

**Notes from joint meeting “Clover and Special Purpose Legumes”
with “Forage and Turfgrass” Crop CGC.**

Phoenix, AZ, Sheraton Hotel Sunday Nov 6th 2016. 5:00 PM

Minutes by David Brenner with David Kopec
(Corrected after review at the October 2017 meeting)

1. **Introductions and Announcements:** The meeting started at 5:05 PM. There were 13 people in attendance at the 2016 joint meeting: Ann Blount, Vicki Bradley, David Brenner, Clarice Coyne, Nancy Ehlke, Stephanie Greene, Melanie Harrison, Brian M. Irish, David Kopec, Ali Missaoui, Brad Morris, Gary Pederson, Michael Peel, Esteban Rios, Blair Waldron. The Co-Chairs were Ann Blount, and Michael Peel.
2. **Agenda additions and approval of the minutes** Nov 2016, Minneapolis, MN
Last year's (2015) minutes were approved.
3. **Next year's meeting (2017) will be in Tampa, Florida.** Ann Blount will host the meeting and may organize a tour possibly on the Sunday morning before the CGC meeting.

Germplasm Vulnerability Statement Report

This report by the Grass CGC is in need of updating, and is a repeating agenda item at these CGC meetings. Ann and Melanie plan to work on a list of contacts for specific species. It was noted that breeders in general were not taking the lead. A meeting was planned by Melanie for 11am Monday November 7, so those with particular interest can continue the discussion. The meeting on Monday was attended by Ann, Vicki, David, and Melanie.

A proposed standard outline is posted online in public GRIN in the Crop Germplasm Committee area.
<http://www.ars-grin.gov/npgs/cgcweb.html>

Germplasm Collection Expeditions

Melanie and Gary had a plant exploration primarily for switchgrass and indiagrass in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina and some nearby states. David Brenner plans to collect in Florida during 2017 and 2018, pending approval of funding. The Florida exploration includes endemic millet relatives in *Echinochloa*, and *Setaria*.

REPORTS

Peter Bretting (National Program Leader, Beltsville, Maryland)

Peter had a conflict and could not attend, but sent his report.

Peter emphasizes the need to update Crop Vulnerability Statements (CVS) frequently. He suggests that the first part of our meetings should be devoted to updating CVSs.

1. NP 301 Project Plans for ARS will be developed “this year” as part of a 5 year plan process.
 - (a) Concept papers – due first

(b) Project paper/plans due after that

Among other topics Peter welcomes Brian Irish to be the new alfalfa and clover Curator in Prosser, Washington.

Ann Blount (University of Florida, Marianna, Florida)

Paspalum nicorae (brunswick grass) is taking over *Paspalum notatum* (bahiagrass) pastures and contaminating bahiagrass seed lots. Brunswick grass is not officially noxious but it is increasingly a problem. There are other grasses that are also of concern.

(This report by Ann is a Crop Vulnerability update of the kind that Peter Bretting emphasizes the need for.)

Gary Pederson (S9 Griffin, Georgia)

This is Gary's last CGC meeting after decades of government service. He retires on January 3, 2017. After retirement Gary will be available to participate in plant explorations. He presented a poster about the improvements at S9 during his tenure there. In 2003 S9 had 38 employees now only 25 employees. The most important pending hire is a new Sorghum Curator.

Movable storage shelves were installed in the -18 C freezer.

Brad Morris (S9 Griffin, Georgia)

Fifty-seven accessions were regenerated. His legumes have 74% availability. There is a resurgence in *Indigofera* fabric dye interest.

Melanie Harrison (S9 Griffin, Georgia)

446 grass accessions are maintained as clones, which is a considerable commitment of effort.

Three little bluestem selections were released for use as ornamentals.

Melanie led a plant collecting expedition in the mid-Atlantic USA during September 2016.

David Brenner (NC7 Ames, Iowa)

David plans a new phase of evaluating his crops starting with evaluating the 205 available little millet (*Panicum sumatrense*) collection for temperate adaptation. A donation of 43 *Dalea* accessions from Douglas Johnson will be incorporated into the collection.

Clarice Coyne

There has been substantial new hiring at W6. Claire has a new Technician Britton Bourland.

The Pullman Regional Airport expansion has reduced our farm acreage significantly. Once the WSU-Pullman Regional Airport negotiations are completed, W6 will be assigned a new farm.

Vicki Bradley (W6 Pullman, Washington)

Vicki presented **Barbara Hellier's** report in Barbara's absence:

Barbara had 48 special purpose legume combined observation and seed increases this year especially of *Onobrychis*. Sixty new *Astragalus filipes* accessions were donated by Dr. Douglas Johnson.

Vicki regarding her own crops:

Fifty new accessions were added to the cool season grass collection, including 50 *Brachypodium*, and 327 of mixed genera from the SOS program.

Dr. Richard Johnson (RC) retired in April 2016; and after his retirement: Vicki supervises the SOS Native Plant Program with four staff. The SOS program will be expanding to collect in the South East USA.

There is heavy demand for *Lolium perenne* and *Eragrostis tef* germplasm.

Vicki plans to participate in a February 2017 native seed conference in Washington D.C.

Stephanie Greene (NLGRP National Lab for Genetic Resources Preservation)

There have been 7 retirements in the seed group since Stephanie arrived in 2014. They are coordinating seed shipments to Svalbard.

Stephanie is coordinating the efforts of many people working on a North American Crop Wild relatives book, and on a special issue of Crop Science.

Brian Irish (W6 Prosser, Washington)

Brian came onboard in January 2016, and is still transitioning from Curatorial responsibilities in Puerto Rico.

He has a project monitoring adventitious presence of glyphosate resistance transgenes in alfalfa.

One of the new 2016 increase seed lots is contaminated with dodder seeds and may need to be discarded.

Blair Waldron (USDA-ARS, Utah State University, Logan, Utah)

Blair is organizing a joint meeting of the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance (NAFA) and Trifolium, & Grass Breeders in June 4-6, 2018 in Logan that includes breeders of grasses, legumes, and turf grass. It is possible that one or both of our CGCs will meet there.

This link will have meeting updates and there is a database you can join that will include you on related emails.

NAFA <https://www.alfalfa.org/>

Adjourn