

The planning meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by President Don Dramstad.

Present

Those present were: Those present were: Don Dramstad, Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Harry Rissetto, Ron Miner, Charles Miehm, Ray Phillips, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Cheryl Shores, Bob Schroeder, Alan Fisher, Rosemary Freeman, Nick Weber, Jerry Landerholm, Sharon Swaney, Marion Landerholm, Rob Swaney, Nancy Mossberg

PLANNING

Organizational Chart

Mark Oldenkamp reminded all that we have been working on this re-alignment of the Executive Committee for the past few years. The primary objective of the re-organization discussion was to streamline the day-to-day operations of the ADS Board. It also gives the Vice-Presidents an opportunity to interact more closely with each of the committee chairs over time. The Executive Committee will be a sub group of the Executive Board. This gives the Executive Committee empowerment to run the day-to-day operations of the ADS. The full Board will ratify any actions that are taken by the Executive Committee. These changes are in line with the New York Non-Profit law. The motion was passed last year to go forth with the re-organization and do what needs to be updated in the bylaws so they can be approved at the annual meeting this year. Several members of the Board worked with Mark to update the bylaws and ensure they include the re-organization of the Executive Board. There was discussion about the changes and whether having a majority of non-elected chairs voting on the board. Basically, the board acts in the same way that it has, but it puts into the bylaws process what we have been doing.

Bylaws

Mark Oldenkamp went over the changes to the bylaws. The primary changes that were made are:

- There was discussion about raising the age for student membership from 18 to either 21 or 25. It was decided to increase the age to 25.
- Remove descriptors of the medal and identify that a medal will be awarded.
- For Participating Societies decrease the number of members from 10 "to no fewer than 6 members."
- Remove Regional Vice-Presidents as Officers, as they are not elected Officers. Add "third Vice-President as an elected officer." Add "each Officer must be a member of the ADS in good standing."
- Use Vice-President, with the hyphen, consistently throughout the document.
- Change Executive Board to Board throughout the document.
- Change Immediate Past Presidents to singular Immediate Past President.

- There was a duplication of information regarding Regional Vice-Presidents that was removed.
- Add a line “in the absence of the First and Second Vice-Presidents, the Third Vice-President shall preside at the meeting.” Change three to four and change Chairman to President in that same section.
- “The Board will consist of the President, First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, General Secretary, Immediate Past President, all Standing Committee Chairs, Editor of the BULLETIN, and Regional Vice-Presidents.”
- Add “There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of President, First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, General Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Trustees, and Finance Committee Chair. The Executive Committee shall exercise the duties of the Board between meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee will report to the Board at each regularly called meeting.”
- Add information regarding the liaison of the President and Vice-Presidents to the rest of the Board, as outlined in the Organizational Structure.
- Add the duties and selection of Regional Vice-Presidents.
- Add “the Chairs of the Classification, Judging Accreditation, Seedling Bench Evaluation and Trial Garden shall be ADS Senior Judges in good standing.”
- Use BULLETIN (in all caps) throughout the document.
- Under Website Committee, add “social media and digital content.” Remove the webmaster for the ADS website will be an ex-officio member of the Committee and will look to the Committee for counsel and oversight.
- Under Finance Committee, add “including fund raising” at the end of the sentence it shall establish long-term financial plans.
- Remove as the need arises after the sentence the President shall appoint such other committees as may be advisable.
- Change New Society Development Committee to New Society Coordination Committee. Make the end of the last sentence read “to promote and increase ADS membership.”
- Add “ADS Outreach Officials.” Add “a qualification of the ADS Representatives shall be the ability to receive and send communications via email or other electronic means.” Add “the ADS Representative will be the point of contact for Seedling Bench Evaluation reports and for show winner reports for the ADS BULLETIN.”

- Under Vice-Presidents at Large, remove while not Officers of the Society or member of the and replace with “while not Executive ADS Board members, shall be emissaries of the American Dahlia Society to Participating and Affiliated Societies and to other horticultural groups.” Add “ADS Vice-Presidents at Large must be ADS members.” Add “Board members of the American Dahlia Society will not be designated as Vice Presidents at Large, but can be considered again if they cease to be a board member.”
- Under Annual Meeting change wording to “If no National Show event is held in any year, the Annual Meeting shall be held at such time and place as determined by two-thirds of the Board voting thereon and with notification to the members. Under the number of members of the Board that constitute a quorum, change the number from six to eight.
- Under BULLETIN, add “in print or digital format” quarterly or as directed by the Board.
- Under Amendments, change the statement to read, “These Bylaws can be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Society by two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted to the Board in writing in time for publication in the June BULLETIN prior to that year’s annual meeting.
- There are numerous numbering changes as well as grammatical and syntax changes.

Research and Education

Nick Weber had a proposal to see if there is support to develop an electronic questionnaire to send out to the societies for information on their education and outreach efforts or planned efforts to be shared with other societies to see what education and outreach activities there are so that other societies might model them or look at them as opportunities. Sharon said she would have the capability of a short questionnaire and Mark could disseminate it. Board agreed that this would be a good project to be done and sent to the ADS Representatives. Nick will develop questions and get them to the appropriate persons for distribution.

Website

Sharon Swaney stated she would like another person to be on the Website Committee. She would like someone who likes to interact with people to gather information. It is felt this person should have a nodding acquaintance with ADS members across the country.

