**Minutes of the American Pomological Society Business Meeting**

REMOTE, August 13, 2020

Marvin Pritts, APS President, called the meeting to order via Zoom at 4:00 pm EST. There were 71 attendees.

**Old Business**

Marvin encourages members to recruit colleagues for membership. Despite a membership list of over 300 individuals, the membership is roughly half that.

AT&T stock has been completely transferred to ASHS.

APS website looks spectacular.

The Journal is pursuing DOI numbers.

Appreciation and thanks to Advisory members rotating off the board: Brent Black, Gina Fernandez, David Karp, Ioannis Minas, Sara Serra.

Marvin commends Michele Warmund for organizing the ASHS workshop.

Heather Hilko (ASHS) provides a brief update that page charges are being collected. Michele requests information regarding the transfer of APS dues collected by ISHS; Heather requested but did not receive a response. Michele requests an email to ISHS Treasurer; Heather suggests that the request come from the APS President as opposed to a third party (i.e., ASHS).

Todd Einhorn (APS Secretary) disseminates 2019 minutes for review. Michele makes motion to accept minutes. Lisa De Vetter seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report**- Ed Hellman. Reduced total liabilities and equity due to lower value of AT&T stock since last report. Poor communication with ISHS on the transfer of APS dues. Ed plans to continue to serve as Treasurer for another year, but likely not longer. An increase in income from journal page charges. Continued issues with accurate accounting information from ISHS (membership dues); 2018 income was inflated because ISHS processed and transferred dues from previous years. There were no figures for 2019. Subscriptions to the Journal has declined, which is not a large part of the Society’s income. Regarding expenses, a large proportion (93%) is for Journal printing costs and management fees.

Kim Hummer makes motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Essie Fallahi seconded the motion.

**Editor’s Report-** Rich Marini. Workshop proceedings can fill an entire issue; generally, five to six publications per issue due to a 64 page limit. January 2021 issue is full. The next series of papers that are accepted will not be published until April 2021. Rich asked the printer for a second issue for October 2020 given that enough content had been approved and was ready. Attempts are made to synchronize the cover photo with a paper in the issue. Rich appreciates receiving short review articles. Essie asks the average time for reviewers to submit reviews; Rich replies ~one month with a reminder emailed at three weeks. The total time from manuscript submission to full acceptance is ~ 2 months or less. Michele offers that reviewer response time is not as problematic as reviewers that do not reply. Most US reviewers send alternatives if they decline from which Rich usually selects one name.

Marvin thanks Rich for his efforts.

**Editorial Committee Report**- Penny Perkins-Veazie. Penny is working with Rich to pursue DOI numbers for the Journal.

**Website Report-** Mercy Olmstead. Peak internet has been good to work with but is quite strict on updates. Website is current and up to date and Mercy is open to any suggestions regarding the website. Mercy will follow up with the awardees today to procure photos to add content.

**Register of new fruit and nut cultivars-** Ksenija Gasic and David Karp. The 50th list was published in June, comprising 450 cultivars and 38 pages, making this one of the largest lists to date. Guidelines on preparing the list have been updated. David ‘upped the game’ and refined the style sheet; 7,000 patents have gone through. David additionally learned to use the PLUTO database. The online version has been temporarily set aside but David will return to his ardent effort.

Essie inquires about cultivars with multiple names. David replies that trade names pertaining to specific cultivars are the biggest problem. David feels that good progress has been made.

Marvin solicits attendance by poll.

**Awards**

***U.P. Hedrick award***. Essie Fallahi (Chair). Essie acknowledges the committee (Susan Brown, Dan Ward, Rob Crassweller, and Peter Hirst) and discusses that student awards pertain to both review and research papers. The establishment of guidelines enables a ranking for both in order to compare.

1st place is awarded to the paper entitled ‘Development of Quality Attributes in Strawberry Fruit: A Review’, authored by Anya Osatuke and Marvin Pritts. Essie has sent the award certificate.

2nd place is awarded to the paper entitled ‘Effect of Hydrogen Cyanamide on Flower Production of ‘AU Golden Sunshine’ and ‘AU Gulf Coast Gold’ Kiwifruit’, authored by Jacob T. Kelley, James D. Spiers, J. R. Kessler, Elina D. Coneva and Edgar L. Vinson. Essie has sent the award certificate.

***P.H. Shepard Award***. Fumi Takeda (Chair). Fumi acknowledges the seven-member committee (Ann Callahan, Sherif Sherif, Kathy Demchak, Juanita Popenoe, Cameron Peace, Sara Serra and Lisa De Vetter). Fumi discusses the number of criteria used to judge merit: new useful or unusual information, clearly presented information, information useful to a large component of the Society, etc. The P.H. Shepard award was established in 1962. The committee overwhelmingly chose the paper entitled ‘Performance of 'Montmorency' sour cherry (*Prunus cerasus* L.) on size-controlling rootstocks at six NC 140 trial locations in North America’ by Teryl Roper et al. Fumi has prepared and mailed certificates. Dr. Roper will distribute to other authors on paper. Congratulations are given to Teryl.

