**Herbaceous Ornamentals Crop Germplasm Committee Meeting**

Friday, July 14, 2017

Meeting called to order 9:10AM, 202 Kottman Hall, The Ohio State University

Welcome by HOCGC Chair Shaun Broderick and OPGC Director Pablo Jourdan

1. Introductions.
2. Present in person-Pablo Jourdan, Susan Stieve, Nathan Nordstedt, Scott Aker, Marvin Miller, Justin Marotta, Alan Blowers, Jim Ault, Shaun Broderick
3. Present via remote connection-Peter Bretting, Peter Zale, Barbara Hellier, Rosanna Freyre, Christine Bradish, Gary Kinard
4. Summary of 2016 HOCGC meeting-remaining action item of Crop Vulnerability Statement
5. Crop Vulnerability Statement: status, prospects – Pablo Jourdan
6. Need to develop for HOCGC as soon as possible
7. What vulnerabilities do herbaceous ornamental crops have?
8. See Pablo’s presentation notes
9. Government regulations for bringing plant material into the U.S.-Marvin Miller
10. How do we write a statement reflecting the many diverse crops which are covered by the HOCGC?
11. Peter Bretting comment-National Program Staff uses Crop Vulnerability Statements for priority setting, fund highest priorities first
12. They are working documents, better to have a document which is easier to update annually
13. Discuss CVS at start of each HOCGC meeting, continually refresh
14. The HOCGC advises many genebanks with herbaceous ornamental germplasm, all need to be reflected in the CVS
15. Six priority genera at OPGC since 2006-*Coreopsis, Begonia, Phlox, Lilium, Rudbeckia, Viola*
16. Barbara Hellier, W6- herbaceous priority is *Salvia*-this genus was an initial priority of the HOCGC
17. Jeff Carstens, NC7
    * + NC7 Medicinals-974 accessions-Medicinals-*Actaea, Agastgache, Echinacea, Calendula, Hypericum, Monarda, Prunella, Tanacetum*
      + NC7 Ornamentals-735 accessions-*Alcea, Malva, Phacelia, Potentilla, Spaeralcea, Thalictrum*
18. National Arboretum
19. Subtropical Horticulture Research Station, Miami, FL
20. Presentation and discussion of the highlights of germplasm center reports-see submitted reports for specifics
21. North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station, Ames, IA – Jeffrey Carstens (not in attendance)
22. Subtropical Horticulture Research Station, Miami, FL *-* Alan Meerow (not in attendance)
23. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.-Scott Aker
24. Western Regional Plant Introduction Station, Pullman, WA – Barbara Hellier (via phone)
25. Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center, Columbus, OH – Susan Stieve and Pablo Jourdan
26. Alan Blowers commented that phlox-virus testing supplied by Ball for accessions distributed to that company, reminded OPGC to be aware of viruses in the collection, clean it up plant material where possible in tissue culture (sometimes it isn’t possible)
27. Many viruses may be asymptomatic
28. Many viruses may not be seed transmitted
29. Office of National Programs Reports-see reports for specifics
30. National Plant Germplasm System - Peter Bretting (via teleconference)
31. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory – Program update and Q&A - Gary Kinard (via videoconference)
32. Hired new taxonomist, Melanie Schori, to work with John Wiersema prior to his anticipated retirement in a year or two
33. Pablo Jourdan and Susan Stieve commented on how helpful Marty Reisinger has been in helping them understand GRIN Global
34. Proposals and project updates.
35. 2016 Plant Exploration and Exchange Proposals: None submitted.
36. 2017 Germplasm Evaluation Proposals
37. 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 but was not funded.
38. Assessing the Urban Production Potential of Hibiscus sabdariffa by (PI) Matthew Richardson. Not submitted by HOCGC for funding consideration
39. Peter Bretting commented that half the normal amount of proposals were funded this year, but generally at twice the funding amount (up to $30,000)
40. CGC’s which did not receive funding this year will receive higher priority consideration for 2018
41. National Program Staff use Crop Vulnerability Statements when evaluating proposals
42. Highlights of research on ornamental plant germplasm – All.
43. Christine Bradish, North Carolina State University-working on *Salvia sclarea* (clary sage), industrial uses, working with sclareol compound. 30,000 acres, harvest plant material and store in silos and can extract compounds year round.
44. Shaun Broderick, Mississippi State Univerisity-Continuing work with impatiens disease (*Macrophomina phaseolina*) which is a serious problem in the south, stem wilt and necrotic spots/stem canker. Disease thrives in hot conditions. Has accumulated about 20 species/lines for pathogen resistance testing.

Penstemon screening ornamental species from NPGS; some western species thriving in southern heat and humidity.

1. Jim Ault, Chicago Botanic Garden-Continuation of breeding for commercial market, managing Chicagoland Grows. 5-6 years to retirement. Interspecific native *Aster, Vernonia, Phlox, Oenothera. Veronica* (Mediterranean species). There is a large research team of Ph.D., post-docs, graduate students with Northwestern University working at Chicago Botanic with Richard Hawke
2. Alan Blowers, Ball Horticulture – Has been involved with orange petunia GMO issue, which has spread to many colors. In U.S. every petunia cultivar needs to be certified GMO-free, requirements vary by country. An ongoing issue.
3. Justin Marotta-taught course in garden center management at The Ohio State University-Agricultural Technical Institute, Wooster.
4. Marvin Miller, “Hortistician”, Ball Horticulture - Seed your Future at Cultivate ’17-national initiative promoting horticulture in the U.S. Young people getting involved with plants, primarily with edibles in the ground; move from vegetables to flowers via companion plantings, etc.
5. Nathan Nordstedt-Michelle Jones .ab focus has switched to focus on biocontrols, e.g. Nathan’s project, use of microbes for drought tolerance
6. Updates on priority genera of herbaceous ornamentals for germplasm development and conservation at the OPGC – Pablo Jourdan
7. Conservation of *Viola* problematic, focus was to be on Old World species which led to commercial pansies and johnny jump-ups; it is currently impossible to obtain new germplasm via wild collection from countries where it is native
8. Other U.S. native genera which might be of interest to the HOCGC
9. Eustoma (Pablo, Takii, cut flower Japan)
10. Assess status of other genebank collections, e.g*. Echinacea, Helianthus*
11. Penstemon (Pablo)
    1. Jim Ault commented that penstemon seed longevity might be an issue, ask Mark Widrlechner
12. Private collections and their vulnerabilities should be considered, many will be lost unless effort is made to ensure long-term conservation
13. HOCGC administration and future meetings

A. Possible 2018 meeting locations

i. Washington D.C./National Arboretum during ASHS, which is July 31-Aug. 3

ii. Marvin Miller commented that the HOCGC has not met on the west coast, Pullman, WA a possibility for the future?

iii. Jim Ault recommended not being away from OPGC for two years

1. The HOCGC and Shaun Broderick have agreed that Shaun will continue as CGC chair for another year
2. Meeting adjourned 2:15PM