

Historical Review of the Potomac Division of APS (1943–1993)

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The Potomac Division of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) was formed in 1943. The initial planning is reported to have occurred in the office of Harry B. Humphrey, a cereal pathologist at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Beltsville.

The initial action was a petition signed in January 1943 by some 60 members of the parent society residing in the Maryland–District of Columbia (D.C.) area. This petition was presented to the APS Council meeting in Columbus, Ohio, in early February 1943. It was accepted by the Council and then submitted to the membership of the Society for a vote. This vote was completed by 1 August 1943, and the petition was approved by a large majority.

The original petition notice was then sent to prospective members in the D.C., Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania area of the impending meeting of the new Potomac Division. The first meeting was held 23–24 February 1944 at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, with 61 people in attendance, who became the charter members. At this meeting, 19 papers were presented, a symposium was held on quarantines, and discussions were held on wartime work in plant pathology. The first full-term Potomac Division officers elected for 1944–45 were: W. J. Zaumeyer, President; H. B. Humphrey, Vice President; T. F. Manns, Secretary-Treasurer; and H. P. Barss, Councilor.

During its first 25 yr, the Potomac Division held 21 annual meetings at the Plant Industry Station. In 1948, the

division meeting was held for 1 day in conjunction with the Southern Division. The oldest available photograph (1952) of the Potomac Division shows President Doolittle (USDA) with his executive committee discussing plans for the ninth annual division meeting at Beltsville (Fig. 1).

In 1957, 1 day of the meeting was held at Ft. Detrick, Frederick, Maryland, for a symposium on "Methods and Measurements in Epiphytology." In 1962, the entire meeting was held for the first time at West Virginia University, Morgantown, in conjunction with the celebration of the golden anniversary of its department of plant pathology. In 1966, the division meeting was held for the first time at the University of Delaware, Newark, on request of the membership. This meeting included a tour of the research facilities of the DuPont de Nemours Experimental Station.

Since 1968, the location of the division meetings has been rotated among the USDA and the universities of the four division states. During the 50-yr period, the division meeting was held 26 times at Beltsville, six times at the University of Maryland (College Park), five times each at West Virginia University (Morgantown) and the University of Delaware (Newark), and three times at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Blacksburg). In 1971 and 1989, the Potomac Division

met in conjunction with the annual APS meeting in Philadelphia and Richmond, respectively.

A listing of all officers of the Potomac Division during the past 50 years is presented in Table 1. During this period, 25 members of the Potomac Division have held two of the four officerships in the division. On the other hand, only five members held all four positions of secretary-treasurer, vice president, president, and councilor: Cy Weaver (University of Maryland), 1955–1960; John Moseman (USDA), 1957–1963; Ray Webb (USDA) 1960–1966; Larry Moore (VPI), 1978–1985; and Bob Carroll (University of Delaware), 1984–1993. A summary distribution of the officers by employment affiliation in the division is shown in Table 2. Based on the size of each membership affiliation through the years, the figures appear to indicate an equitable distribution of the officers.

From the original charter membership of 61, meeting attendance reached a maximum of 250 in 1956 and varied between 110 and 175 during the following 36 yr. From the first 19 papers presented in 1944, the number of presentations reached a low of 15 in 1954 and all time highs of 68 papers in 1981 and 1985. During the past 50 yr, approximately 1,700 papers and posters were presented by scientists, students, and others. Of these,



Fig. 1. Planning session for the ninth annual meeting of the Potomac Division by President S. P. Doolittle (USDA), seated, and members of the program committee (left to right) G. E. Cox (Maryland), Helen Sherwin (USDA), H. R. Thomas (USDA), C. A. Thomas (USDA), J. B. Demaree (USDA), and H. T. Cook (USDA). Beltsville, February 1952.

