

VIRGINIA NURSERYMEN'S ASSOCIATION HORTICULTURE RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

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Plant Introduction Task Force Minutes
Wednesday, August 3, 2005
Virginia Tech Litton-Reaves Hall, Blacksburg, VA

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Fred Duis with the following people present: Craig Regelbrugge – ANLA and National Plant Patent Manager, Bill McCaleb, Rumen Conev, Greg Eaton, Holly Scoggins, John Wise, Linda Pinkham, Mark Weathington, Jerzy Nowak, Lee Wright, Margaret - Rose Business Business, VT Intellectual Properties (VTIP), Greg Welbaum and Jeff Miller.

Secretary's Report - Jeff Miller reviewed the Minutes from the last meeting which were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report - Jeff Miller provided copies of the current balance sheet and income/expense statements.

Margaret Rose - Business Affairs, Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, gave an overview of their program and operations. Plants are not under sponsored programs; they are under the Germplasm Committee headed by Dr. Skip Jubb. They (VTIP) work with licensing, marketing and collect royalties once a year. Any income over \$10,000 goes to the inventor. The inventor pays the licensing fees. Anything that Virginia Tech faculty works on, Virginia Tech owns, including work at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville.

Other groups that are working on plant breeding are: Chicagoland Grows, Rutgers University, UC at Davis, University of Georgia, OSU.

The plant selection committee worked on evaluation forms to make them uniform and easy to complete.

John Wise has 38 *Cephalotaxus* in 4" pots that can be planted at the evaluation sites. Azalea Fairfax and White Lightning can be started from cuttings.

Rumen Conev reported that they had started doing daylily embryonic rescue at the IALR in Danville. He discussed genetic mapping of *Rhododendron* for phytophthora resistance. He gave an update on site preparation status with fencing and well drilling beginning soon at Halifax and Bedford. He recommended that test plantings at Hampton Roads Agriculture Research and Extension Center (HRAREC) and Norfolk Botanical Gardens (NBG) be consolidated at NBG. The Manassas site has different display requirements and test plants will be incorporated into landscape planting beds. Laurie Fox will help evaluate germplasm currently at HRAREC. Master Gardener training is being worked on and will start in September.

Public Relations information to other organizations should go through Jeff Miller at the VNLA office.

Lee Wright, Director of the Glade Springs AREC reported that they have a new water main installed and it can be tapped into for the PIP plant evaluation site. They will install a new fence soon and the site has been plowed and tilled.

Fred Duis reported that the fence is being installed at the Bedford site and drilling will begin in 2 weeks. They have a phone line for the weather station and will be ready to plant by the first of September.

Mark Weathington reported that NBG will be ready to install plants beginning in September.

Greg Eaton reported that available plants had been installed at the Urban Hort Center at VA Tech.

Bill McCaleb reported that the Halifax site has the beds prepared (28 beds @ 8'x80' in a 204'x196' area) with the beds in an east/west orientation. They have been sub-soiled and limed. Fence construction will begin soon. The county will pay for the well and the VNLA will pay for plumbing to the PIP site.

Rumen recommended that each site have a soil test done before planting.

John Wise reported that Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (LGBG) would not be able to plant the promotional plans and that maybe some could be planted at J.S. Reynolds Community College in Goochland. He has the 2008 plant selections lists to consolidate for plant promotions and will have the list finished soon.

Rick Baker had sent some verbiage and design suggestions for the PIP logo and slogan. It was decided that a small committee should meet and review these and other suggestions.

It was agreed that planting layouts would be flexible based on the requirements at each site.

Rumen suggested that a sub-committee of the site managers be established and that they meet or have a conference call once or twice a month to discuss current issues and coordinate activities. A motion was made to establish the sub-committee, seconded and passed. Jeff will check on alternative conference call rates.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Jeff Miller, Exec Dir.