

**American Dahlia Society
Annual Meeting
September 23, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am EDT by President Don Dramstad.

Present

Board members present were: Don Dramstad, Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Terry Schroeder, Harry Risetto, Ron Miner, Charles Miehm, Ray Phillips, Lou Paradise, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Alan Fisher, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Nick Weber, Kristine Albrecht, Jerry Landerholm, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook and Sharon Swaney. Several members from local and distant dahlia societies were in attendance.

Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting, September 10, 2017 as written. The motion passed.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Don Dramstad thanked the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society for hosting the 2018 National Show. He thanked all for the Gold Award presented at the Awards Ceremony. He wants to thank the Executive Board and Committee Chairs for their support during his tenure as President of the ADS. He believes the ADS is in good shape going forward. Don asked for a moment of silence for those who we have lost over the past year. Mention was made of Mike Iler, originator of Fancy Pants, who passed recently.

Treasurer

Mac Boyer was not present but submitted the following report. As of 9/10/2018, there is \$76,036.87 in the Ameriprise account and \$66,474.41 in the Vanguard account and cash of \$10,019.58. The Lake City Bank has a balance of \$58,760.97. All checks have been deposited and invoices received have been paid including Parrot Press for the September Bulletin, \$6,833. The designated/restricted funds are \$41,684.06, the genome account balance is \$29,559.06. There is \$71,000 in unrestricted funds. The total ADS fund is \$201,272.25.

First Vice President

Brad Freeman reported he has been in contact with the National Garden Bureau, which is the advertising arm of the horticultural industry. They have several "of the year" categories each year. 2019 is the Year of the Dahlia. A lot of information is being worked on now. There will be links to tuber sales and shows. It is imperative that local societies ensure their information on the ADS website is up accurate and up to date, as the National Garden Bureau will be getting information from our website. The ADS will also be asking local societies to work with nurseries in their areas to promote the Dahlia of the Year. There will be a lot of information coming about this great opportunity.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference

Charles Miehm reported that 2018 has been a spotty year for dahlias in the mid-Atlantic. The weather has been variable and not normal. There have been periods of heavy rain interspersed with hot and dry spells around Washington, DC. Several instances of multiple days of rain totaling to over 8 inches have occurred. Pennsylvania has experienced much the same. Fungus and various rots have been a problem. As of this writing, Washington has had 37 days over 90, which is a few more than usual. We seem to have been spared any major effects from Hurricane Florence.

The NCDS mid-summer show was Sunday, August 19. The blooms were nice but sparser than past years. Valeria Wampler of NCDS won Senior Grand Champion with a Clearview Tammy. Steve Trumpower of the Gettysburg Society took Junior Grand Champion with an Embrace. The Maryland State Fair show was Sunday, August 26. Entries were not as numerous as prior years as some of the usual participants were not present. In the ADS sanctioned show Nick Weber scored Senior Grand Champion with KA's Cloud, John Spangenberg won Reserve Grand Champion with a seedling, 2016-102, BB FD O, 3003. Open < 50 section Grand Champion was Bernadette Rager with the old standby Brookside Snowball. The Gettysburg Dahlia Society had their show on August 31 & September 1 in Biglerville PA. Steve Trumpower scored both Senior and Junior Grand Champions with AC Ben and Badger Twinkle. Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society show is presenting the ADS National Show, September 22 & 23. The National Capital Dahlia Society show will be September 29 & 30 at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD.

Midwest Conference

As in most all the past reports, the Midwest weather has been on a rollercoaster ride with temperatures in the high nineties with none to extreme rain fall. Tracking the growing conditions has been very hard here. It is the norm for our growers.

We have lost many growers this year and will mourn their passing. The passing of John Thiermann of the DS of Wisconsin has been especially hard felt to the conference in that John served as a Board Trustee for several decades, where he contributed so very much. John was an excellent judge and introduced a very popular "Badger Twinkle" to the growers in the US. And what a colorful bloom it is sitting on the table! John would have been all smiles at the number of them in the show! Yes John, you did well!

