

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. 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.

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.

This year, we call attention to a number of special reports (see pages 98-113): the B73 Genome Sequencing Project; the B73 optical map; the Mo17 genome sequence; the genome annotation workshop held at the March 2009, Maize Genetics Conference, St. Charles, Illinois; POPCorn, a novel portal to maize projects and resources, including annotation of the genome; a brief synopsis of frequently used maps at MaizeGDB, with a short tutorial. At this time, most past newsletters have been scanned and are available at the staging site, www.agron.missouri.edu. This has been accomplished largely with the help of several students, notably Hannah Fernandez, Erin Broocke, Emily Haghighi, and Beth Welsh with funding by the USDA Agricultural Research Service. We are working to move all to the permanent site at MaizeGDB, with linking of each note to individual reference citations at MaizeGDB.

The Newsletter sponsors a new online journal, called the "*maize gene review*", hosted at www.maizegenereview.org. The inaugural submissions are included here, in map order, following the Table of Contents. It is modeled on the 2000 "*Mutants of Maize*", eds. MG Neuffer, EH Coe and S Wessler, Cold Spring Harbor, NY. The emphasis is mutants, but reviews will include any gene with experimentally confirmed function. This journal was first described in a poster presentation at the 2009 Maize Genetic Conference in St. Charles, IL and was an invited presentation at the 3rd Int. Biocurator Conference, 2009 Berlin, Germany. We welcome contributions from all cooperators on their favorite genes. The text summaries of each mutant, and any new images, will be supplied to MaizeGDB, as was done in 1995 from the "*Mutants of Maize*", crediting authors and the review page. Each year, new submissions, and any substantial revisions of previous reviews, will be included in the print copy of MNL. Unlike contributions to the Newsletter, these will be peer-reviewed and may be cited without permission of authors. We plan to assign DOI accessions in the near future. The *maize gene review* adheres to the stipulations of the "Creative Commons License", with normal copyright retained by authors, but not this Newsletter.

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 set an arbitrary cutoff of January 1, 2010 for the next print copy, volume 84. Electronic submission is encouraged and is done by sending your contributions as attachments, or as text of an email, to MaizeNewsletter@missouri.edu. Submissions must require minimal editing to be accepted.

As in the past, Shirley Kowalewski has been responsible for final redaction and layout of the Newsletter 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.

Mary Schaeffer
James A. Birchler
Co-editors
Ed Coe
Distinguished editor