

American Dahlia Society
Annual Meeting
September 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 am EDT 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, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Alan Fisher, Claudia Biggs, Heather Ramsey, Jessica Becker, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Rosemary Freeman, Debbie Pavich, Anna Kandra and Sharon Swaney. Several members from local and distant dahlia societies were in attendance.

Minutes

Ron Miner moved, and Bob Schroeder seconded to approve the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting, September 13, 2020 as written. The motion passed.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Brad Freeman welcomed all to the 2021 ADS Annual Meeting at the National Show hosted by the Dahlia Society of Ohio. Brad appreciated all being here in person; it is wonderful to be getting back on track and seeing more of our dahlia friends. Things continue to be done by the ADS. There have been some vacancies on the executive board for which he put out a call for help and received many responses. Heather Ramsey agreed to take over the Image Library from Claudia Biggs and that transition has happened. Mel Epstein has agreed to take over the Insurance Coordinator when Cheryl Shores leaves at the end of 2021. Jessica Becker has agreed to take over the Advertising Chair as Teresa Bergman had to resign. Jessica is working with Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook and Teresa Bergman to gather the necessary information for this position. With increased advertising, the ADS can accomplish even more. The board may be looking at the possibility of getting Directors and Officers insurance for the board. The level of new memberships this year has been amazing; the challenge is in retaining these new members. There will be a new *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* (CHD) in 2022 as well as a new composite listing. Brad reported James Romer has expressed interest in becoming the Southern States Regional Vice President.

Memorial

Brad Freeman noted that several of our members passed away in the past year. He asked for a moment of silence for Jerry Humeniuk, Norma Boyer, Danielle Parshall, Don McAllister, Les Connell, and Annie Radcliff.

Treasurer

Charles Miehm reported the ADS is financially in a favorable position. Charles provided a three-year comparison of income and expenses and funds in the various accounts. Below is information on the ADS funds.

TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 08/31/2021

Ameriprise Account (restricted)	\$ 54,840.00
Ameriprise Account (unrestricted)	\$ 21,332.22
Vanguard Account	\$ 79,044.71
	<u>\$ 155,216.93</u>

TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 08/31/21

Wells Fargo Bank Account	<u>\$ 73,103.73</u>
Total Funds Available	\$ 353,079.94

RESTRICTED FUNDS

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

Virus Fund - Sheetz-Chuey Foundation	\$ 2,318.02
Genome Project	\$ 42,278.36
2021 National Show	\$ 50.00
2022 National Show	\$ 2,775.00
2023 National Show	<u>\$ 1,300.00</u>
Total Restricted	\$ 48,721.38

Alan Fisher moved, and Scott Bailey seconded to approve the treasurer's report, subject to audit. Motion passed.

First Vice-President

Mark Oldenkamp reports The COVID pandemic in 2020 resulted in almost all shows, including the annual National Show, being cancelled. Despite the COVID situation continuing, some club meetings and shows have been able to happen in 2021. Renewed enthusiasm for gardening has brought many new society and ADS members. I encourage our societies to seek very deliberate mentoring for the new members.

Trial gardens and seedling bench competitions have allowed hybridizers the opportunity to submit potential new cultivars for introductions in 2022 or later. Here's looking to 2022. Mark appreciates the Dahlia Society of Ohio hosting the 2021 National Show. Please encourage anyone interested in attending the 2022 national show hosted by the National Capital Dahlia Society to mark your calendar for September 22-25, 2022.

Second Vice-President

Tony Evangelista reports he is happy to see those who were able to attend the National Show this year.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid-Atlantic Conference – Dana Miller

Midwest Conference

Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reports many of the PNDC societies continue to meet and to encourage their members' growing ambitions. Despite Covid, there have been many shows, however a couple of the societies will not have a show this year. The Canby Trial Garden is well groomed and many entries have scored based on the judges' reports. A couple of the societies are struggling.

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.

Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference

John Morton reports It has been a hard start up for shows in the Pacific Southwest. Many of our venues are just now opening and figuring out their Covid rules as they go. This year there were two society shows plus a show at the Monterey Fairgrounds. On a positive front, the new Central Coast Dahlia Society had their first show and it was well done. Five senior judges made the trek down the coast to judge the show as there are no judges in this new society yet. Chris Dix, Kevin Larkin, Ken Masurat, Curtis Maxwell and John Morton attended and judged this event. This new society should be proud of their show, their enthusiasm and the teamwork it took to put on this show. Good going Central Coast.

The San Leandro Dahlia Society had a tough time finding a venue that could meet the needs of a dahlia show. The library where they usually meet were only accepting applications two to three weeks in advance of when they could have a show. They turned to the past and had the show at the Lakeside Park Garden Center in Oakland where the former East Bay Dahlia Society held their shows until the late 1980's. Thanks to Curtis Maxwell for his efforts in securing this show space. Although they had a difficult time with a narrow set-up time, it was a nice show, the first one in two years.

The San Diego County Dahlia Society had a tuber sale this year but no show and the Dahlia Society of California is struggling to find a show venue as the costs of their long time Golden Gate Park event is getting more costly. The beautiful dahlia garden at the Dahlia Dell has taken a hit as no cars have been allowed in the park so tending the garden requires a half-mile walk with all the tools needed to get to the Dell. The John E. Stowell Dahlia Society is starting to have meetings and hope to see more from them in the future.

We are still in drought conditions and have fires raging all over the state. The skies are brown from the smoke particles as the fires continue to ravage our beautiful state. In one area, people are bringing in buckets of water to put in troughs for the wildlife. More

than half the Tule Elk in one park have died from lack of water. Truly tragic. As true dahlia lovers we say, next year will be better.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Classification

Lou Paradise reports this is the beginning of their busy season. As usual, they are waiting anxiously for returned reports. To date (9-10-21), they have received only one report. He reminds all societies that the deadline for returning reports is October 10th. He realizes there are a few societies that have a late show and he urges them to get their reports in as soon as possible after the show. **There were no actions from the classification meeting this morning.**

Editor

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports the September *Bulletin* should be arriving early in the month. Thank you to Deborah Pavich, Larry Smith and Donna Lane who helped with proofing/editing club reports. What a tremendous help! Members are encouraged to read the society reports as a lot of good ideas can be found there. The ADS New Publicity/Marketing chair Jessica Becker has hit the ground running, contacting and securing ad commitments for upcoming issues. Thank you, Jess.

The Show Reports booklet will once again be edited under the able hands of Donna Lane, and templates have been sent out by Mark Oldenkamp to club reporters. Deadline for The Bulletin will be October 15, and we are requesting Show Reports by October 10.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports the finances of the ADS are adequate to meet current needs, as noted in the Trustees report. Restricted funds are consistent with the ADS's obligations.

Thanks to the Chuey-Scheetz Foundation, the Virus Fund assets are sufficient to meet the current goals of the program. The Genome Project is engaged in fundraising to support ongoing work that will be described at the annual meeting. It is unclear whether further assistance from the ADS will be necessary.

The digital archive of Bulletins is almost complete. Bulletins from most of the 1920s are needed. The International Supporters program is proceeding slowly. The monthly Constant Contact Dahlia Newsletter has more than 3200 subscribers and is increasing by more than 20 a month.

Question for the future: Should the ADS offer a digital version of the ADS Bulletin and CHD at a lower dues amount to increase membership. The ADS needs to evaluate the cost impact to the ADS of printing and mailing a reduced number of publications.

Garden Dahlia

Alan Fisher reports he would like to find a way to reuse the video, "Growing Dahlias in Containers". When it was produced there was an agreement not to reuse it without permission. However, the parties involved have all passed away and he has not been able to contact any heirs.