This is an updated version of 1) a mimeographed publication prepared by Johnny Heuberger (University of Delaware) for the 25th anniversary meeting of the Potomac Division in 1968, and 2) a brief history of the division published by Larry Moore (VPI&SU) for the 40th anniversary in 1983 (Phytopathol. News 17(4):25), amended with information obtained from Arv Grybauskas (University of Maryland) from annual programs and minutes of the meetings of the past 25 yr (1969–1992).

Accepted for publication 20 October 1994.

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42.3% were from USDA, 18.1% from Virginia, 12.4% from Maryland, 8.1% from West Virginia, 6.6% from Delaware, 6.5% from Pennsylvania, and 6.0% from New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and the chemical industry).

In 1972, the division membership unanimously voted to present a \$50.00 check for the best paper presented by a graduate student. In 1973, the initial nine student papers were judged and the first Graduate Student Award plaque and check was awarded to Charles W.

Puffinberger of the University of Maryland for his paper entitled "Characterization of a NEPO Virus Isolated from Euonymus." His major professor was M. K. Corbett. In 1980, the monetary award was raised to \$100.00 and in 1991, the membership unanimously passed a motion to change the graduate student award to \$250.00 for the first award and \$100.00 for the second, starting in 1992.

During the past 20 yr, a total of 214 graduate student papers were presented, of which 27 (12%) received the Graduate Student Award (Table 3). The first posters were presented in 1977 in the division meeting at the University of Maryland in College Park and have become a routine part of the division meetings.

In 1965, when Zaumeyer (USDA) was president of the parent society of APS, he announced the establishment of the Ruth Allen Award. In 1967, Donald F. Crossan (University of Delaware) suggested that the division establish a committee to study procedures for the nomination of officers. The first official committees for nominations and resolutions appeared on the 1969 meeting program. In 1968, Potomac Division dues were raised to \$3.00 and were set at \$1.50 for graduate students. That year, the Division celebrated its silver anniversary with a special symposium on the division's past and future activities, organized by J. W. Heuberger, W. J. Zaumeyer, T. C. Ryker, H. L. Barnett, and K. Maramorosch. In 1970, part of the meeting afternoon was devoted to a discussion on "The Role of Plant Pathology in Every Day Life," chaired by Charles Delp (DuPont). Russell Steere (USDA) had invited high school science teachers and their top students from the metropolitan Washington area to attend our meeting, and Johnny Heuberger discussed "Plant Pathology as a Career" (Fig. 2).

In 1975, the Potomac Division meetings were expanded to start a half-day earlier with an open house at the newly established National Agricultural Library in Beltsville. Since that time, meeting registration has usually been held in late afternoon, followed by several discussion sessions in the evening. That year, the banquet was honored with the presence of five division members who also had served as president of APS (Fig. 3). Prior to 1943, seven more presidents of APS had come from the Potomac region.

In 1979, the Lee M. Hutchins Award was established by gifts from the estate of Hutchins (an active division member) for the best contribution to basic or applied research on diseases of perennial fruit plants. Prior to 1993, no members of the division had received this award; however, during the annual APS meeting at Nashville, Tennessee, in November 1993, Alan R. Biggs (WVU, Kearneysville) became the first Potomac Division

Table 1. Listing of officers of the Potomac Division (1943–1992)

