

2024 APS Website Report

Mercy Olmstead, Website Coordinator

Status:

This year, the hosting service that has been housing our website for many years decided to no longer provide hosting services (Peak Internet, Corvallis, OR). The website had to be moved to another hosting service, and I was able to find one that does not charge non-profits for the hosting service. Dreamhost.com is a cloud-based hosting service. Transfer of the domain name (<https://www.americanpomological.org>) was completed July 31, 2024, without significant interruption to website access.

Movement of the website to Dreamhost.com will save the society approximately **\$91.00** per year over the previous hosting provider.

All security and backups have been proceeding as expected with no problems with the Wordpress platform for the website.

Digital Issues:

All issues received have been posted online via the “Digital Issues” tab on the Journal section of the website. Members with an active membership can contact me at mercyolmstead@hotmail.com for the current password.

In Memoriam:

If you have additional heroes to highlight, please send me a story of their life and some photos. I would gladly upload those.

If there are any suggestions for the website, please let me know! I’m always ready to make changes.

Cheers,
Mercy Olmstead



**American
Pomological
Society**

September 12, 2024

Annual Activity Report for the American Pomological Society UP Hedrick Awards in 2024, Submitted to the APS

On behalf of the APS, calls for nominations were sent twice to all members during spring and early summer of 2024. The APS president and Chairman of UP Hedrick Awards encouraged members to submit their students' papers for this competition.

We received seven papers for the competition, five in "Research" and two in "Review" categories. This number is very encouraging. All papers had good to great quality, making it a stiff competition. We had five outstanding judges from different institutions, with years of academic, extension, teaching, and advising experience.

Fortunately, the top two places were nearly unanimous among judges. The committee selected the winners as follows:

First Place winner; A Research Paper:

Manuscript title: Evaluating Growing Degree Days and Fruit Development Periods in P
Peach Breeding Material from Clemson University.

Authors: Matthew Almy, John M. Lawton, and Ksenija Gasic

For Second Place, we had two co-recipients, as they ranked identical:

Second-place Corecipient No. 1; A Research Paper:

Title: Anthocyanin Content and Profiles of Strawberry Fruit from North Carolina Genotypes.

Authors: Brianna Hyaynes, Gina Fernandez, Guoyina Ma, and Penelope Perkins-Veazie

Second-place Corecipient No. 2, A Review Paper:

Title: Pawpaw: An Underutilized Tree with Potential

Authors: Griffin Erich, Greg Peck and Marvin Pritts.

The First and Second-Place winners and non-recipients were notified, with warm words of encouragements by the chair. First and second-place winners will receive plaques from at the APS business meeting. Additionally, a check will be given to the first author in the amount of \$300 to the first place and \$150 to the first author of each of the second-place co-recipients.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the committee members, Dr. Susan Brown, Dr. Rob Crassweller, Dr. Pete Hirst, and Dr. Dan Ward for their excellent job in Judging these papers.

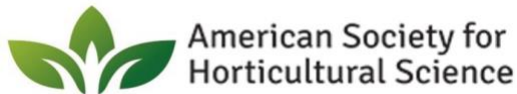
This report is presented to APS President Gasic and the APS Executive Board members for their information and for members information, as my Annual Activity Report of the APS UP Hedrick Awards Committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Esmail Fallahi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Dr. Esmail "Essie" Fallahi
Chairman of the American Pomological Society UP Hedrick Award Committee
Chairman of the Board of Directors and
Past-President of the American Society for Horticultural Science
Professor of Pomology and Viticulture
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September 10, 2024

Dear APS Board,

On behalf of the Chad Finn Ambassador Award (CFAA) committee, we are pleased to announce that the 3rd Chad Finn Ambassador Award will be presented to Dr. Penelope Perkins-Veazie, Professor of Horticulture at North Carolina State University. The CFAA recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to pomology, particularly in outreach and service. Dr. Perkins-Veazie will receive a certificate from the APS and a tie-dye t-shirt at the upcoming APS meeting, or another location where she will be present (to be determined). Dr. Perkins-Veazie was the sole nominee for this award this year.