The Midwest Dahlia Show was hosted by the Dahlia Society of Ohio in Strongsville, Ohio on September 7th, 8th,9th. The show was a pleasant sight for the public to view at the Holiday Inn there. The DSO also had a very popular boutique which included many handmade items for sale from their members. The Court of Honor was blessed by 22 different exhibitors from around the Midwest Conference. The banquet took place in full view of tables full of dahlia blooms, creating a sea of color for a back drop. Jerry Landerholm acknowledged Harriett Chandler, Randy Foith, and Jerry Moreno for their contributions to the dahlia world in so many ways, each receiving the ADS Silver Medal. The 2019 Midwest Dahlia Show will combine with the 2019 National show in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the Frederik Meijer Gardens. The West Michigan DS, and

host, will be looking forward to entertaining us at this beautiful venue on Labor Day Weekend. Mark next year's calendar so not to miss this great event!

Pacific Northwest Conference

The shows are nearly finished for our Conference societies. From the reports I have seen, the bloom quality was very good to excellent despite mother nature. In the Portland area a record number of days over 90 degrees was recorded. It was great to see more blooms entered in the Novice section of the shows I attended. Wild Rivers had another challenging time because of regional fires impacting the possible location to hold their show, but they pulled it off.

PNDC is electing officers at the Conference show at Douglas County this weekend. There will be significant changes in leadership and the incoming group has pledged to seriously consider new ideas that will be aimed at the future. I am hopeful that with good communication and commitment to strategic changes we can help our struggling societies with an aim to attracting some new members.

The Canby Trial Garden has completed judging and the compilation of results is underway. The quality of the blooms was superb this year. We are grateful for the partnership with Swan Island and especially the judges that came to help judge.

Several members from the Conference are planning to be in Philadelphia for the National Show.

Southern States Conference

Ray Phillips their show season has officially begun. Carolinas Dahlia Society held their show last weekend, and Tennessee held a non-ADS sanctioned Exhibition at Eastgate Mall the same weekend to keep our new members active, and get some experience setting up show blooms. This show was held now as there would be no judges available on our scheduled week due to the National Show being held on the same weekend.

The Carolinas show was a hurricane show, with everyone wondering if the monsoon rains were going to hit while it was going on, but no rain appeared until show judging was completed and Pat and I were leaving the site.

Tennessee members were pleased with how the exhibition was attended, participation by our members, and the good comments received. Several possible new members were contacted as a result of personal contact.

In August, Pat and I were privileged to host a judges training session at Sidehill Dahlia Farm (our home). It was attended by several judges from Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Those attending were Ray and Pat Phillips, Dan and Paula Pinholster, Frank McComb, Bob and Laurie Goehring, Allan Haas, Robin and Marcie Holt, Harold Stewart, Jay Borton, Bob and Rebecca Hale, and Molly Adams.

The week prior to the Tennessee Training, Buddy Dean hosted a session at High Hampton in Cashiers NC. Many of the same people attended this session as well, including Ray and Pat, Dan and Paula, Bob, Robin and Marcie, Buddy Dean, James Romer, Alan Arrington, and others.

Looking forward to the National Show this weekend and seeing all the friends Pat and I have made in the ADS. Good luck to all participating in the show.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

We were in drought condition from June through August this year which affected most growers in the region. Over the past week we have had some much-needed rain. Despite the weather-related challenges there still was active participation in the dahlia shows in the region and many great blooms were brought to the shows. The ADS Seedling Bench was particularly active at some shows, with around 35 entries. With so many ADS Seedling Bench entries at those shows it necessitates having three judging teams consisting of both senior and accredited judges.

What was particularly encouraging is there were several new exhibitors this year and most are younger than retirement age. Also, I am encouraged by a trio of younger women who are active in the leadership of the Snohomish County Dahlia Society. I hope they will stay involved with dahlias and continue to lead our organizations both locally and regionally.

This year we expanded the number of classes in our Junior Section. With increased opportunities this year the Juniors stepped up and filled the new classes at our shows. Junior entries at our shows are eligible for Best in Show both as fully double and open-centered dahlias.