Image Library

Heather Ramsay reports The Image Library is seeking photos of new introductions to add to this year's presentation. Please contact Heather Ramsay at ImageLibrary@dahlia.org if you can contribute.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reports just when she thought things had completed slowed down, she received several last minute requests for Certificates of Insurance and received six checks for Society's insurance payments. We have a new contact at Mercer: Amanda J. King, 1-800-503-9230, amanda.j.king@mercercor.com She is very nice and helpful. There is no doubt that if Mel needs her next year she will be able and willing to help.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports there is not much happening in the judging program. There have been a couple of advancing judges but most societies are slowly getting back to normal. The committee for updating the *Guidelines to Judging Dahlias* and the curriculum committee are still meeting with good progress. There was a presentation providing information on the progress of each on Saturday afternoon. Both committees anticipate being finished in time for the 2022 season.

Membership

Elva Sellens reports this has been the year for new memberships. We almost doubled new memberships this year compared to 2020. We have 506 new U.S. memberships - 417 individual and 89 family memberships (x2 = 178) for a total of 595 new U.S. members for 2021, and 3 new Canadian family members for 6 new members. The challenge is to retain these new members. Since Elva uses a lot of postage on a regular basis, a credit card was issued to her so that her regular postage expenses don't require reimbursement. There was discussion regarding connecting people to a local society.

U.S. Membership

We have 1,779 memberships - 1,278 individual and 501 family (x2= 1,002) memberships for a total of 2,280 U.S. members.

There are 57 Participating Societies and 3 Affiliated Societies. Our newest society that joined ADS in 2021 is Central Carolina Dahlia Society.

Canada Membership

We have 143 memberships - 92 individual and 51 family (x 2= 102) for a total of 194 members.

There are 9 Participating Societies and 1 Affiliated Society. I have a new notice that the New Brunswick Dahlia Society (Affiliated Society) is disbanding this year as they are unable to obtain members to keep the club open.

Other Foreign

There are 18 individual memberships.

National Exhibition

Art Haskins reports following this year's National Show in Ohio we have shows lined up for 2022 in National Capital D S, in 2023 we go to Portland D S, and in 2024 the Federation of Northwest Growers will host the National Show. There has been an inquiry for hosting in 2025 but he has not had confirmation of that date. The Guidelines for National Shows is in final review and should be approved in 2022.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman reports there are some new clubs anxious to get going. She is sending them a lot of information. If she doesn't hear back, she follows up with them. She is looking forward to the judging curriculum that is being developed; she believes it will assist new societies.

Photography

Debbie Pavich reports the contest information will be published in the upcoming Bulletin and posted on the website. She has been promoting the contest on the social media websites.

Publicity/Public Relation

Larry Smith reports he has offered to assist any ADS club or entity with ideas for increasing publicity and visibility as well as pursuing marketing for ADS through print media if he is provided leads and contact information. To this point, there have been very few requests. The offer stands for any group that opts to take advantage. Larry is also willing to help societies write press releases for ADS and help with publicity and video PSAs to promote future national shows. Keep in mind that he has experience in many aspects of video production.

Video and photos have been taken of local events, including Canby Trial Garden and the Portland Dahlia Society Show. In the works are the Portland/PNDC photo contest and the ADS photo contest. There will be forthcoming videos on YouTube and Vimeo, which will be shared on the ADS website and through social media. Video production is time consuming and managed mostly as after-the-season projects; they will be released during the dreary winter months, perfect timing for viewing as we are taking a break from our busy gardening tasks. Thanks to Anna Kandra, social media chair, and Sharon Swaney, webmaster, for putting the videos out there and being easy to work with.

Research and Education

Research and Education is focused on two areas – Virus and Genome.

VIRUS – Ron Miner

Dr. Pappu provided an update on virus research on Saturday afternoon. We continue to have the availability of virus testing with the cooperation of Professor Pappu and the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation.

GENOME SEQUENCING – Kristine Albrecht

Kristine Albrecht reports ADS is currently raising \$46,000 to fully fund a graduate student to work exclusively on the Genome Project for two years. To date we have raised \$30,700 towards our goal of \$46,000. We have received a very generous dollar for dollar matching gift up to \$23,000 from the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation.

She hopes all board members can give a gift towards this project in the amount that works for your family. We will be asking ADS Dahlia Societies to consider giving gifts too. Everyone's support is needed to make our goal.

