**Small Fruit Crop Germplasm Committee Agenda**

Tuesday 24 October 2017 from 3:00-5:00 pm EST

State College, Pennsylvania

1. CGC Administrative
   1. Roll Call

*Online: Blair Sampson, Gina Fernandez, Steve Stringer, Penny Perkins-Veazie, Massimo Iorizzo, Jim Olmstead*

*On site: Mark Ehlenfeldt, Pat Moore, Michael Dossett, Hamid Ashrafi, Beatrice Amyotte, Courtney Weber, Dimitre Mollov, Jill Bushakra, Kim Lewers*

* 1. Minutes from 2016 already approved and posted on-line. Need someone to take 2017 minutes: *Jill Bushakra (minutes)*.
  2. Membership
     1. Vote on members up for renewal (and Chair)
        + *6 voting members on site (call-in members did not get to vote) All members renewed, Kim L. still chair*
     2. Suggested new members?
        + *Hamid Ashrafi*
        + *Jill Bushakra already was added as an ex-officio member*
        + *Beatrice Amyotte was voted in before the meeting*
  3. Next Meeting Venue (with NCCC212?)
  4. Lisa DeVetter (Washington State University) is hosting in 2018
  5. Mary Thomas (University of Minnesota) is hosting in 2019
  6. North Carolina State University will host the 2020 meeting

1. CGC germplasm evaluation grants
2. Kelly Ivors (2015): “Screening the Strawberry Super Core Collection within the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) for Resistance to Crown and Root Diseases”
   1. *No report provided from Kelly Ivors.*
3. Steve Stringer (2016): Renewal of: “Screening Small Fruit Germplasm for Resistance to Southern Populations of Invasive Spotted Wing Drosophila, SWD (Diptera: Drosophilidae)”
   1. *Summary provided (Kim L. will send around), but briefly, the evaluation of blueberry genotypes for resistance to spotted wing drosophila showed that there are genotypes with certain BRIX levels that the flies do not lay eggs in. This work is in the process of being reviewed for publishing. Stringer and Sampson hope CGC members will review the manuscript before submission.*
4. Nahla Bassil (2017): “Assessing genetic diversity in the cultivated strawberry (Fragaria ×ananassa) collection at the National Clonal Germplasm Repository”

* Identified 332 *F. ×ananassa* accessions that were not previously evaluated
* Extracted DNA from them
* Are in the process of propagating them to ship to Steve Knapp in early Spring where he will propagate them and plant them later to phenotype

1. Evaluation Research Priority List

* *National Program Staff send out an invitation for proposals. The amount of money has increased as the criteria for eligibility has become more stringent. CGCs are eligible if they have provided vulnerability statements for their crops, written by-laws, and meet regularly. Kim L. will provide more details on the amount of money available.*
* *Kim L. asks how to determine the research priority for the small fruits. Right now it is a laundry list of every trait. She requests feedback on which are important to the community.*
* *Michael Dossett suggests a tiered ranking system where Tier 1 has issues that are broadly applicable, Tier 2 has issues that are more specific, and Tier 3 has issues that are perhaps crop specific.*

1. Small-Fruits Breeding Programs – Any at risk?

* *Pat Moore says that the Washington Strawberry Commission had a vote to disband, but no one voted. Pat receives money from this commission (~$16K) and if those funds are lost, he would cut strawberry to focus on red raspberry breeding. Until December, the Washington Red Raspberry and Blueberry Commissions will provide administration for the strawberry commission. When Pat retired (2-3 years from now), the breeding position will move to Mt. Vernon, WA. The red raspberry and blueberry growers are trying to prepare for the move. As there are many positions at UW open, one way to move the breeding position to a higher priority is if the commissions can endow a chair ($1.5 or 3 million)*
* *Gina Fernandez says her red raspberry program at NCSU is at risk. She doesn’t have enough help or funding to work on strawberry and red raspberry and since red raspberry doesn’t have a strong market in NC, she will focus on strawberry.*
* *Beatrice Amyotte’s position is to focus on “germplasm enhancement” rather than “cultivar finishing”. Michael will contact Benoit Girard and ask for a clear definition of these terms. Kim L. suggested Beatrice collaborate with Courtney, Michael and herself.*
* *Hamid Ashrafi mentioned that the Muscadine grape breeding program at NCSU is at risk when Terry Bland retires.*

1. Crop Vulnerability Statements in progress
   * *Reports are written to be used by Congressional Aides. Each report needs to address the risk to the crop in the field, the breeders’ ability to respond to abiotic and biotic stresses to the crop, the status of the germplasm available for breeders to use to address the vulnerability. Each report should address the number, strengths and weaknesses of the breeding programs from that crop.*
     + 1. Fragaria – needs to be revised for 2018 (request by Kim L.)
          1. *Kim L. to receive input from Chad, Courtney, Michael and Pat*
       2. Cranberry (final version ready for review submitted to Kim L.)
          1. *Being worked on by Kim H. and Ioannis*
       3. Rubus (Michael Dossett has begun revisions – for raspberry and blackberry, would like status and complete this to date.)
          1. *Kim L. to send Michael the format for the report. Michael projects to have red raspberry done by December 2017.*
       4. Ribes for next year?
2. *Need to address the absence of known US breeding programs for Ribes.*
3. National reports–
   1. Office of National Programs (ONP) report
      1. Presentation that was given at PGOC meeting.
   2. National Germplasm Repository Lab Beltsville (NGRL) report
      1. Dimitre reported on this. Report provided.
   3. National Clonal Germplasm Repository - Corvallis (NCGR) report
      1. Staffing changes at the NCGR –
         * 2 technical “crop managers” were hired: Jill Bushakra, Barb Gilmore
         * Office Assistant Trainee – Ashley Winters
      2. Plant exploration
         * Summary of collection trip to Oregon. Jill Bushakra
         * Planning for Virginia collecting trip in May 2018
      3. New GRIN System – data being updated. Presentation planned for ASHS meeting in DC in August 2018.
      4. *For future evaluation ideas, provide a summary paragraph to the committee members for feedback on which would have the potential to be funded.* 
         * *Michael also suggests sequencing of the MLO gene in red raspberry as a project.*
      5. Global Crop Germplasm Strategy: implementation for International Strawberry Conservation Strategy still pending
4. Adjourn 5:05 PM Moved to adjourn by Courtney Weber, seconded by Mark Ehlenfeldt.