

PEOPLE

Potato Association of America Names New President

Mark has spent nearly his entire life in potatoes, from growing to processing

If you were looking for a preview of the future of the potato, then the place to be the last week of July was Boise, Idaho.

For four days, beginning on Sunday, July 22, more than 300 people from 16 countries traveled to Boise for the 102nd annual meeting of the Potato Association of America (PAA).

University and private researchers, Extension agents, growers and industry representatives traveled to Idaho's state capital to see and hear presentations on the status of the latest research papers.

Shelley Jansky, 2017-2018 PAA president and a research scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and horticulture professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, relates that attendance was so good they had to close registration because they couldn't accommodate any more people.

"We are the go-to place for information outcomes related



Incoming Potato Association of America (PAA) President Rich Novy (left) is handed the gavel from outgoing President Shelley Jansky, a research scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service and horticulture professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. *Photo courtesy of Bill Schaefer*

to potato," Jansky says of the PAA's position.

Succeeding Jansky as PAA president is Rich Novy, USDA-ARS research geneticist at the Aberdeen, Idaho facility.

Novy indicates he wants to continue the PAA's role of developing collaboration among researchers and the industry and encouraging young researchers to stay involved in the potato industry during his one-year

Left: Shelley Jansky, right, outgoing PAA president, presents John Bamberg an award recognizing his 16 years as editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Potato Research and 10 years before that as the senior editor for breeding and genetics manuscripts. Bamberg, who is also a project leader at the U.S. Potato Genebank in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, is turning over the editing responsibilities to Samuel Essah. *Photo courtesy of Bill Schaefer*

term as president.

FACILITATE NEW RESEARCHERS

"We're trying to facilitate new researchers and graduate students and keep their interest in being involved in potato while continuing their research role to help the industry," Novy says.

"We have an aging population," he explains of the PAA membership base, "and like many aging populations, we need to have the young researchers ready with the retirements that are coming down the pipeline."

Of those recognized at the Wednesday night banquet as Honorary Life Members was Robert Hoopes, a potato breeder for Frito-Lay for more than 24 years, previously working at the University of Wisconsin, Cornell University and



in potato variety development for the Consortium for International Development.

Also recognized were Rick Knowles, longtime professor at Washington State University specializing in variety development, potato agronomy and physiology; Stephen Love, University of Idaho, specializing in potato variety development for 20 years; and Leigh Morrow, director of agronomy for McCain Foods USA for the past 22 years, previously working for the University of Maine in a variety of positions.

The PAA's Outstanding Extension Project award was presented to Washington State University's Carrie Wohleb, Tim Waters and David Crowder for their development of the school's Potato Pest Alerts newsletter.

Receiving awards in the Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Competition were: Graham Ellis, first



Winners of the PAA's Frank L. Haynes Graduate Student Research Competition are, from left to right, Graham Ellis, first place, Washington State University; Natalie Kaiser, second place, Michigan State University; Alejandro Cruz, third place, Washington State University and Rachel Gross, fifth place, University of Idaho. David Wheeler, fourth place, Washington State University, did not attend the banquet. *Photo courtesy of Bill Schaefer*

place, Washington State University; Natalie Kaiser, second place, Michigan State University; Alejandro Cruz, third place, Washington State University; David Wheeler, fourth place, Washington State University and

Rachel Gross, fifth place, University of Idaho.

The 2019 PAA annual meeting will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, July 28-August 1.

continued on pg. 34

The pHoundation of Your Operation

Sound management starts with soil pH maintenance

Soil pH dictates nutrient availability and pH levels below 6.0 can reduce yield by as much as 30 percent. Rather than correcting pH every few years, agronomists now recommend a regular pH maintenance program.

98G corrects soil pH faster than aglime and maintains consistent, yield maximizing pH levels year after year. **Maintain your operation's pHull potential with 98G.**

Ask your local crop advisor about 98G, or visit calciumproducts.com/98G.