Graduate student, Zach Meharg, started his work on the genome project at Auburn University this fall. Following is the work he and Dr. Harkess have accomplished so far.

Zach Meharg has started his first semester of his MS program in Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences at Auburn University and HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology. In Zach's first week, he and Dr. Harkess travelled to Marcie Holt's farm in Ringgold, GA, who kindly agreed to collaborate with us to grow *D. brevis*, *D. rudis*, *D. coccinea*, and *D. sorensenii*. Kristine Albrecht has driven and organized this collaboration, as well as created duplicate sites at two other ADS members and growers near us in Alabama. At Marcie Holt's farm they collected leaf tissue for all four species dahlias, plus a smattering of accessions that we know to be interesting from a virus resistance standpoint.

Zach Meharg and lab manager Haley Hale isolated DNA from these flash-frozen leaf samples and assessed the DNA for purity and concentration (Table 1). Dahlias produce high quality DNA, which is helpful to know. These DNAs are now in the sequencing queue at HudsonAlpha, a global leader in plant and animal genome sequencing.

Table 1: DNA isolation quality and quantity

Extraction Date	Specimen	Nanodrop ng/μl	Nanodrop 260/230	Nanodrop 260/280	Qubit ng/μl	Qubit ng/μl
8/13/21	<i>D. brevis</i> #1	1154.252	0.86	1.79	68.6	67.1
8/13/21	<i>D. rudis</i> #3 cutting 2	1844.125	1.26	1.93	189	185.5
8/13/21	<i>D. coccinea</i>	1479.043	1.65	2.05	136	135.6
8/13/21	<i>D. sorensenii</i> #2	846.321	1.09	1.92	60	58.8
8/13/21	Thomas Edison	1931.688	1.63	2.06	298	295
8/13/21	Edna C.	2978.652	1.29	1.99	336	331.2
8/13/21	J.K. Lauren	1576.147	1.36	1.95	188	181
8/13/21	Spartacus	1466.803	1.11	1.81	164	170.3

They are currently generating at least 60X Illumina PE150 short-read coverage of each individual. This is one full lane of Illumina NovaSeq6000 sequencing, priced at nearly \$6,000. The genome size of *Dahlia* is quite large, at least 8 Gb for the octoploid cultivars, so it is quite expensive to generate sequencing data for these individuals. As soon as the run is finished, these data will be used to estimate the genome size, ploidy, and heterozygosity from each of these individuals. This can be achieved by running GenomeScope (<https://github.com/schatzlab/genomescope>) and SmudgePlots (<https://github.com/KamilSJaron/smudgeplot>) in tandem. We estimate that sequencing will be completed in the next three weeks, and we will have data in hand.

We have collected more than enough tissue; after that, we will move forward with generating an ultra-high quality PacBio HiFi genome on one of the species dahlia accessions that displays the lowest genome size, lowest heterozygosity, and lowest ploidy. Hopefully they are tetraploids.

Seedling Bench Evaluation

Roger Walker reports there has been a definite uptick in seedling bench activity in 2021 when compared to 2020. With more shows being held this year, more than two dozen clubs submitted applications to hold an SBE. And while the total number of entries will be down from 2019, we have seen as many as 22 entries at a show in the northwest. This isn't the 40 entries we have seen in the past, but the trend is heading the right direction.

Clubs are encouraged to return their reports and scorecards immediately after their shows. Show committees that submit their reports late may prevent the local hybridizers from seeing their scores in the *ADS Bulletin*.

Remember, there is a new seedling scorecard for the 2022 season. We need to make sure judges have an opportunity to learn to use this scorecard and that the previous scorecard is not used in the trial garden or seedling bench judging in 2022.

Social Media

Anna Kandra reports the current stats:

Facebook followers: 3,897

Facebook group members: 5,146

Instagram followers: 3,811

She has officially added rules to the Facebook group, which can be found on the Facebook group. The purpose of these is largely to facilitate moderation issues, especially when we need to decline posts (most commonly because there's no identifying information on a photo or someone's shared content where the permissions don't allow other members to see what's been shared). She noted that membership in ADS is not required to belong to the Facebook group. There's a 250-character limit for each rule, so they're pretty concise. We'll begin strong promotions of the Photo Contest and digging and dividing content, as well as photos from the National Show. The Stanley Johnson and Les Connell awards will be publicized on Facebook.