Fumi requests volunteers to serve on the committee.

***Wilder Medal Award***- Brent Black (Chair). The Wilder Medal committee was established in 1873 by APS in honor of the Marshall Pinkney Wilder, founder and first president of the Society. Brent acknowledges the committee (Patrick Byers, Mercy Olmstead, Daniel Ward, Christopher Walsh, Clive Kaiser, and Lee Kalcsits). The 2020 Wilder Medal is awarded to Dr. David W. Cain. The presentation of Dr. Cain’s achievements is given by John Clark. Dr. Cain thanks John (for the nomination and presentation), Brent and the committee and those who wrote support letters. Marvin congratulates David on a wonderful career.

**New Business.**

Marvin takes time to recognize Chad Finn and the Society’s past deceased members.

Kim Hummer asks to say a few words about Chad. She describes Chad as an amazing breeder who was so friendly with his community. An amazing individual with an equally amazing booming voice that can still be heard. Kim reflects on Chad as a person that was fun and incredibly enjoyable to share time and work. His legacy continues through the many collaborations he had developed.

Bernadine Strik shares her sadness at his sudden loss. She describes the plethora of material Chad developed with many exemplary selections as a testament to what an exceptional breeder he was. His blackberry cultivars, in particular, have had a tremendous impact for the Oregon industry and worldwide. She describes Chad as a wonderful friend and big personality. He will be missed tremendously.

Nahla Bassil reflects on Chad’s character and integrity, offering that Chad began every presentation acknowledging the breeders who came before him. Chad welcomed everybody; he was incredibly generous and hospitable. He has left so much behind and he will be missed.

Kim suggests watching some of Chad’s recorded presentations as a way to connect with his spirit and help the grieving process.

David Karp – gives a short tribute to Floyd Zaiger, who passed away a few months ago. In David ’s mind, Floyd may have been the greatest breeder of all time. He described several of Floyd’s notable releases such as his interspecific plums (as having revolutionized the CA plum industry), the revival of a virtually extinct white nectarine, and the almond cultivar, ‘Independence’. David relates that Floyd has left a legacy, the likes of which we may never witness again.

Greg Peck commemorates Warren Stiles who passed away in 2019. Through Ian Merwin, Warren was a Grandfather advisor to Greg whose work on apple nutrition was foundational in the eastern US. Terence Robinson remembers his beginning at Cornell, traveling throughout NY with Warren. He notes that Warren had a tremendous influence on his career and credits him with reinvigorating the fruit extension system. Terence described Warren as friendly with exceptional field diagnostic skills.

Marvin requests that the group take a few minutes of silence to reflect and honor our deceased members.

Marvin Pritts presents the new logo for the Society, developed by Nahla’s niece as a graphical illustration of the diversity of crops in the field of pomology. Approval is requested for a resolution that the Executive committee already passed (to adopt the logo); thus, a motion and seconded motion is not required. The vote is unanimous.

The Executive committee also passed a resolution to establish the Chad Finn ambassador award to memorialize Dr. Chad Finn and recognize efforts made in the fruit industry, which do not need to be entirely research focused. A motion and second is not required.

Bernadine mentioned the importance Chad placed on sharing his information with stakeholders. She relates that Chad would be thrilled and honored, and she thanks the committee.

Two businesses, PSI and Pairwise wished to contribute to the award in some capacity. Marvin felt a monetary award did not adequately convey meaning. The companies expressed an interest in cultivating pomological interests in young students; thus, an awardee of the Chad Finn ambassador award will receive funds to bring a student to attend a professional meeting. The nucleus of a committee was formed to manage the award and comprised Gina Fernandez, Lisa De Vetter, Michele Warmund.

DOI numbers for JAPS articles will be pursued. The estimated costs are $250 per year. Rich Marini suggests this includes back issues. Penny Perkins will assess how far back we can assign DOIs.

Nahla Bassil discusses the APS tour to the USDA National Seed Storage Laboratory in Fort Collins during the 2021 ASHS Conference in Denver, CO. A workshop about long-term preservation was also proposed. Kim Hummer mentioned that the Denver Botanic garden may have fruits of interest to the Society. Nahla mentioned the breweries/cideries/wineries in the area and solicited additional ideas for the workshop and tour.

The new slate of officers is announced: Patrick Conner 2nd vice president; Mercy Olmstead and Tom Kon nominated to the Executive Board; and, Anne Plotto, Daniel Ward, Edgar Vinson, Michael Dossett, and Patrick Byers nominated to the Advisory board. Additional nominations are solicited from the floor; hearing none, Essie moves to accept the slate of new nominees; Kim Hummer seconds the motion. The motion is unanimous.

Marvin turns over the gavel to Nahla Bassil as the new APS president.

Nahla thanks Marvin for his service and leadership.

Meeting adjourns at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Einhorn