Year	President	Vice-President	Secr.-Treasurer	Councilor
1943	C. Hartley**	H. B. Humphrey*	R. A. Jehle*	H. P. Bars*
1944	W. J. Zaumeyer	H. B. Humphrey	T. F. Manns	R. J. Haskell*
1945	T. F. Manns*	E. E. Clayton	V. F. Tapke	R. J. Haskell
1946	E. E. Clayton*	V. F. Tapke	W. F. Jeffers	E. E. Clayton
1947	V. F. Tapke*	W. F. Jeffers	W. W. Diehl*	P. R. Miller*
1948	W. F. Jeffers*	C. L. Lefebvre	J. B. Demaree	P. R. Miller
1949	C. L. Lefebvre	C. E. Cox	J. B. Demaree	C. L. Lefebvre
1950	C. E. Cox*	S. P. Doolittle	J. B. Demaree	C. E. Cox
1951	S. P. Doolittle*	J. B. Demaree	H. R. Thomas	C. E. Cox
1952	J. B. Demaree*	C. May	H. R. Thomas	W. J. Zaumeyer
1953	C. May	J. W. Heuberger	H. R. Thomas	W. J. Zaumeyer
1954	J. W. Heuberger*	H. R. Thomas	L. O. Weaver	W. D. McClellan
1955	H. R. Thomas	J. G. Leach	L. O. Weaver	W. D. McClellan
1956	J. G. Leach*	K. W. Kreitlow	L. O. Weaver	J. W. Heuberger
1957	K. W. Kreitlow*	L. O. Weaver	J. G. Moseman	J. W. Heuberger
1958	L. O. Weaver*	W. D. McClellan	J. G. Moseman	L. O. Weaver
1959	W. D. McClellan*	A. B. Groves	J. G. Moseman	L. O. Weaver
1960	A. B. Groves*	J. G. Moseman	R. E. Webb	A. B. Groves
1961	J. G. Moseman	H. L. Barnett	R. E. Webb	A. B. Groves ^b
1962	H. L. Barnett	H. D. Sisler	R. E. Webb	J. G. Moseman
1963	H. D. Sisler	R. E. Webb	G. C. Papavizas	J. G. Moseman
1964	R. E. Webb*	M. E. Gallegly	G. C. Papavizas	R. E. Webb
1965	M. E. Gallegly	D. F. Crossan	G. C. Papavizas	R. E. Webb
1966	D. F. Crossan	G. C. Papavizas	C. A. Thomas	D. F. Crossan
1967	G. C. Papavizas	L. I. Miller	C. A. Thomas	D. F. Crossan
1968	L. I. Miller	C. J. Delp	C. A. Thomas	L. I. Miller
1969	C. J. Delp	C. A. Thomas	H. L. Keil	L. I. Miller
1970	C. A. Thomas	C. H. Kingsolver	H. L. Keil	M. E. Gallegly
1971	C. H. Kingsolver	H. B. Couch	H. L. Keil	M. E. Gallegly
1972	H. B. Couch	H. L. Keil	T. H. Barksdale	H. B. Couch
1973	H. L. Keil*	E. S. Elliot	T. H. Barksdale	H. B. Couch
1974	E. S. Elliot	W. L. Klarman	J. R. Stavely	H. B. Couch
1975	W. L. Klarman	T. H. Barksdale	J. R. Stavely	W. L. Klarman
1976	T. H. Barksdale	F. M. Latterell	J. R. Stavely	W. L. Klarman
1977	F. M. Latterell	C. W. Roane	J. R. Stavely	W. L. Klarman
1978	C. W. Roane	J. R. Stavely	L. D. Moore	F. W. Latterell
1979	J. R. Stavely	C. R. Curtis	L. D. Moore	F. W. Latterell
1980	C. R. Curtis	R. J. Young	L. D. Moore	F. W. Latterell
1981	R. J. Young	L. D. Moore	R. W. Goth	L. D. Moore
1982	L. D. Moore	S. A. Ostazeski	R. W. Goth	L. D. Moore
1983	S. A. Ostazeski	R. J. Stipes	R. B. Carroll	L. D. Moore
1984	R. J. Stipes	R. W. Goth	R. B. Carroll	L. D. Moore
1985	R. W. Goth	T. van der Zwet	R. B. Carroll	R. J. Stipes
1986	T. van der Zwet	W. L. MacDonald	S. S. Hurtt	R. J. Stipes
1987	W. L. MacDonald	R. B. Carroll	S. S. Hurtt	W. L. MacDonald
1988	R. B. Carroll	G. A. Bean	S. S. Hurtt	W. L. MacDonald
1989	G. A. Bean	E. L. Stromberg	A. P. Grybauskas	W. L. MacDonald
1990	E. L. Stromberg	S. S. Hurtt	A. P. Grybauskas	W. L. MacDonald
1991	S. S. Hurtt	K. L. Deahl	A. P. Grybauskas	R. B. Carroll
1992	K. L. Deahl	T. A. Evans	A. P. Grybauskas	

** = Deceased.

^bFollowing the death of A. B. Groves, L. C. Cochran (USDA) served as Councilor.