Additionally, a \$1,000 monetary award will be given to a student selected by the award recipient. This award is intended to support travel to a fruit-related meeting, preferably the APS/ASHS meeting in 2024. Dr. Perkins-Veazie has nominated Ms. Brianna Haynes for this honor. Ms. Haynes will be presenting a poster at the ASHS meeting in the FRBR session. Her poster, titled *Multivariate Analysis of Fruit Composition Diversity Among the North Carolina Strawberry Germplasm Collection*, will be presented on Wednesday, September 24, at 12:05 p.m. This research was part of her master's thesis at NCSU, co-advised by Drs. Perkins-Veazie and Gina Fernandez.

Heather Hilko (ASHS) has provided an Excel spreadsheet with a list of donations, which is attached. As of June 30, 2024, the CFAA fund totals \$26,795. In 2024, \$450 was contributed to the fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Fernandez".

Gina Fernandez
Chad Finn Ambassador Award Committee

Attachment: APS Statement Financial Position Q1 Q2 2024.

American Pomological Society Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2024

ASSETS

Checking Account- Truist	\$	194,165.26
Receivable from ASHS	\$	5,481.40
Chad Finn Endowment	\$	26,795.42
AT&T- Market Value	\$	18,207.21
Total Assets	\$	244,649.29

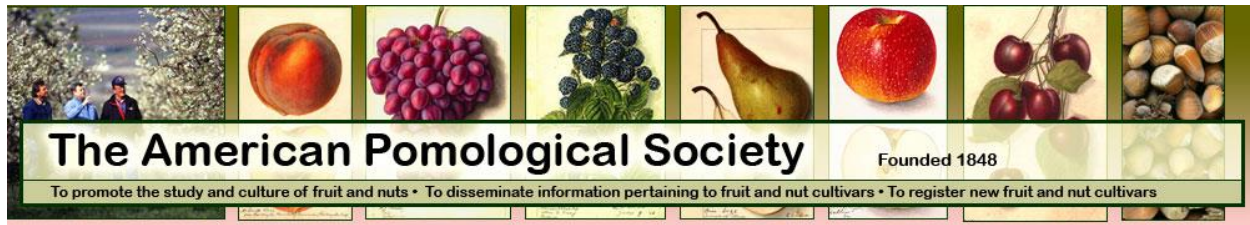
LIABILITIES

Payable to ASHS	\$	8,007.89
Payable to ISHS	\$	520.00
Total Liabilities	\$	8,527.89

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$	209,325.98
With Donor Restrictions	\$	26,795.42
Total Net Assets	\$	236,121.40

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$	244,649.29
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Journal of the American Pomological Society

Editor's Report for 2024

Over the past few years, I reported that submission to the Journal were declining, and that trend is continuing. Before the pandemic there were usually 30 to 35 submissions per year. The number of submissions were 15, 18, and 10, in 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively. I have received only 4 submissions in 2024 and 2 of them were declined due to lack of replication. Due to lack of submissions, there were no issues published in April or July. There is only one manuscript in the pipeline, so an October issue is unlikely.

There are likely several reasons for the lower number of submissions. There are several new online journals that compete for submissions. Most research programs were negatively affected during the pandemic, and we may be seeing the results of reduced research activity. Poor economic conditions in some countries likely impacted the ability of some international researchers to pay page charges. Academia in the United States is in a period of transition. As the baby boom generation retires, some pomology positions are not being filled, so there are fewer pomologists to submit manuscripts. Additionally, the recently hired pomologists are still establishing their programs and may not yet have data to publish. Until about 1990 many fruit breeders published their cultivar introductions in our Journal, but this is no longer the case. My requests to some breeders requesting articles on cultivar introductions did not result in submissions. The Journal of APS is a good journal to describe new fruit cultivars and I encourage breeders to submit cultivar release information. Data from NC-140 trials were traditionally published in our Journal, but recently much of the data have been published in *Acta Horticulturae*. Most of the papers in *Acta Hort* are preliminary reports of long-term studies. Since *Acta Hort* is not a peer reviewed journal and the page limit prevents a thorough presentation of Methods, Results and Discussion, I think trial summaries published in *Acta Hort* can be rewritten in more detail and published in the Journal of APS. Many other papers presented at ISHS symposia and published in *Acta Hort* are suitable for the Journal of APS. Manuscripts from workshops were a good source of information on important topics, but after repeated requests I often was unable to obtain manuscripts from non-APS members who presented papers at workshops.

