

Business Meeting of the New Ornamental Crops Working Group, SEOP

June 12, 2007

Funchal, Madeira

The meeting was called to order by WG Chair, Dr. Eleni Maloupa during the VIth International Symposium on New Floricultural Crops.

Following some introductions, Dr. Maloupa noted the movement towards the use of native plants and natural resources and the application of ecology, biology, and biodiversity amongst the participants of the Symposium. Such interest will engender programs to save genetic resources, and she invited other networks to work with us.

Election of the new Chair for the Working Group.

Dr. Antonio Fernando Caetano Tombolato (Brazil) and MSc. Maria Joao Oliviera Dragovic (Portugal) were nominated. Following balloting, Dr. Tombolato was elected Chair for the next quadrennium. Mrs. Dragovic agreed to serve as Vice-chair of the working group.

Invitations for the next symposium (2011)

Dr. Gabriella Facciuto (Argentina) offered her institute (Instituto de Floricultura, INTA Castelar) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as a site for the next meeting. As no other invitations were tendered, Argentina was accepted pending concurrence of her administrators and a formal proposal.

Report of the Section on Ornamental Plants (ISHS)

Dr. Criley reported on the series of symposia that are under contract or being proposed by other working groups of the Section. He fielded questions about the section and how it is organized. A proposal was made that the PowerPoint presentations made at this symposium by keynote speakers and contributed paper authors could be digitally recorded onto disk for participants to give them greater study. Concerns were expressed about cost, copyright issues, and authors not wanting to share their presentations. It was agreed that authors wanting to opt out could do so. The Symposium organizers already have the digital presentations and will hold them on disk pending clarification from the ISHS headquarters. [NOTE: ISHS Executive Director Jozef Van Assche did respond that such a program could be offered, but a 200 disk run would cost about 4500- 5000 euro for reproduction and distribution costs.]

Dr. Criley noted that conveners were being sought for other symposia, such as Annuals and Bedding Plants, Tropical Ornamentals, Ornamental Palms, and other relevant topics.

A symposium on roses will likely be held in Japan in 2009, while the orchid working group is still considering their options. The ISHS also wishes to assure that the interdisciplinary commissions are involved in symposium planning, where appropriate. ISHS would also like to see symposia offered in a broad range of geographical areas so that more members can afford to attend. Symposia with other groups are welcomed as well. Among the comments from the meeting attendees were that fewer symposia should be held, that symposia ought to be combined or at least run in close succession, and that large symposia were better than small ones.

Dr. Criley concluded the meeting by presenting the ISHS Medal to Symposium Convener Maria Joao Dragovic and the ISHS Certificate of appreciation for her service as Working Group Chair to Dr. Eleni Maloupa.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Criley