

Small Fruit Crop Germplasm Committee Agenda

November 28, 2023 – 11:00 AM (EST)

Zoom meeting (**RECORDED**)

Meeting ID: 161 722 5566

Passcode: 929205

[Link to video recording of the meeting](#)

- I. CGC Administrative
 - A. Roll Call
 - i. *Attendees: Jeff Neyhart (Chair), Kim Lewers (past Chair), Tim Reinhart (ONP), H. Ashrafi, G. Kinard, A. Frances, B. Amyotte, C. Scagel, G. Sideli, J. Olmstead, M. Schori, N. Bassil, J. Bushakra, P. Henry, R. Serres, S. Ru, C. Weber, M. Iorizzo, L. Mahoney, W. Hoashi-Erhardt, M. Worthington*
 - B. Approved minutes from November 2022 meeting posted on-line.
 - C. Web site: <https://www.ars-grin.gov/CGC>
 - i. Check vulnerability statements, evaluation priority lists, and descriptor lists and send me e-mails to update or revise.
 - ii. Check your membership information and update by emailing Gary.Kinard@usda.gov
 - D. Membership and new Chair
 - i. 17 members up for re-election; 2 declined, 2 did not respond, 3 new members added to ballot: 16 members elected or re-elected, Congratulations to all!
 - ii. Please welcome new members: Gina Maria Sideli, Peter Henry, and Wendy Hoashi-Erhardt
 - iii. Congratulations to our new Chair, Jeff Neyhart
 - iv. Candidate member: Rod Serres, Ocean Spray Cranberries
 1. *Jeff will send Rod's CV to the group for consideration to add Rod as a member.*
 2. *Rod was elected to full membership on Dec. 5, 2023*
 - E. Next Meeting Venue will focus on proposals in Spring 2024
 - i. Evaluation Research Priority List – Anything to add or give higher priority?
 1. *Make sure all crop vulnerability statements (CVS) and Quad charts have been updated in the past 5 years.*
- II. Small-Fruits Breeding Programs – Any at risk? USDA-ARS Corvallis (blueberry/strawberry) Tim Rinehart?
 - A. *Wendy Hoashi-Erhardt mentioned the vulnerability of the Washington State strawberry breeding program. The breeding program as a whole will be moved north about 100 miles and as written will focus on raspberry. Tim Reinhart suggests a strawberry summit to address the material that is at risk of being lost, perhaps as a collaboration with USDA and public or private programs. NCGR-COR would like to take material, but are limited on space and resources. Perhaps breeding populations can be stored as seed rather than plants. An issue with seed storage at COR is the lack of seed testing. Wendy mentioned a budget for a joint breeding project is being drafted.*
- III. Crop Vulnerability Statements and “Quad Charts” need to be updated every five years to be eligible for germplasm evaluation funds. Can publish in Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution or HortScience, and then post on the CGC website. Please review and suggest revisions.
 - A. *Fragaria* – (revised 2023 Kim Lewers + quad chart 2018 KL)
 - a. *KL updated the breeders for strawberry, Rubus, and blueberry.*
 - b. *At minimum, quad charts should be updated to maintain funding eligibility.*
 - B. *Ribes* – (created 2018 Kim Hummer + quad chart 2023 Jill Bushakara)
 - C. *Rubus* – (revised 2023 Kim Lewers + quad chart 2018 Kim Hummer)
 - D. *Vaccinium*
 - i. *Blueberry* – (revised 2023 Kim Lewers + quad chart 2018 Kim Hummer)
 - ii. *Cranberry* – (revised 2023 Jeff Neyhart)
- IV. CGC germplasm evaluation grant progress reports

- A. Jill Bushakra and Nahla Bassil (2023) “Corvallis Ribes germplasm collection DNA fingerprinting and phenotyping” Nahla and Jill were asked for a report.
 - A. *A subset of Ribes was phenotyped and the entire collection is in the process of being DNA fingerprinted. Just added 6 more SSR for a total panel of 13 markers (see report for more details).*
 - B. Benjamin Waldo (2022) “Evaluation of strawberry germplasm for resistance to the northern root-knot nematode *Meloidogyne hapla*” Benjamin Waldo was asked for a report.
 - C. Contreras and Hummer (2021) “Ploidy in *Vaccinium* species” Ryan Contreras was asked for a report.
 - A. *USDA-ARS contributed funds for a flow cytometer in Contreras’s lab for use on all crops.*
 - D. Please include in the acknowledgements, “Partial funding for the evaluations were provided by the USDA/ARS National Plant Germplasm System.”**
- V. National reports
- A. Office of National Programs (ONP) report
 - i. *TR presented Peter Bretting’s (retiring January 13, 2024) slide show outlining challenges, budget changes, thanking retirees and new hires/positions and providing a link to the NPGS Research Plan presented to Congress (slide show available).*
 - B. National Germplasm Repository Lab Beltsville (NGRL) report
 - i. *GK thanked JN for taking on the role of Chair, thanked Kurt Endress for his 45-year career and all the work on GRIN and GG. He introduced Anne Frances who succeeded Karen Williams. Peter Abrahamean research plant pathologist has joined the NGRL team.*
 - ii. *NGRL has 2 IT specialist appointments open or opening.*
 - iii. *GG enhancements include the seasonal availability and multiple form types available; Taxonomy Regulations for searching for rules/restrictions for transporting materials (MS); new Advanced Search criteria with plant part and narrative search options; better accessibility (i.e., color changes for viewability).*
 - iv. *Anne Frances thanked us for updating CVS as this provides information for reviewing exploration requests. The Standard Materials Transfer Agreement (STMA) regulations will be going into effect 1 Jan 2024.*
 - C. National Clonal Germplasm Repository - Corvallis (NCGR) report
 - i. *CS and NB presented on the changes occurring at NCGR-COR in staffing and construction. NB provided an example of a collection report to emphasize the impact and importance of germplasm. She plans on doing this for all the COR small fruit crops and including them in the Annual Report and on GG (slide show available).*
 - ii. *Blueberry breeder position and a post-doc position are available in COR. Contact Jungmin.Lee@usda.gov for more information.*

Minutes respectfully submitted, Jill Bushakra