they may have sent their requests for a Certificate of Insurance (COI) directly to Mercer, but she has no information as to how many ADS members they have. She did hear from Mel Epstein, Insurance Coordinator beginning in 2022. The website and *Bulletin* will need to be updated with his information prior to 2022. She has supplied him with sample forms, processes, and information and that she will be available to answer questions.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports most clubs indicate they are holding some form of a judging seminar. As the pandemic slows, hopefully the judging program will return to normal, having new and advancing judges. The committee for updating the Judging Guidelines are progressing with an expected completion date later this year. The curriculum committee is still meeting and have innovative ideas on how to assist club judging instructors in the seminars they hold. They are working on modules that can be used online to supplement training.

Membership

Elva Sellens reports it has been quite a year for new memberships! People have discovered gardening! We had so many new memberships that she ran out of 2020 *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* early in April. In May she received 55 2020 CHDs and then in May she ran out of the March 2021 ADS *Bulletin*. The new memberships kept coming in. She had to request a reprint of another 100 CHDs and March 2021 ADS *Bulletins* which she received in late June. After getting the boxes of reprint materials, she mailed out 77 new membership packets and 25 renewal envelopes in June. She received four more new memberships since, so still has 23 more new membership packets to mail out. Since December, she has mailed out 369 new membership packets and 66 renewal envelopes where people have rejoined ADS after a break in their membership.

Summary of New Memberships

In the U.S., we had 437 new memberships - 361 individuals and 76 family membership (x2=152) for a total of 513 new memberships. In Canada, there were 23 new memberships - 19 individual and 4 family memberships (x2= 8) for a total of 27 new members plus 1 other foreign individual membership. In the U.S. between 7/1/19-6/30/20, we had 280 new memberships compared to this year where we have had 437 new memberships between 7/1/20-6/26/21. The previous high for new memberships was in 2001 when we had 350 and we now are over 400! Of course, the challenge is in keeping the new members. Those who connect with a local society tend to remain as opposed to the at-large members who don't get connected with a local society. There was a suggestion to send a list, sorted by state to the regional vice presidents and ask them to contact those in their areas. Mark, Tony, and Ken will work on which conferences are in which states.

U.S. Members

We have 1,689 memberships that breaks down to 1,201 individual memberships and 482 family memberships ($x2 = 964$) for a total of 2,165 members. We have 57 Participating Societies and 3 Affiliated Societies. A new dahlia society - Central Carolina Dahlia Society just sent in their ADS dues to establish that they now have 14 members and would like to become a member of ADS.

Canada Members

We have 151 memberships that breaks down to 100 individual memberships and 51 family memberships ($x2 = 102$) for a total of 202 members. We have 9 Participating Societies and 1 Affiliated Society.

Other Foreign

There are 17 other foreign memberships.

National Exhibition

Art Haskins reports there have been no new requests to host a national show beyond 2024. The National Show Booklet is finished and awaits approval from the Board before distribution. There apparently was concern about Dahlia Society of Ohio (DSO) requiring vaccination for those judging or going on the tour. ADS will support DSO's position. A letter will be drafted on ADS letterhead, provide a copy to DSO, put in the September *Bulletin*, put it on the website, and send to all societies. Encourage all societies to consider whatever might be prudent in their activities. **Alan Fisher moved and Tony Evangelista seconded to have a letter supporting the requirement that all ADS events comply with applicable governmental regulations. This letter will be sent to each society from Brad, ADS President, via the ADS Reps. The motion passed unanimously.**

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman is happy to report that we have another new society in the Winston-Salem area of North Carolina. Jimmy Speas first contacted her in early March 2021 and his group has sent in their membership dues to Elva as a Participating Society. The new society will be called The Central Carolina Dahlia Society. A few of their new members changed their home club allegiance from The Carolina Dahlia Society to the new society. The ADS Board will vote to approve their joining the American Dahlia Society today, during this Conference call. Congratulations to Jimmy and his group for their hard work and efforts in becoming a new society.

Randy Miller is still putting together all those individuals in the south-western part of Idaho into a new dahlia society. In early June he put together a Zoom meeting with guest speakers to show interested individuals what a dahlia club could look like. He has other events planned for the rest of the year. Rosemary will send contact information on any new societies to Lou so he can send them information regarding show reports.

Photography

Debbie Pavich reports she has started publicizing the 2021 Contest in the ADS *Bulletin* and on the ADS website. During the growing season, she tends to use Facebook and Instagram to promote the contest. Contest information will be detailed in the September

ADS *Bulletin* and posted on the ADS website. Debbie and Trevor have been working with Sharon Swaney on a People's Choice category that can be voted on online.

