

HOGS Meeting Minutes for November 28, 2006

Attendance: Sara Tanis, Travis Stegmeir, Joseph Tychonievich, Roberto Lopez, Kristen Getter, Nicole Thaner, Aaron Warsaw, Wendy Klooster, Matt Ross, Erik Runkle, Aaron Walworth, Kate Long, Lingxia Sun, Phillip Ludwig, Alicia Russell, Matt Blanchard, Sonali Padhye, Ajay Nair, Linsey Newton

Reminder from Dr. Nair

Dr. Nair and the faculty wanted to remind graduate students that they must obtain a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) when transporting biological or chemical materials in or out of the country. The MTA form is available on the website of the MSU Office of Intellectual Property. You need to plan ahead because it can take awhile to get the form processed. Also remember that all research and related materials, including lab books, are the property of MSU.

Ski Trip

Matt Ross is organizing a ski trip to Gaylord, MI on January 19-21. About 15 people can stay at his parents' cabin. You will need to provide your own food and possibly some bedding. Activities may include downhill or cross country skiing, winter tubing, visiting the elk herd, swimming/sauna, and sledding. Let Matt Ross (rossmat5@msu.edu) if you are interested.

HOGS Travel Grants

Applications for a HOGS travel grant for travel during January 1 – June 30, 2007 are due December 22nd. The application is available on the HOGS website and should be turned into Matt Blanchard. Master's students can receive a travel grant once, and PhD students can receive grants twice.

Evaluations for Candidates for Faculty Positions

Please have your evaluations of candidates for the sustainable vegetable position to Ajay Nair by Dec. 6th or 7th. The last candidate will be here this Thursday, Nov. 30.

Evaluations for the candidates for the viticulture position should be turned in to Matt Blanchard by 5 PM on December 8th, which is the day of lunch with the last candidate.

Graduate Research Symposium

In the spring, HOGS will be sponsoring a graduate research symposium which will involve students from the departments of Horticulture, Plant Biology, Plant Pathology, etc. Students will be given the opportunity to give an oral or poster presentation. A committee of 3-4 people is needed to organize this event. Sarah, Wendy, and Matt have already volunteered, but an additional person would be very helpful. Contact Matt Blanchard if you are interested in helping.

HOGS Holiday Party

The HOGS holiday party is scheduled for next Friday starting at 8 PM. You should receive more information via e-mail.

Officer Updates

GPC

The graduate teaching experience was approved by faculty and will probably be an available course by Fall 2007.

A spreadsheet of available sources of fellowships and scholarships was compiled. It can be found at <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/GradProgram/financial.htm>. Click on "Current Funding Opportunities" at the top of the page to get the PDF file. Please provide any feedback to Kristi Lowrie or Dr. Ngouajio.

The topic for HRT 894 for the spring semester will be "GMOs and Horticulture." The course will be taught by Dr. Loescher and Dr. Hancock. Please sign up if you are interested.

The department Christmas party is Dec. 18th at 3 PM. There is a sign-up sheet in the main office. Those that volunteered to help set-up or clean-up (Aaron, Wendy, Roberto, and Kate) will be contacted by Bert Cregg.

There will be a Chili cook-off Feb. 24. Some volunteers will be needed to assist with this event. More information will be coming.

Hort Club

Alicia Russell thanked HOGS for their \$400 donation to the New Orleans trip. Additional funding is still needed and any donations, which are tax deductible, would be greatly appreciated.

Dues are due today. Please pay Wendy. Her office is A224.

New Orleans Trip

All of those going on the New Orleans trip should attend the Horticulture Club meeting next Wednesday, December 6 at 6 PM. Art Cameron will be discussing the trip and going over forms that need to be filled out.

New Graduate Student Research Fellowship proposals are due tomorrow Nov. 29 at 5 PM. All new graduate students should have received an e-mail about this opportunity.

Miscellaneous

There will be no December HOGS meeting. Our next meeting will be in early January.

Just a heads up that Plant Science Recruitment will be the 2nd and 3rd weekend of February. HOGS members will be needed to volunteer to serve as hosts to prospective graduate students.