



APS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Orlando, Thursday, August 3, 2023, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, Boca I Room

Attendees: Kayla Brouwer, Ben Weiss, Sara Serra, Mercy Olmstead, Marvin Pritts, Jayesh Samtani, Nahla Bassil, Anne Platto, Greg Reighard, Essie Fallahi, Sushan Ru, Juliet Chu, Shanthanu Kumar, Mykala Robertsen, Griffin Erich, Mary Sutton, Richard J. Campbell, Stefano Musacchi, Desmond Layne, Brent Black, Cameron Peace, Per McCord, Patrick Conner, David Karp, Penelope Perkins-Veazie, Jules Hart, Cristina Pisani

Minutes Recorded by Ben Weiss and Kayla Brouwer (graduate students), submitted by Lisa DeVetter

Old Business:

1. Minutes from 2022 meeting
 - Desmond Layne motioned to approve, seconded by Esmail (Essie) Fallahi.
2. Workshop on “The Register of New Fruit and Nut Cultivars: Past, Present, and Future” on **Wednesday, August 2, at 1:30 pm in the Caribbean VI Room** – David Karp & Ksenija Gasic
 - Recap of a successful workshop delivered.
3. Report from ASHS – Heather Hilko
 - Heather Hilko was absent, so this was skipped.
4. Financial report – Amaya Atucha
 - Amaya Atucha was absent, see submitted treasurer report. Overall, APS has ~\$200K in checking and savings. The society experienced a ~\$10K loss last year attributed to decreasing membership subscriptions and costs related to covering invited speaker registration fees for the ASHS workshop held in 2022 in Chicago.
 - APS Executive Committee proposed to strategically invest \$100K of APS funds over one year across a diversified range of assets including stocks, bonds, and other instruments to diversify and avoid financial losses due to inflation and provide a reliable source of income. David Karp specifically recommended Vanguard diversified index funds and not paying anyone to manage. Motion was made to accept this proposal by Marvin Pritts and seconded by David Karp. Desmond Layne proposed amending the motion to include submission of 6- and 12-month reports back to APS on fund earnings. Motion was approved unanimously.
5. Editor’s Report – Rich Marini
 - Number of subscriptions needs to increase.
 - Rich Marini is retiring at the end of 2024 and the journal needs a new editor. APS will develop an advertisement for the website and ASHS with the aim to recruit a new editor that will have a 4-6 month overlap with Rich Marini to allow cross training.
 - Addition of dois will now move forward, but will not be retroactive and only for future submissions.
6. Registration of New Fruit & Nut Cultivars – David Karp
 - List 51 was published in Sept. 2022 issue of *HortScience*.
 - List 52 anticipated to be published summer 2024 in *HortScience*.
 - Discussed production of a book with David Karp as lead complete with quality illustrations.

7. Membership & Nomination committee – Nahla Bassil
 - Five Advisory Board members are rotating off. Three have agreed to renew their term: Michael Dossett (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, BC, Canada), Anne Plotto (USDA-ARS, Fort Pierce, FL), Edgar Vinson (Auburn University, Auburn, AL). Waiting on responses from Patrick Byers (University of Missouri, Columbia, MO) and Dan Ward (Rutgers University, Bridgeton, NJ). Alternatives were suggested in case Ward and Byers do not commit to renewal.
 - APS will put a list of member names with area of expertise and crops of focus on a password-protected portion of the website. Email addresses will not be included. Mercy Olmstead will lead this.
 - Membership continues to decline. To boost membership, APS will encourage members to join by offering prorated membership and encourage new members to join. The society should advertise this. Further discussion on how to increase membership ensued including: display tables at ASHS conferences, distributing pamphlets and bookmarks on the benefits of APS membership at ASHS pomology and viticulture and small fruit sessions, holding presentations during ASHS “Hort Theater”, advertising front page of journal and article titles on social media (Facebook and LinkedIn), and encouraging people at your institution to join. Fruit tastings did not increase membership.
 - Membership renewals should include the option to donate to the society (e.g., Chad Finn Award). Making donations tax deductible should be pursued.
8. U. P. Hedrick Award Committee – Essie Fallahi
 - Seven submissions, more than usual. Quality of submissions was excellent. Advertise winners on social media.
 - First place: Todd Anderson for “Anthocyanin Profiles of Two Subtropical Vaccinium Species and ‘O’Neal’ Southern Highbush Blueberry”. Co-authors: Robert W. Durst, Scott W. Leonard, Kim E. Hummer, Claire Luby, and Nahla V. Bassil.
 - Second place: Mary Featherstone for “Historical Chill Hour vs Chill Portions Analysis for Better Dormancy Breaking Assessment in Temperate Crops”. Co-authors: John M. Lawton, and Ksenija Gasic.
9. Shepard Award Committee – Kelsey Galimba
 - Winner: “Twospotted Spider Mite Preference and Performance on Day-Neutral Strawberry in New York and Role of Structural Characteristics in Plant Susceptibility” by Samantha A. Willden, Marvin P. Pritts, and Gregory M. Loeb.
10. Wilder Medal Award Committee – Brent Black
 - 150th year of the award.
 - Award went to Dr. Bernadine Strik (posthumously)
 - Announcement of the award was made at the ISHS Rubus and Ribes symposium in Portland and Dr. Strik’s family was there to receive the announcement. Engraving of metal in process and the award will be shipped to Bernadine’s family.
11. Chad Finn Ambassador Award – Gina Fernandez
 - No awardee in 2023 due to award being offered every other year. Encourage nominations for 2024.



12. Preview of website updates – Mercy Olmstead

- Meeting began with a reminder to send submissions on website changes to Mercy Olmstead. Website will be updated soon to include an advertisement that APS is hiring a new editor, as Rich Marini will be stepping down in 2024. Discussion on journal dois was also held and they will be going forward now that SSLs are being done. Also, a new password will be sent out after the conference for website hosted journals.

New Business:

- Workshop and topics for ASHS 2024, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii, September 23-27
 - Tour - Todd Anderson will connect with Mercy Olmstead and provide contacts of local people/extension agents that can help with the tour. Mercy will follow-up with APS to gauge interest on what to see/do.
- Workshop ideas:
 - 1) Heat stress and tolerance – mentioned by Lisa DeVetter and Mercy Olmstead
 - Joint proposal planned between APS and the ASHS Viticulture and Small Fruits working group led by Matthew Clark at University of Minnesota, Amaya Atucha at University of Wisconsin Madison, Jean C. Dodson Peterson at Washington State University, and Lisa DeVetter at Washington State University
 - 2) Alternate Bearing – proposed by Esmail "Essie" Fallahi
 - Ksenija will email members a reminder to submit topic ideas and a decision will be reached after.
- Dormancy workshop was success this year, however there was a lack of time left for discussion.

Meeting adjourned.