Goals for this next year include a more focused effort to connect the social media moderators of our member clubs and cross promote content and events to give ADS followers a wider view of what club activities look like.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports Special Awards had the pleasure of awarding three ADS Commemorative Medals at the 2021 National Show awards banquet. Recognized for their exceptional efforts in hosting this year's show were, Todd Imhoff, Mike Weber and Bob Wenning. These Dahlia Society of Ohio members received many accolades from the host society's members. ADS Silver Medals were presented to David Cap and Barbara Miner. The ADS appreciates the opportunity to recognize individuals who go far beyond the norm in promoting the dahlia, locally, nationally, and internationally. Barbara and David have exhibited great love for the dahlia and dahlia people through their

dedication and often, hard work. On behalf of the American Dahlia Society, we congratulated Dave and Barb. The ADS President's Award was presented to Dahlia Society of Ohio member Jerry Moreno for his sustained service locally and regionally. Every dahlia society needs a "Jerry Moreno" to be as successful as the Dahlia Society of Ohio. The engraved glass bowl was presented by ADS President Brad Freeman.

The ADS Gold Medal, the Society's highest medal award, was presented to Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook. Linda is the current editor of the ADS Bulletin and has served the Society with distinction for several years. Congratulations were extended to Linda, wishing her every success in the future.

The Special Awards Committee is responsible with maintaining a sufficient supply of medals for various purposes. Some are used to recognize the efforts of dahlia people who make contributions to the betterment of societies and the dahlia. Other medals are awards given to dahlias that have competed in seedling competitions and some to established cultivars that have achieved substantial success on the show bench. The inventory of most medals is sufficient for now. Some medals have a low inventory and replenishment will be necessary, that is, if the Executive Board decides the awards are to be continued. Special Awards will look for the best pricing. We hold the dies for all, but one medal and we are always open to suggestions regarding getting the best pricing and service. The issue confronted most often is companies producing medals do not find it in their interest to produce small quantities. We have overcome this in the past by placing several small-batch orders at one time that when combined, have satisfied the minting company. Hopefully, this method will work going forward. Special Awards will request Board approval before making any medal orders.

We expect to be awarding more medals in 2021 than in 2020 and we are all happy about that!

Trial Garden

Marilyn Walton reports all the trial gardens seem to be up and running much like last year. She has not yet received an entry list from two societies. These are needed in order for her to make a comprehensive list of entries in ALL trial gardens and get started! Their gardens could be left out of the final report if they don't send information soon. This is very unfair to the originators who have trusted them to do their job. Several requests have been sent.

To all attending the National Show, have a wonderful time!!

Trustees

The accounts of the ADS are in good order, and the society is comfortably solvent and able to meet its current and future projected liabilities with unrestricted cash of \$124,759.28.

The ADS has an ample supply of Bronze, Commemorative, Silver, Gold-washed, Lynn Dudley, Derrill Hart, Evie Gullickson, Stanley Johnson, and Les Connell medals. See the Report of the Special Awards Committee.

Orders for vases are usually produced in response to orders.

There are currently 3,200 subscribers for the Constant Contact newsletter.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports most of the website work has just been information updates - important but not exciting. She renewed some software subscriptions as well.

This year she decided not to put National Show information on the ADS site. She redirected people to the information on the hosting society's website. This was a much cleaner implementation, and she plans to use this approach in the future when possible.

We have solicited Show Reports for the website. Please encourage any ADS Rep you know to send in information.

Annual Business

Alan Fisher moved, and Charles Miehm seconded to endorse the actions of the executive board. The motion passed.

Honorarium

Alan Fisher moved, and Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook seconded to approve the honorarium for the secretary and treasurer in the amount of \$250.00 each with the amount for the treasurer coming out of the Boeke funds. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 pm, EDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder

ADS General Secretary