**Minutes of the Small Fruits Crop Germplasm Committee**

**October 21, 2008 : Raleigh, NC**

Jim Ballington, Mark Bohning, John Clark, Mark Ehlenfeldt, Chad Finn, Kim Hummer, Andrew Jamieson, Kim Lewers, Jose Lopez-Medina, Pat Moore, R. Perry, Tom Sjulin, Brian Smith, S. Yoa

The minutes of the 2007 Small Fruits Crop Germplasm Committee (CGC) were unanimously approved.

The current committee membership was reviewed. Jim Ballington was elected Vice-Chair of the committee. A discussion was then held on the current membership and it was decided to poll members of their willingness to serve. The next meeting of the Small Fruit Crop Germplasm Committee will be held in conjunction with the NCCC-22 in October, 2009, Ontario, Canada.

Kim Hummer distributed a report and discussed the status of the National Clonal Germplasm Repository located in Corvallis, OR. The repository is responsible for the maintenance and distribution of the small fruit genera in the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS). The staff includes 14 permanent employees along with student aides.

Mark Bohning distributed and summarized two reports (2008 National Germplasm Resources Laboratory and National Program Staff). The USDA/ARS-NPGS is partnering with Bioversity and the GCDT on a three-year, $1.4 million project to transform GRIN into GRIN-Global, a powerful but easy-to-use, Internet-based, plant genetic information management system that will link world's plant genebanks. The nucleus of the system will be ARS's existing GRIN, which already houses information about the more than 510,000 accessions of more than 13,000 plant species in the NPGS. Software upgrades will enable GRIN be used by genebanks of all sizes from many countries, making more information about more plants available to researchers. The International Treaty Standard Material Transfer Agreement has been approved and NPGS staff developed a standard operating procedure (SOP) for handling incoming germplasm accompanied by the SMTA. A discussion was then held on the SMTA and committee members asked to see a detailed description of the wording.

A discussion was held on the descriptor lists used for small fruits in GRIN and the Small Fruits CGC priority lists for evaluation. These lists will be reviewed and updated as needed. Jim Ballington then indicated that the taxonomy for blueberry needs to be reviewed and he will lead a discussion group on this via email.

Kim Hummer expressed the need to update the core subsets for small fruits maintained at the Corvallis repository and to get a better idea of why an accession is part of the core. Kim will lead these discussions via email and conference calls if necessary to determine which accessions need to be added or deleted from the core subsets. It was noted that the vulnerability statements for each species also need to be revised as needed.

A discussion was held on past and future plant explorations. The 2007 trip to the southeast U.S. has been posted on the Corvallis web site. A trip is planned to collect in Japan in 2009 and is currently under review for approval. Additional areas that may need to be targeted are Chile (being discussed for a possible trip in 2010), China (currently waiting on the situation to improve) and Vaccinium in Turkey. One evaluation proposal by Finn and Dosset was recommended for funding for FY09 for $15,500.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.