Since many fruit breeders were approaching retirement and summaries of their program achievements should be interesting to many pomologists, two years ago I solicited manuscripts from 18 fruit breeding programs encouraging researchers to submit manuscripts discussing the history, goals, successes, and future directions of their programs. I thought this would be a good way to archive information before fruit breeders retired. I also invited some fruit research center superintendents to write short papers describing the history, goals, and achievements of the work performed at their

centers. These efforts resulted in only two submissions. Hopefully some of Mercy's strategies will increase the number of submissions in the future.

The number of submissions from international authors declined greatly with only one submission from Brazil. Several potential international authors contacted me indicating that they needed "a quick publication" for promotion. When I told them that we publish issues every 3 months, they did not submit manuscripts.

For 2023, the species reported on included apple (4), peach (4), blueberry (2), pawpaw (1), olive (1), pecan (1), elderberry (1), cranberry (1), and blackberry (1), and there was one biography. For each issue I try to obtain cover photos that are relevant to at least one of the papers in that issue and authors have been very generous with their photos. The past two years most of the photos were of tropical fruits, and I hoped this might result in some submissions on tropical and subtropical fruits.

I appreciate responses from reviewers. I usually send manuscripts to at least 3 reviewers, and about one-third of those I contact never respond. It is helpful when reviewers respond to the request to review a paper, especially when they decline the invitation.

The relationship with the printer remains good. Sherrie Altizer at WordSprint, in Blacksburg, VA is my contact. Upon receiving documents from me, she usually returns proofs within 10 days, but the time can vary quite a bit depending on her workload. I usually send her the materials about 6 weeks before the intended publication date and the electronic versions are typically posted during the first half of the month of the issue date. Upon acceptance of the revised proof for an issue, I contact the ASHS Business Office to request mailing labels be sent to Sherrie and this, along with the billing process at ASHS, seems to be working well.

I assumed the Editor's position in August 2015, I retired from The Pennsylvania State University on 1 July 2022. Now I am looking forward to stepping down as editor this summer with the knowledge that Mercy will be taking over, because I am confident, she will do a great job. Mercy and I have been corresponding and I am sending her relevant information concerning the review process. I appreciate the support and positive interactions I have had during my career with members of APS, and I am happy to help in any way to insure a smooth transition of the editorship.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Marini (Editor)

August 19, 2024

September 13, 2024

Report for American Pomological Society, Editorial Board

Submitted by: Penelope Perkins-Veazie

We have a new editor, Dr. Mercy Olmstead, who replaces Dr. Rich Marini as of September 1st. Thanks to Dr. Marini who has done so much for the journal and welcome to Mercy.

We have had numerous discussions about the future of the journal over the last 2 years, from its continuation to introducing doi and online options. Thanks to help from ASHS and Mercy's expertise, we have found a way forward to bring the journal online, hopefully with far less difficulty and expense than we feared. These changes should lead to an improved impact factor, a more streamlined system for submission and publication, and an uptick in our journal's relevance among our peers. There are more details on the upcoming suggestions and procedures from other board members.

Treasurer's Report
American Pomological Society
September, 2023

ASHS provided an End-of Year Balance Sheet and a Statement of Activities for January 1 through December 31, 2022. Total liabilities and equity of the Society as of December 2022 was \$239,933. Total assets are held as \$ 198,321.26 in the checking/savings account, \$21,574.04 in the Chad Finn Endowment, and \$18,038.51 held in AT&T stocks.

APS total income for 2021 was \$22,275.43, which included \$7,775.5 from journal page charges; \$9,320 from individual member dues; \$3,985 journal subscriptions; and \$1,194.93 in dividend income from AT&T stocks.