Table 2. Distribution of officers of the Potomac Division according to employment affiliation (1943–1992)

Affiliation	Pres.	Vice-Pres.	Sec-Treas.	Councilor
U.S. Department of Agriculture	25	25	13	10
Virginia Polytechnic Institute	7	7	1	5
West Virginia University	6	6	0	2
University of Maryland	6	6	4	3
University of Delaware	5	5	1	3
Chemical industry	1	1	0	0
Totals	50	50	19	23

recipient of this award.

At the business meeting in 1976 in Newark, Delaware, the Potomac Division voted to become affiliated with the Washington Academy of Sciences (WAS). Charles (Chuck) Curtis spoke in support of affiliation and pointed out that the academy stimulates interest in the sciences and sponsors student projects. In 1977, Tom van der Zwet (USDA) was nominated as the first delegate to WAS. In 1982, Robert Davis (USDA) was recognized at the WAS awards banquet for his contributions to research on spiroplasmas. In 1992, Ken Deahl (USDA), Potomac Division

delegate, reported that APS is now represented in the Biology/Botany subgroup of WAS, and he was elected as the first group leader of this unit.

Aside from the papers, posters, symposia, and discussion sessions, another highlight of the Potomac Division meetings has been the lively attitude-adjustment hours, followed by the annual banquets and the installation of new officers for the following year. Of the 50 past banquets, all but six (1944-1946, 1971, 1984, and 1989) included a subject matter for entertainment, varying from lecture-slide presentations to various forms of musical performances. Follow-

ing the banquet in 1975, Rennie Stavely (USDA) made a "Humor" presentation to first full-term elected President Bill Zaumeyer, handing him the DR. "HAS BEAN" Award following his recent retirement. In recent years, the humorous report of the Resolutions Committee has become a regular event and has sometimes substituted as an entertainment event.

During more than 40 yr of the golden anniversary period of the Potomac Division, the office of the *Plant Disease Reporter* (PDR) played a significant role in the lives of many division plant pathologists. The excellent services of Paul Miller, Hilde MacGrath, and Marguerite Benedict will long be remembered. In 1980, the PDR was replaced by the current journal *Plant Disease*.



Fig. 2. Demonstration of virology lab procedures by Russell Steere (USDA), accompanied by (left to right) Tom van der Zwet (USDA), Charles Delp (DuPont), and Johnny Heuberger (Delaware) to four high school science students. Beltsville, 24 March 1970.



Fig. 3. Members of Potomac Division who also have served as president of APS (left to right): L. M. Hutchins (USDA, 1942), W. J. Zaumeyer (USDA, 1965), H. L. Barnett (West Virginia, 1973), James Tammen (1975), and G. H. Coons (USDA, 1936) at the annual division banquet. (Missing is P. R. Miller, USDA, 1958.) Beltsville, 20 March 1975.



Fig. 4. Recipients of the Potomac Division Distinguished Service Award (left to right): Charlie J. Delp (DuPont), Frances M. Latterell (USDA), and Larry I. Miller (VPI&SU). Newark, Delaware, 26 March 1987.



Fig. 5. Outstanding plant pathologist of the Potomac Division, Theodor (Ted) O. Diener, examining plants for viroid symptoms.