Don Dramstad adjourned the meeting at 12:08 pm for lunch, reminding all to return at 2:00 pm for the Judges Training. The Planning meeting will resume Sunday morning at 9:00 am.

WSU Virus Research

In 2015, five Northeast Ohio gardens had plants tested for virus. The results from that testing led to the “G1” plan for virus-resistant dahlias. G1 tubers are those that have been identified as being virus free previously. There were 186 samples tested and 48 were positive for virus. In 2015, there was an excellent correlation between the

incidence of virus and poor foliage. No individual cultivars stood out as free of virus. About 10% of the plants with excellent foliage tested positive for virus. In that testing, 26 were found to have dahlia mosaic, 18 tobacco streak, 2 cucumber mosaic, 3 tomato spotted wilt and 4 dahlia common mosaic virus. Poor foliage correlated strongly with virus.

The objectives for 2016 are:

- Broad spectrum of tests from gardens across the US
- Gathering results by cultivar and location
- Identification of parent stock for clean tubers for 2017

In 2016, 722 samples were analyzed in 43 batches from 40 different gardens, with 49% testing positive for virus. Long turnaround times made it difficult to use the results to help make “keep or destroy” decisions. There was an increase in the incidence of virus over the 2015 results largely due to a much higher incidence of tobacco streak virus. In 2016, 43% of the plants with clean foliage had virus. In 2016, the following results were found:

- There was a correlation to quality of foliage
- Of the G1 samples, there was 57% had no virus
- No individual cultivar stood out as free of virus
- There was no obvious relationship between the percent of virus and year of introduction
- The Tomato Wilted Streak Virus showed geographical dependence; there was very few total cases and none on the East Coast
- Samples were gathered and sent over the entire season from early July to mid-October. The incidence of virus did not change over the season

Conclusions:

- Chlorosis (yellowing) of the veins or a mottled yellow pattern on dahlia foliage are clear indications of the presence of virus
- Dahlias with clean, healthy foliage are significantly less likely to have virus than plants with chlorosis of the leaf veins
- A substantial portion of plants with clean foliage also test positive for virus; 10 to 20% in 2015 and about 41% in 2016
- Few plants exhibited tobacco streak virus in 2015 but in 2015 almost 1/3 of the plants exhibited tobacco streak virus

For the future, there is additional support from Jim Chuey and the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation plus ongoing support and cooperation from Dr. Pappu and WSU for 2017. There will be three test programs for 2017:

- Sets of 30 samples for \$10 each, open to all US residents
- Free testing of plants that were identified as G1 plants from 2016 program participants, i.e. those that participated in the program in 2016 and were identified as virus-free and are clean plants.
- Selected tests within the virus team of promising resistant cultivars, “interesting” plants with virus in 2016 and differentiation among the viruses.

Other areas of effort are genome sequencing, resistance and tolerance and maturity, meristem and tissue culture and seedlings.

There is ongoing discussion with Dr. Pappu regarding a Dahlia Technology facility at WSU. The possible functions include coordination/management of the virus reduction efforts, communication of items of interest such as pest control and organic growing, soils and soil management, fertility. There could also be communication, coordination and prioritization of research and development where current technology isn't sufficient, and education and outreach via webinars, print/electronic media, and workshops.

GENOME PROJECT

Kristine Albrecht introduced herself and thanked those involved in the genome project as well as the ADS members and societies for their support of this project. She gave a brief history of the project, which started in June 2016 with Dr. Walbot attending a meeting of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society meeting. The funds that have been collected to date will pay for collection and sequencing of a species dahlia.

Nick Weber provided information about the National Science Foundation Grant which is being written by both Dr. Hanu Pappu and Dr. Virginia Walbot. He provided a summary of the grant:

- An assembled genome for *D. coccinea* will be generated as a reference for organizing data on seven additional species and three commercial dahlias.
- Grant funds will pay for species collection, sequencing, assembly and genome browser for the reference genome.
- Alignment of each species and cultivar to the reference
- Measure genetic variation between species members and novel gene identification in individual species.
- Genomes will be aligned with the sunflower to promote comparative work for comparison of genes, chromosome regions and chromosomes.
- Promote new exploration of dahlia viruses and integration into dahlia genomes.
- Educational outreach to middle school students to run a “hands on” experiment with dahlias.

- Principal investigators will be Dr. Virginia Walbot, Dr. Hanu Pappu and Dr. Dayle Saar.

Dr. Virginia Walbot was introduced. She is a Professor in the Biology Department at Stanford University, a Botanist and Geneticist. She was instrumental in starting the genome project and is an avid dahlia grower. Dr. Walbot provided additional information about the specifics of the grant and explained sequencing and assembly of the genome.

Dr. Dayle Saar is recognized as an expert and plans to make a field trip to Mexico to gather the *D. coccinea* species as well as seven others. They are looking at the October and November time frame to collect the species dahlia.

If we do not receive the grant, we can receive some feedback and resubmit. It takes about 6 months after submission to find out if we receive the funding. With what we currently have, we have funding to do a raw sequence of a species dahlia and Edna C. We could possibly have a PhD student to do the assembly using a university computer, which would cost about \$15,000.

Dr. Pappu spoke about how we will gain information about the nature and condition of virus in both wild and commercial dahlias. We anticipate gaining more information about viruses from the genome sequencing and assembly.

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Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder

ADS General Secretary