
VNAHRF Plant Introduction Meeting – Beautiful Gardens

Saturday, March 18, 2006, Virginia Tech, Litton-Reaves Hall

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Virginia Tech in Litton Reaves Hall, Blacksburg, VA. The following people were present: Rumen Conev, Greg Eaton, Jeff miller, Fred Duis, Mark Weashington, Rich Johnson, Rick Baker, Doug Hensel, Karen Kelly, Neal Beasley, Bill McCaleb, Linda Pinkham, Barry Flinn, Jerzy Nowak, Don Hyatt, Alex Niemiera, Leslie Sewell, Holly Scoggins, Michael LaChance,

See attached report from Rumen.

Rumen presented draft intellectual properties Plant Germplasm Transmittal Disclosure Agreements for different situations. The agreements will be set to the VNAHRF attorney for review.

Rumen met with Berry Hill Irrigation to make plans for the irrigation installation for the test sites. \$2,000 per site

The IALR is working on high value horticulture and forestry bio-based products and bio-energy production, high value biological compounds and processing technologies from plants. ISRR staffing is up to seven.

Dr. Barry Flinn reviewed three grants with the VNLA research (list projects.)

- Developing In Vitro Protocols for Propagation of Native Azalea Genotypes with Superior Ornamental Characteristics; Barry Flinn, Rumen Conev and Don Hyatt
- Developing Constantly Blooming Triploid Germplasm of Daylily, Rumen Conev, Zhiwu Li and Linda Pinkham
- Development of High-Throughput Micropropagation of Helleborus; Ying-hui Dan
- Other Ornamental Horticulture/Forestry Tissue Culture Propagation Development with somatic embryogenesis of fir tree species.
- New lab addition to 3,000 sf

Rumen reviewed photos of a potential lily introduction into the testing program.

Plant Selection (see list) theme “Plants that Work”

Rick Baker discussed the possibility of a value added grant from the USDA.

Michael Dirr started the program in Georgia with everything going back to the nursery industry. \$500,000 royalty this past year from plant introduction. Any nursery in Georgia can grow their plant introductions.

25% of royalty and the first \$10,000 goes to inventor who develops the plant.

The industry and university don't sell ourselves enough through the benefits of plants.

Need to get royalty fees upfront at liner stage.

Fred – BG wants to market testing sites.

Plant selection for: **Color**, pest resistant, etc

What does the market need? In selecting plants to introduce.

Need to decide on end product before start breeding.

Think holistically and then do genetic breeding.

Plants that fit vs plants that work.

To sustain pragmatic horticulture, need endowed professors.

Respectively submitted, Jeff Miller