**Herbaceous Ornamentals Crop Germplasm Committee Meeting**

Friday, July 31, 2018

Meeting called to order 9:20AM, National Arboretum

Welcome by Scott Aker

1. Attendees: Scott Aker, Michelle Jones, Barbara Hellier, Gary Kinard, Neal Anderson, Peter Bretting, Jin Quo Ho, Ed Schneider, Mikel Stevens, Jason Stetler, Pablo Jourdan, Marvin Miller, John Rutter, Susan Stieve, Shaun Broderick, Jeff Carstens, Pam Allenstein
2. Business items
3. Crop Vulnerability Statement update: status, prospects – Pablo Jourdan
   1. A list will be sent out by Pablo to be distributed and updated by the curators within the group.
4. The Plant collection Network
   1. Scott Aker discussed the boxwood collection and its potential in the network
   2. Pablo Jourdan emphasized the importance of native species collections
5. Germplasm reports
   1. North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station, Jeff Carstens – has 3700 collections including echinacea, hypericum, and monarda. In 2017, an additional 30 accessions were added, mostly monarda such as *Monarda lutoleota*.
   2. Western Regional Plant Introduction Station, Barbara Hellier – collection consists of scabiosa, thyme and veronica. Mostly for variety development, restoration use, archeological reference and nutritional/chemical analysis. They back up and bulk seed at Fort Collins.
   3. Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center, Susan Stieve – large collection of phlox, perlargonium and begonia. They developed methods of cold storage of tissue culture. Tested all petunias for GMO contamination with GYPSA. All were negative. They have 340 new accessions that resulted from the seeds of success program. Also they were able to purchase a new X-ray machine.
   4. American Public Gardens Association, Pam Allenstein – representing the plant collection network. The Atlanta botanical garden has the *Gongora* and *Stanhopea* orchids. Longwood gardens is preserving chrysanthemum, as with the heritage collection. They are also working with King nursery to eliminate rust from their collections. They are also working with sites to prepare for disasters. Pam is working to coordinate efforts to make collections more accessible online.
6. Office of National Programs reports
   1. National Plant Germplasm System, Peter Bretting – concerns of replenishing a retiring workforce resulted in the formation of a training program. They had about 25 people in attendance. Considering making YouTube-like videos to train and educate how to run a collection.
   2. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Gary Kinard – A new hire is being trained to run the GRIN database. A new website is expected to be coming out in 2019.
7. Funded proposals and project updates.
   1. **FY 2018 Plant Exploration and Exchange Proposals**: Plant Exploration in Texas and Arkansas to collect *Monarda luteola* Singhurst & W.C. Holmes by (PI) Jeffrey Carsten and (co-PI) Aaron Floden
   2. **2018 Germplasm Evaluation Proposals**: Population Genetic Studies of *Penstemon eatonii* and *P. palmeri* in Preparation for Germplasm Acquisition, Breeding, and Curation by (PI) Mikel Stevens and (co-PI) Jason M. Stettler. Submitted by HO CGC
8. Research Highlights
   1. Because of time constraints, research highlights were kept brief.
9. Plans for the 2019 HOCGC meeting.
   1. The official meeting place/date TBA
   2. Discussed possibilities of holding the meeting on the west coast, Pullman, WA or at The Ohio State University just prior to Cultivate.
   3. The HOCGC and Shaun Broderick have agreed that Shaun will continue as CGC chair for another year
10. Meeting adjourned at noon for lunch and tours of the National Arboretum.