Total income in 2022 decreased by \$9,828.05 (roughly 30%) from the previous year. This is partially due to a significant decrease of \$7,606.3 in the journal page charges compared to the previous year. During 2022 there were only 3 issues of the journal produced thereby reducing the manuscript fee collected. In addition to the decrease in journal page charges, a decrease in journal subscriptions of \$1,715 and a decrease in total dividend income from the AT&T stock of \$616.75 from the previous year, also contributed to the total income decrease in 2022. Membership dues in 2022 were \$9,320, a slight increase by \$110 from the previous year. However, it is worth mentioning that membership renewal has declined substantially, but this is not reflected in the 2022 income because the collection of membership fees has a different calendar than other income items.

Total expenses for 2022 were \$24,944, with journal printing/supplies costs and management fees comprising the majority (60%) of the expenses. Total expenses increased slightly from the previous year by \$130.34. However, there were several expenses for 2022 that had not been budgeted, including the Chad Finn award (funds were paid from checking and not the endowment funds) and an increase in APS session expenses, cost of our annual meeting at the AHS conference, of \$1,485 from the previous year (APS paid for the registration of 3 speakers for the 2022 APS workshop "Glaciers, Great Lakes and Global Climate Change: The Past, Present and Future Role of Climate on Shaping Fruit Production in the Great Lakes Region").

APS net income for 2022 was negative -\$2,669.05, and mostly due to a decreased income as well as unbudgeted expenses.

ASHS reports that current total liabilities and equity is \$234,999.36 as of June 15, 2023. Net income for January through June 15, 2023, is \$2,119.29.

The Chad Finn Endowment Fund was established in February of 2021 and as of June 30, 2023, there is \$22,104.87 in the Finn fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Amaya Atucha, Treasurer

“The Wilder Medal Award was established in 1873 by the American Pomological Society in honor of Marshall Pinkney Wilder, the founder and first president of the Society. The Wilder Medal is conferred on individuals or organizations that have rendered outstanding service to horticulture in the broad area of pomology. Special consideration is given to work relating to the origination and introduction of meritorious varieties of fruit. Significant contributions to the science and practice of pomology other than fruit breeding *are also recognized.*”

The 2024 Recipient of the Wilder Silver Medal is Dr. Kate Evans currently at Washington State University and previously at East Malling Research in the UK, for her outstanding contributions to pome fruit breeding and genetics.

Dr. Evans was nominated by a previous Wilder Medal recipient, Dr. Jim Luby of the University of Minnesota.

Neither Kate nor Jim could attend the meeting this year. I will be reading a brief biosketch written by the nominator, and the medal will be presented to Kate at a later date.

Biosketch submitted by Dr. Luby:

Dr. Kate Evans is a tenured Professor in the Department of Horticulture at Washington State University, based at the Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center (TFREC), Wenatchee. Dr. Evans was born, raised, and educated through graduate school in England, receiving her B.Sc. from Leeds University and Ph.D from Durham University. She joined WSU as an Associate Professor in 2008 following 16 years as a researcher/senior researcher at East Malling Research in the UK. Dr. Evans leads the pome fruit breeding program. She has published 76 peer-reviewed papers, 6 book chapters and edited a book on apple. In addition to her breeding and genetics research, Dr. Evans has advised 14 graduate and postdoctoral trainees, served as chair of the U.S. Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee, and has been a long-time member of the USDA Apple and Pear Crop Germplasm Committees.

Dr. Evans' has participated in the release of 13 fruit cultivars: 8 apple varieties, 2 pear varieties, 1 apple rootstock and 1 rootstock for pear. 'WA 38', an apple with fruit sold under the Cosmic Crisp trademark, is a cultivar with tremendous impact. It has experienced the most sudden and phenomenal adoption by the U.S. apple industry of any cultivar. Based on tree planting, 'WA 38' will become one of the top three apple cultivars in the US in less than a decade. 'WA 38' is also being planted in apple producing regions around the world including Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, and Argentina.

The American Pomological Society proudly commemorates the career of Dr. Kate Evans as the 2024 recipient of the Marshall P. Wilder Silver Medal.

Inscription: For contributions to pome fruit breeding and genetics