Table 3. Number of papers presented by graduate students representing universities located in the Potomac Division^a (1973–1992)

Year	Virginia	Maryland	West Virginia	Delaware	Totals
1973	2	2 (1) ^b	5		9 (1)
1974	5 (1)	2			7 (1)
1975	6	2	5 (1)		13 (1)
1976	3	3	4 (1)		10 (1)
1977	2	5 (1)	1		8 (1)
1978	3	4 (1)	6	1	14 (1)
1979	3	1	1	3	8 (0)
1980	9 (1)	6 (1)	7	3	25 (2)
1981	13	5		3 (2)	21 (2)
1982	2 (1)	7 (1)		2	11 (2)
1983	4	2 (1)	1	1 (1)	8 (2)
1984	5	4 (1)	2 (1)	2	13 (2)
1985	4 (1)		1		5 (1)
1986	3	2	1 (1)		6 (1)
1987	1	4	1 (1)	1	7 (1)
1988	2	3 (1)	2	2 (1)	9 (2)
1989	12 (1)	2	3 (1)	2	19 (2)
1990	2 (1)	2	2		6 (1)
1991	3 (1)	5			8 (1)
1992	4 (2)	2	1		7 (2)
Totals	88 (9)	63 (8)	43 (6)	20 (4)	214 (27)

^aIn addition, 36 papers were presented by students from the following states: Pennsylvania, 27 (3); North Carolina, 4; Kentucky, 3; and Massachusetts, 2.

^bNumbers in parenthesis indicate students who won the certificate for graduate student award.

Table 4. Listing of Potomac Division members who received the Distinguished Service Award (1985–1992)

Year	Recipient	Institution	State
1985	Barnett, Horace L.	West Virginia University	West Virginia
	Lilly, Virgil G.	West Virginia University	West Virginia
	Bryner, Charles L.	Waynesburg College	Pennsylvania
1987	Miller, Lawrence I.	Virginia Polytechnic Institute	Virginia
	Latterell, Frances M.	USDA, Frederick	Maryland
	Delp, Charles J.	DuPont de Nemours	Delaware
1988	Diener, Theodore O.	USDA, Beltsville	Maryland
	Webb, Raymon E.	USDA, Beltsville	Maryland
	Zaumeyer, William J.	USDA, Beltsville	Maryland
1990	Gallegly, Mannon E.	West Virginia University	West Virginia
	Roane, Curt W.	Virginia Polytechnic Institute	Virginia
1991	Sisler, Hugh D.	University of Maryland	Maryland
1992	Ostazeski, Stanley A.	USDA, Beltsville	Maryland

In 1985, the Potomac Division presented its first Distinguished Service Awards to H. L. Barnett, V. G. Lilly, and C. L. Bryner at its 42nd meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia. Since that time, 10 other distinguished plant pathologists have received this highest recognition award from the division (Table 4, Fig. 4). Of the 301 Fellow Awards in APS presented through 1992, 30 (10.0%) have been bestowed on members of the Potomac Division. Of these Fellows, Theodor (Ted) O. Diener (Fig. 5) is considered among the most outstanding plant pathologists in the Potomac Division for his viroid research and has received the AIBS Campbell Award (1968), the Alexander von Humboldt Award (1975), the Ruth Allen Award (1976), the Wolf Prize in Agriculture (1987), and the Potomac Division Distinguished Service Award (1988), as well as for his membership in the National Academy of Sciences since 1977. Today, Diener serves as Director of the Maryland Biotechnology Institute in College Park, Maryland.

During the division business meeting of 1990 (West Virginia), the final decision was made to use the proceeds of the Dr. Joe Worely Memorial Fund to sponsor travel grants (plaque and \$350.00) to national and international meetings for graduate students. This committee is responsible for judging student proposals and is composed of five members, representing USDA and the four universities in the division, with the division president serving as chairman. The first Memorial Fund travel fund (1991) was presented to Scott Enebak (West Virginia), the second (1992) to Sandra Walker (VPI&SU).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank John Walter (USDA, West Virginia) for computer processing of the text and tables.