Planning for the 2020 National Show in Wenatchee, Washington has been on hiatus for most of the year. A tourism promotion grant application has been submitted to the City of Wenatchee to help fund our marketing and promotion efforts. The Show Committee will be meeting in October to talk about the next steps in process of preparing for the 2020 National Show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advertising

This position continues to be vacant. Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook has talked to Larry Smith from the Portland area and he is considering it. He has taken on some new responsibilities with the Portland Dahlia Society and the Pacific Northwest Conference and he needs to determine whether he can take on more.

Classification

Lou reported he received an email on September 5th from The Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society that they cancelled this year's show and due to declining membership, will no longer have shows. I'm assuming from this email that the Society will disband.

Of course, this is our busiest time of year and as usual, we wait impatiently for reports to flow in. This time last year we received only two reports. This year, to date, we have received ten reports. Perhaps the all-electronic reporting system has something to do with this.

This report is written before the National Show and so I am very curious to see how well (or not) the Micro dahlia section will do. Lou hopes they will do as well or better than last year's show. At the Classification Meeting this morning, there was a discussion regarding micro dahlias and the consensus was to put in classification numbers for micro dahlias in the 2019 CHD on a five-year trial basis.

Editor

The Bulletin continues to go out later than I like. As much as I try, the more I see that once it is out of my hands, delays occur for a variety of reasons. I get frustrated by the lack of control I have over it once it is completed. One other challenge we have is deciding on cover and inside-cover photos. I didn't realize that we really don't have a very deep well to draw from for this, other than my own photos. I have contacted a couple other photographers that have shared their images on Facebook about using their work for covers, and they have agreed to let us do that, as long as we give them credit. I plan to do that for the December issue.

Between Mark, Sharon and I, we have come up with a solution to the limitations of the length of club Show Reports. Many of our club reporters have indicated that they need more space. Using the Excel template created by Sharon and Mark, we have decided that, in addition to the hard-copy limited show report booklet we always send out in December, we will also publish unlimited club reports under their "local societies" link on the ADS website. We will be doing this on the Members Only side and have advised clubs to let them know that if they have a member who doesn't want their name to appear on the digital copy of the program, they need to let us know that. It is imperative that we limit the show reports in the Bulletin to only one page. Both the Court of Honor Show Report for the Bulletin and the spreadsheet to be published on the website have been sent to Society Representatives and Presidents.

We received a 40-page article on Henrietta Stout from Harry Waterson, called "The Lady of the Dahlias." Mrs. Stout was the creator of the iconic image with the flowing gown that was used on the ADS medals for many years. After investigating the cost of publishing this article in a booklet form, the Executive Committee decided that doing this in full color would be cost prohibitive. We will, instead, publish the article in The Bulletin in several segments – serialization, if you will. The author put a lot of time and care into writing this excellent story of the life of Mrs. Stout, and we want to honor his efforts by making it as available to membership as possible.

Finance

Harry Risetto reported the ADS, as of September 10, 2018, had total funds of \$201,272.25. Approximately \$41,600 is restricted, designated or held for the genome project. We still have anticipated expenditures for the December Bulletin. The Society is in a sound financial condition. In relation to 2017, our assets have diminished by approximately \$12,500. This was primarily due to payouts for the Genome project (\$11,00) and an internet scam that is described below.

During 2018, the ADS was the target of a sophisticated internet scam that cost us \$5,605. It was a sophisticated effort involving what appeared to be a bon-a-fide request for a wire transfer. Our Treasurer is seeking to have some portion of this amount returned to the Society, although a positive outcome is doubtful. The scam did not have a material negative effect on the ADS. As a result, the Finance Committee has adopted a policy that all payments not in the ordinary course of Society business will be confirmed telephonically by the Treasurer and either the President or the Chair of the Finance Committee with a confirming e-mail. Any payment in excess of \$100 will be cleared telephonically by the President or Finance Committee Chair.

