**Herbaceous Ornamental Crop Germplasm Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Friday, July 8th, 2016*

**Location:**

Ohio State University

202A Kottman Hall

2021 Coffey Road

Columbus, OH 43210 USA

**Attendees:** Alan Blowers, Pablo Jourdan, Ryan Warner, Marvin Miller, Mike Uchneat, Susan Stieve, Justin Marotta, Peter Bretting, Shaun Broderick.

**Attendees via teleconference:** Rosanna Freyre, Gary Kinard, Alan Meerow, John Ruter, Barbara Hellier.

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM

1. Welcome by Ryan Warner, HOCGC Chair, and Pablo Jourdan, OPGC Director. Shaun Broderick, HOCGC Secretary. Introduction of attendees.

2. Summary of 2015 HOCGC meeting

Pablo Jourdan begins by summarizing the importance and missions of the US germplasm systems and their purpose relating to the collections and protecting crops from crop vulnerabilities by expanding the genetic base.

3. General HOCGC Business

2015 minutes were accepted

4. National Germplasm Center Report Highlights

* Subtropical Horticulture Research Station *-* Alan Meerow (via teleconference)

Working on pigment in *Hippeastrum*. Secured patents for 5 Amaryllis, discussed the challenges of patents and marketability and licensing. They have received large numbers of requests for *Hippeastrum* from their station.

* Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center - Pablo Jourdan

Peter Bretting commented on 4,600 accessions at the National Arboretum. The goal is to integrate this material into the GRIN database and be made available for R&D. Pablo Jourdan has been working heavily on *Phlox* and *Begonia*. This requires a high degree of maintenance. The Seeds of Success program is continuing to grow and has been successful. The highlighted genus for 2016 at the OPGC is *Lilium*. *Asclepias* has been a genus of high interest this year in light of monarch butterfly issues. They have completed more collections of *Lilium* and *Asclepias* in California. Also there has been exploration for *Coreopsis rosea* in Massachusetts. They are working on backing up *Begonia* and *Pelargonium* in vitro. They will also be screening for powdery mildew susceptibility in *Phlox* in collaboration with OSU plant pathologists.

* Western Regional Plant Introduction Station, Pullman, Washington - Barbara Hellier (via teleconference)

Having good success with the Seeds of Success program. Salvia is a priority genus for them. The accessions are open pollinated, but are separated by at least a couple of miles to ensure purity and prevent hybridization. OP significantly improves seed set.

* The National Plant Germplasm System - Peter Bretting

Many of the germplasm centers are partnered with land-grant universities. Accessions have grown by about 25,000 in the last 5 years, the Seeds of Success program has been responsible for a large number of these accessions. This program is primarily established for revegetation and has a broad range of diversity. Peter Bretting displayed the increased demand for germplasm services, while facing decreased monetary resources. A template has been developed to help with developing crop vulnerability statements. Personnel changes including retirements and new hires have been made within the NPGS.

* USDA-ARS National Germplasm Resources Laboratory - Gary Kinard (via teleconference)

An Excel spreadsheet has been made available. July 22nd deadline for the plant exploration grant. Gary Kinard reported about a vacancy for a botanist, job description posted on USAjobs. Transition to GRIN Global was made last year and is a substantial improvement. Feedback on the website would be appreciated. Training can be provided to groups that would benefit or have a special interest.

5. Proposal and Project Updates

The California collections made by Pablo Jourdan and Andy Schenkel of the OPGC were very successful in 2015. The collection trip was delayed from 2014 due to the drought. They don't currently have any collections planned for 2016, but collections trips will continue in 2017. They are also working on GBS (genotyping by sequencing) of the *Phlox* collection. Ryan Warner asked about international germplasm exchange proposals and their success for being funded; they are becoming more challenging but still may provide great opportunities.

6. Crop Vulnerability Statements

Discussed crop vulnerability statements pertaining to priority genera. Leafy vegetables CGC has been very successful in developing a crop vulnerability statement, this can be used as a template. The reports can be a place to highlight the importance of rational of the germplasm being conserved. Justin Marotta brought up the need to emphasize positive opportunities, e.g. economic opportunities. Alan Blowers suggested the need to continue to bring new technologies to ornamentals to maintain competitiveness in the marketplace. Examples of bringing unique traits from distant relatives to horticultural crops for improvement were discussed, e.g. petunias and begonias.

**Action item**: create a draft of the crop vulnerability statement before the next meeting, to be led by Pablo Jourdan with assistance of Justin Marotta and Mike Uchneat

7. Priority genera of the OPGC: *Viola, Begonia, Lilium, Phlox, Rudbeckia,* and *Coreopsis*. Discussed if these priority should still remain a priority. Specifically, Jourdan brought up the difficulty in working with old world Viola (e.g. pansy and relatives) because of CBD limiations. There is greater opporturnity to expand germplasm collections of North American natives, such as Penstemon, Baptisia, Asclepias, Helenium, etc. This will be an item for consideration at next year’s meeting.

8. Other

Mike Uchneat – Has a few petunia inbred lines he is working with.

John Ruter - A lot of material is not available. Has collections of abutilon, heliopsis, hardy hibiscus, thermopsis, stokesia, pavonia which are being evaluated.

Rosanna Freyre - Breeding ruellia, working on the 4th cultivar with no detectible fertility.

Ryan Warner – Using recombinant inbred lines for GBS and QTL mapping.

Alan Blowers – Discussed having the petunia genome sequenced.

Mike Uchneat – Discussed issues of not receiving feedback from requested germplasm.

9. HOCGC administration (chair, secretary) and future meetings.

Shaun Broderick is agreeing to be HOCGC Chair starting in 2016

Mike Uchneat will be Secretary and Chair-elect

Chair - Shaun Broderick

Next meeting will be decided at a future date

Meeting adjourned 1:29 PM