

## I. FOREWORD

The Maize Genetics Cooperation Newsletter exists for the benefit of the maize community as an informal vehicle for communication. Its inception and continuation has been to foster cooperation among those interested in investigating maize. This cooperation has distinguished our field from others and as a consequence has moved it forward at a pace greater than would have occurred otherwise. Your submissions are encouraged to disseminate knowledge about our field that might otherwise go unrecorded.

Because maize is both a commercial species and a genetic model system, the danger exists that the sharing of research materials might be diminished. It is imperative for us to work together to prevent this from occurring. Certainly, basic findings should be transferred to the industrial sector and basic advances in industry should be shared with the academic community for the benefit of both. Published materials must be shared for research purposes with the only restriction being against commercial use.

We remind the readers that contributions to the Newsletter do not constitute formal publications. Citations to them should be accompanied by permission from the authors if at all possible. Notes can be submitted at any time and are entered into MaizeGDB. We have set an arbitrary cutoff of December 1, 2008 for the next print copy, volume 83. Electronic submission is encouraged and is done by sending your contributions as attachments, or as text of an email, to [MaizeNewsletter@missouri.edu](mailto:MaizeNewsletter@missouri.edu). Submissions must require minimal editing to be accepted.

We encourage the community to carry studies of general scientific interest to the formal literature. However, there is a great need to share technical tips, protocols, mutant descriptions, map information, ideas and other isolated information useful in the lab and field.

This year, we call special attention to color reproduction of images submitted with notes (pp. 32-34), and a number of special reports: Sequencing the Maize B73 Genome Progress Report (pp. 103-109); Sequencing the Codifying Genome of the *Palomero Toluqueño* Mexican Landrace (p. 110); the Allerton Report 2007 (pp. 111-117); and Genetic Maps 2007 (pp 87-102). In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Maize Genetics Conference we provide a historical perspective that includes information about the first meeting in January 1959 (pp. 39-44), and various snapshots since that time supplied by various members of the community (pp. 35-38).

As in the past, Shirley Kowalewski has been responsible for final redaction and layout of the copy. She has performed this task with speed, precision and a great sense of humor. The maize community owes her much gratitude for her continued service in this capacity. We also thank Arturo Garcia for maintaining the staging site, [www.agron.missouri.edu](http://www.agron.missouri.edu), and this year, the front cover with color images of mutants of maize phenotypes.

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