Publicity/Public Relation

Larry Smith reports there has not been much change since our last meeting. Larry has invited other ADS Board members to share ideas and provide him with leads as to who to contact in seeking publicity for ADS, but that has gotten little traction. To increase the chances of success in this area, a team approach is imperative. Please put on your thinking caps and help with this effort.

Larry took photos and video of the Canby Trial Garden planting in mid-May and will be following the progress of the garden throughout the growing and judging season. The aim is to expose ADS members and others to the inner workings of a Trial Garden. Last year's Canby Trial Garden video appeared on the ADS website and has been viewed 5000 times. The photo show videos that Larry created also have received wide viewership as has the video on how to take cuttings by Mark Oldenkamp. Future possibilities include creating an ADS Bench judging video and one highlighting some of the ADS shows to share on our website and YouTube/Vimeo. At some point, it would be positive to create training videos to share with judges.

It is Larry's thought that each year the ADS National Show needs a short PSA to share to increase interest in attending the show. No one from the Ohio National Committee has reached out to discuss this, but options are still open.

Research and Education

VIRUS – Ron Miner

Ron Miner reports a number of ADS clubs have signed up for the clean stock initiative for this summer. It is not too late for your club to do that. Identify a project leader in your club to get the process started. The details of the project are available on the ADS website. Starting with clean stock is an important step to achieving a garden largely free of virus.

We are looking forward to a seminar at the ADS National Show that will feature presentations on both our research projects, virus in dahlias and the dahlia genome. Professors Pappu and Harkess will both make presentations in Wooster during the show. The DSO hopes you will join us there!

GENOME SEQUENCING – Kristine Albrecht

Kristine reports there has been activity with the ADS Genome Project these past few weeks. The Scheetz-Chuey Foundation has donated a matching grant of \$23,000 toward the current goal of a \$46,000 campaign to fund the master's thesis of Zach Meharg at Auburn University. Zach's advisor will be Dr. Alex Harkess, an assistant professor in genomics at Auburn and a researcher at HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology. See Dr. Harkess's report below for more details. **Harry Rissetto moved, and Alan Fisher seconded for the ADS to adopt the matching grant of \$46,000 to support the Genome Project. The motion passed with one opposed.**

The \$46,000 fundraising campaign will begin with creating a new brochure that will be mailed to previous donors in the next month or two and included in the ADS September Bulletin. We are hoping that all members of the board will give a gift to this campaign in

an amount that works for their individual family. In addition, dahlia societies across the country will be encouraged to give a gift. Stay tuned as this campaign rolls out over the summer. Below is Dr. Harkess's updated Genome Project report.

The Dahlia genome project is moving forward quickly. The Harkess Lab at Auburn University and HudsonAlpha has recruited a master's student, Zach Meharg, to begin studies in Fall 2021. He will be moving to Huntsville in mid-July to begin graduate school a little early. Zach and Dr. Harkess have worked together to develop a plan for two manuscripts, two chapters of his thesis. Kristine Albrecht has secured three growers in Huntsville, Birmingham, and nearby 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. Thankfully, these five species of dahlias are all growing well in at least two of the sites. Before Zach arrives, Dr. Harkess will already have traveled to at least one of these breeders' homes to collect tissue and begin DNA isolations for shotgun sequencing to assess species heterozygosity, ploidy, and genome size. Additionally in the next month he will have sampled diverse floral and vegetative tissue for RNA sequencing. We will only attempt sequencing a tetraploid species for the genome project: octoploid will be impossible with current funding and personnel. Here are the two major research lines and manuscripts that we are planning for Zach's two-year master's project.

1. Manuscript 1: A chloroplast phylogeny of the Dahlia genus
 - Justification: The RNA-based phylogeny did not yield sufficient phylogenetic resolution, as there appears to be little genetic diversity within the expressed genes sampled. Here we will instead take an alternative approach and use chloroplast genome sequencing and assembly to resolve the phylogeny of the Dahlia genus
 - Fourteen species Dahlias and fifteen modern cultivars will be shotgun Illumina sequenced (5 gigabases of data each) in the Harkess Lab at Auburn and HudsonAlpha. Connect with Dayle Saar at WKU to gather additional species and fill out the phylogeny better.
 - Chloroplasts will be assembled using novoplasty (<https://github.com/ndierckx/NOVOPlasty>), and a species tree phylogeny constructed with RAxML and Astral-III
 - We will also assemble mitochondrial genomes from the data using Novoplasty.
1. Manuscript 2: The genomes of Dahlia species and the evolution of [something interesting, to be determined]
 - Justification: A dahlia genome is a crucial foundation for breeding trait discovery, floral mutation exploration, and comparative genomics of virus susceptibility.
 - Generate Illumina genome shotgun data (40X coverage) for five species -- rudis, coccinia, tenuicalis, brevifolia, sorensennii.