At this time the Finance Committee has agreed not to establish an endowment account. However, it will work with the Treasurer to reallocate the ADS funds in a conservative manner among equity, fixed income, and cash holdings.

The Committee favors the continuation of a contribution envelope in the September Bulletin. The distribution of the agreed-to portion of the insurance surplus has taken place.

The committee members want to thank Mac Boyer for the wonderful job he has done over the past several years as treasurer of the American Dahlia Society. We know that he continues to have a great love for the ADS and will continue to be involved.

Garden Dahlia

Alan Fisher reported he put together a few articles for the Bulletin and more for the Garden Dahlia section of the ADS web page this year. He has discussed a new article on container dahlias with a prominent ADS member who grows all his dahlias in pots, largely because of critters that would otherwise eat the tubers and roots. Another potential future topic is public gardens. He welcomes assistance from others who would like to take on specific projects relevant to growers interested in dahlias for reasons other than exhibiting.

There is no room for extra material in the December Bulletin, so the next opportunity for an article there is March. Any material meantime would be for the web page.

Historian

Don Dramstad has spoken with Paula and Dan Pinholster regarding taking over the Historian Chair.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reported it is quiet at this time of the year, but soon she will be gearing up for the 2019 New Introductions DVD. She sold about 40 DVDs this year. Claudia encourages originators to send pictures to her for all the new introductions that scored on the bench or in the trial garden.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reported she had two last minute requests for insurance and payments. She also had several last-minute insurance questions that she couldn't answer and forwarded to our carrier.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reported there has not been much action during the show season in the judging program. Once the shows are over he is sure there will be many judging chairs reporting individuals starting the judging program as candidates or advancing to accredited or senior judges. He reminded all that there is no need to wait until next year to send your reports. Charles Craig is taking over for John Thiermann as Judging Chair for the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin. Bob ordered and has received additional accredited judging pins: he has enough senior pins to last another couple of years. He and Terry are looking forward to the national show in a couple of weeks.

Membership

Elva Sellens reported the following membership information:

2018 U.S. Membership

1,000 Individual members

526 Family members x 2 = 1,052

Total U.S. members 2,052

241 New members

56 Participating Societies

3 Associate Societies

2018 Canada Membership

87 Individual members

53 Family membership x 2 = 106

Total Canadian members 193

20 New members

9 Participating Societies

1 Associate Society

Other Foreign Memberships

25 Individual

National Exhibition

Art Haskins gave special thanks to the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society for hosting the American Dahlia Society National Show this year.

Future shows will be West Michigan Dahlia Society in 2019, Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers in 2020, vacant in 2021, and National Capital Dahlia Society in 2022. If any Conference is interested in hosting the National Show in 2021 please contact myself or anyone on the Executive Board. Ken Jensen and Art have talked about the lack of a host for 2021 and discussed the possibility of holding the ADS Annual General Meeting at a regional show which would still attract ADS members to a dahlia show and attend the AGM as well.

I was pleased the ADS Board has raised the funding to Societies hosting National Shows to \$3,400, which should help with the financial side of hosting such an event.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman reported she is working on the remake of the new society booklet. There was a question asked regarding memberships in Mexico. Currently, we are progressing with digital membership for overseas members. There will likely be discussion at the November Conference Call.

Photography

Martin Kral reported he has nothing new to report. The photo contest will be held as before, with online entries (8 or fewer) sent directly to my email, buessi@msn.com.

Policy

Ron reported there have been no updates to the Policy Manual.

Research and Education

Nick Weber reports exciting research is ongoing in both the dahlia virus as well as the genome projects. Ron Miner will update us with the virus research and Kristine Albrecht will fill us in at Longwood on the dramatic work on the dahlia genome that includes multiple dahlias species as well as several modern cultivars. She indicates that we may soon be able to confirm which dahlia species are the progenitors of our modern dahlias. Ron has some interesting research outlined that we will learn about but may need additional time to learn the results. He also has information about the vendor participation in a program that seeks to advise them of stock that is free of virus that may aid in the sale of their stock.