Build kmer heterozygosity plots using smudgeplots
(<https://github.com/KamilSJaron/smudgeplot>)

Seedling Bench Evaluation

Roger Walker reports paperwork was sent to every ADS-affiliated club so they could apply to hold a bench evaluation at their 2021 show. Several clubs have responded, indicating they plan to hold shows that will include a bench evaluation section. Sharon Swaney has updated the seedling bench information on the webpage – and it's great. Clubs that don't respond in time to get needed paperwork by US mail will find everything they need on the website. Visit the seedling bench section at <https://www.dahlia.org/member-info-page/seedling-bench-members-info/>.

Social Media

Anna Kandra reports the following information on social media:

Current stats:

Facebook followers: 3,734

Facebook group members: 4,664

Instagram followers: 2,531

Follower numbers are still creeping upwards, the group has been very active with growers' questions, and as the season progresses there should be more photos of blooms. We'll be increasing posting, particularly to promote the National Show and the Photo Contest. Anna continues to work on rules for the Facebook group.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports special awards is looking forward to more activity in our dahlia world as the year 2021 progresses. We understand that many societies will be hosting shows, including the 2021 National Show in Wooster, Ohio. The ADS Trial Gardens are planted, and all of this makes it possible for the ADS to present awards recognizing those people who contribute so much toward the enjoyment of the dahlia.

Trial Gardens

All the gardens are up and running. She does not anticipate any problems like last year about getting things judged. Most areas are opening; with the gardens outside, even those who are still using cautions, everything should be fine. Hope my report finds everyone well and excited to get back to some kind of normal. Have a great growing season!

Website Coordinator

Sharon Swaney reports the last several months have been mostly about adding and updating information – various articles and presentations posted, obituaries and photo contest 2021 info – as well as cleaning up and prettifying up areas, notably the seedling bench information and Dahlia University.

By request, I added a new feature available to members only. Members may now search the Online Classification Guide by originator fields. Members may print, create an Excel spreadsheet, create a CSV file, or copy search results (for pasting later).

The Photo Contest, Social Meeting Chair, and I have been testing in preparation for a "People's Choice Award" for the Photo Contest this coming January

OLD BUSINESS

National Show Booklet

It is in the final throes of editing and will be out to the executive board soon. We need to find a society to host the 2025 National Show and the years beyond that. Brad Freeman noted that the ADS has people who could help with some of the organizational pieces. It was also noted that if we know who is hosting the upcoming conference shows the society doing the conference show is part way through the planning for a national show. Another piece of information to look at is those who have a large number of judges; contact those clubs and see what the barriers are. We may need to determine how the ADS can assist.

NEW BUSINESS

Yankee Dahlia Society

Rosemary Freeman states we have a new affiliated dahlia society, the Yankee Dahlia Society, outside Boston, MA. **Rosemary moved and Linda Holmes-Cook seconded to have the ADS accept the Yankee Dahlia Society as a new society and welcome them into the dahlia community. The motion passed.** Information needs to be given to Sharon for the Society page, to Lou for show reports and the ADS Reps and President information to the appropriate persons. Rosemary will get a "Welcome to the ADS" letter out to them. Randy Miller, Southwestern Idaho Society, continues planning to become a member of the ADS.

Communication with Local Societies

If you have information to share with local societies, send it to Mark and he will send it out to the ADS Reps. It's important to have the committee chairs to take the initiative to provide information to the person sending out information to ADS Reps/Presidents. There was a suggestion to send out a one-page summary of what was done in the meeting, within a week of the date of the meeting. **Alli Richards moved, and Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook seconded to adopt sending a meeting summary to ADS Reps and Presidents. The motion passed.**

Licensing of Intellectual Properties

A member of the ADS contacted ADS about developing an app to use on an iPhone where you put in the color, form, size or a combination and it gives you the ADS 4-digit number. She has asked to use the ADS 4-digit classification system. The questions we need to think about are: 1) Do we want to license our intellectual properties 2) To whom we want to license our intellectual properties and 3) is there any monetary award for this – not likely since the audience will be small. This is the wave of the future; does the ADS want to be in the position of licensing our intellectual properties. At the time, everything is in print and is available to local societies. After discussion, the idea is intriguing; she can get what she needs on her phone by using what we already have on the website – the online classification guide – and we should look at this issue and see what our options are with a licensing attorney. It was suggested that we continue to tell her that we are continuing to investigate this and will keep her up to date.

The next board meeting will be November 14, 2021, via Zoom, at 4 pm Eastern Standard Time. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, September 12, 2021, at the National Show. There was a suggestion of having the Annual Meeting via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

Brad Freeman adjourned the meeting at 5:09 pm, EDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder

ADS General Secretary