Close to home, there have been quite a few members of our local 4H clubs who took about 30 blooms to our Montgomery County Fair. We also have encouraged members of those clubs to enter blooms at our upcoming society show at the end of September. The National Capital Dahlia Society provided tubers to forty 4-H members in April to support their participation at the county fair as well as our society show

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reported Special Awards focused their attention on proceedings taking place in the Bankruptcy Court of Western Washington for the last several months. As a bit of background information, the company that had long manufactured our ADS Gold Medal, Medallic Arts Co., had been taken over some years ago by another company, Northwest Territorial Mint. This company (NWTM) failed and we feared that during the dissolution of the company and when assets were dispersed, the dies for striking our medal might either be lost for scrap value or fall into the hands of another company; possibly an offshore firm. We communicated with the court, with legal firms and with Medallic Arts Co. expressing that we highly valued our Gold Medal and we considered it to be artwork of great historical value. We would do whatever was necessary not to lose the dies. Special Awards can happily report the dies were moved from Nevada to Medalcraft Mint in Green Bay, WI. Medalcraft assumed assets from NWTM and we have since had communications with that company. They have indicated they will be able to continue providing the ADS with our Gold Medal. As a side note, there will be articles appearing in the ADS Bulletin giving the history of this medal and a biography of the person, Henrietta Stout, who was responsible for its design. During the bankruptcy proceedings, the ADS indicated the medal was historically significant. We were not overstating our position.

At the 2018 Midwest Conference Show in Strongsville, OH, the ADS presented ADS Silver Medals to three deserving recipients in that region. Harriet Chandler, home society the Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society, Jerry Moreno, home society the Dahlia Society of Ohio and Randy Foith, home society the Dahlia Society of Ohio were the recipients. Randy is also the President of the Midwest Dahlia Conference. All three of

these people are capable and respected “Dahlia Ambassadors” and the ADS was very pleased to recognize them with this award.

At the 2018 ADS National Show at Longwood Gardens, hosted by the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society, four ADS Silver Medals were awarded. Tim Elkner, Gerry Livesey, Dean Thomas and Jim Thomas were presented with this award. They are well-known regionally for having contributed much to the benefit of their local society and they have had an impact in the greater dahlia community as well. The ADS also recognized other members of the GPDS for their dedication to making the 2018 National a success. Wes Bowers, Mike Horn and couples John and Marla Edwards and Dana and Cindy Miller were presented with the ADS’s Special Commemorative Medals. In so doing, the ADS acknowledges the success of National Shows is dependent on the planning and hard work put forth by the hosting society’s members. While many more people contributed to the success of the show, these people were recognized by their peers for their special dedication.

The ADS President’s Award was presented to Brent Grant by ADS President Don Dramstad. Don spoke of how highly Brent is regarded by the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society and how he has worked tirelessly, over many years, to promote its programs and purposes.

The ADS Gold Medal Award was presented to President Don Dramstad. Don has served the ADS well as president for two terms and he was awarded the society’s highest medal award for a job well done.

A future edition of the ADS Bulletin will have write-ups for all the awards presentations. Jerry will start on the Hart, Dudley and Johnson medals once the Trial Garden, Seedling Bench Evaluation and CHD reports are compiled.

Trial Garden

Ron Miner reported the Trial Gardens are wrapping up the results on the 250+ entries we received in 2018. The deadline for completion of those results is October 10. The results will be combined with the SBE results and the final classifications will be completed and sent to Lou Paradise as quickly as possible. The Trial Garden Directors are working very hard on our behalf!

Virus

Ron Miner reported a total of 1665 dahlia leaf samples were tested in the 2017 season. The turnaround time on the testing were a lot longer than anticipated at least in part because of the large number of samples. The WSU lab also had trouble with the quality of some of the critical reagents for the tests, making retesting necessary on a large group of samples. The results were completed in time (barely!) to allow us to provide a summary article for the March Bulletin.

With the cooperation and support of Professor Pappu at WSU and the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation, testing of G1 plants (grown from tubers that came from virus-free plants in 2016) were done free of charge in 2017. That led to the submission of 706 G1 samples. We were disappointed that 38% of those samples were found to be positive for virus. Infection by Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) for the first-time accounts for a substantial portion of the larger than anticipated virus rate in the G1 samples. The quality of the foliage was a good indicator for virus in the G1 samples; 92% of the G1 plants with poor foliage were positive for virus. Professor Pappu has provided an article

for the March Bulletin on controlling thrips. That insect is the one responsible for spreading INSV and two other viruses.

The rate of infection in plants that had not been previously tested was 53%, substantially higher than that for the G1 plants. Tubers from a few plants that tested positive for virus in 2016 were grown in two test gardens. Almost all of them also tested positive in 2017.

Genome Project

Kristine Albrecht reported Dr. Walbot has 15 species dahlias in hand, collected using ADS funds. She thanked the several members who took some of the additional species seed and a growing them. Brad Freeman, Martin Kral and Wayne Lobaugh have been growing out seed collected by Martin Kral in Mexico in 2015. Dr. Walbot came up to Washington, met with each of them and garnered support from the University of Washington in the collection of RNA leaf samples of these species dahlias. Dr. Walbot collected an additional 8 modern dahlia samples from Jomanda, Mexico, Apopa Gold, Eden Benary, Rhonda, Thomas Edison, Emory Paul, and Pam Howden. She collected samples of Edna C, Comet and Rio Riata earlier. She may need to do additional species collection in Mexico, if the 15 species dahlias she has collected do not include the parent(s) of the modern dahlia.

Website

Sharon Swaney reported the new website seems to be working fine. As always let me know if you encounter any problems, see any typos, or better yet have information to add!

Since the last report we have mostly been in maintenance mode. The new site is much easier to update. We posted tuber/plant sales for local societies and posted shows for local societies. We continue to struggle with getting information from the local societies. Only about 60% of local societies provide information when requested.

We will be posting show results for the local societies as provided. Societies wishing to provide an extended report (longer than what is permitted in the Bulletin) may do so via a form in the member area of the site. For now, we will publish the reports in the member only area of the site. But we can just as easily put the reports in the public area. Winners may opt out of having their name published, but this will be the responsibility of the person submitting the report.

Per Harry's request we have added a "support our advertisers" banner on the home page. I need someone to determine which advertisers should be on the list of current advertisers, or a rule based on who has advertised in recent Bulletins. I propose making the rule, anyone who has advertised in the last four Bulletins is on the list of current advertisers. This accounts for seasonal advertisers.

We continue to solicit pictures, general pictures and pictures specifically for the Online Classification Guide. Updating the guide is still a priority for the site. It was not updated with the new site, as it operates as a stand-alone application. The technology employed for this application is a bit arcane.

Another priority for the site is a review and enhancement of the privacy policies and statements. Due to restrictions with the European Union, the store is only available for US, Canada and Mexico.

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports as of today, we have 2464 members of our Facebook group. Our members are from all over the world and enjoy learning about dahlia growing and exhibiting through the use of this group. It has also been very useful for clubs and individuals to post show results and photographs to share with other growers.

HONORARIUM

Alan Fisher moved, and Brad Freeman seconded to approve the honorarium for the secretary and treasurer in the amount of \$100.00.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Don Dramstad reported the results of the voting for Officers. Mac Boyer received 54 valid ballots to approve the slate of officers, as presented. The slate of Officers is:

- President Brad Freeman
- First Vice President Mark Oldenkamp
- Second Vice President Tony Evangelista
- Third Vice President Ken Jensen
- General Secretary Terry Schroeder
- Treasurer Charles Miehme
- Trustee 2022 Harry Risetto
- Trustee 2022 Jerry Landerholm

The bylaws require a minimum of 25 valid ballots to be received for election to any office. Since more than the required number of valid ballots were received, the Executive Board approved the nominations as presented.

Don Dramstad announced the next conference call for the ADS Governing Board will be November 11 at 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. The Spring Planning Meeting will be in Alberta, Canada the first week of May.

Don Dramstad thanked all for attending the Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am, EDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder
ADS Secretary