

Western Region Cuttings

Winter 2012

Newsletter of the Western Region - International Plant Propagators' Society Vol. 3, No. 3

The Adventure in Ventura!

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the IPPS Western Region was held in Ventura, CA on September 19-22, 2012. Those in attendance were greeted with beautiful weather and real southern (California) hospitality. The



theme "Diversity: A Global Approach" was thoroughly explored during the tours, the banquet and all the sessions. The pre-conference tour included stops at Valley Crest Tree Company, La Verne Nursery, Norman's Nursery, Limoneira



Company and Do Right's Plant Growers. Conference tour stops included Lotusland, San Marcos Growers, Por La Mar Nursery and Pan American Seed Company. The banquet speaker, Tom Larson, provide everyone there with some insight into a development in Orange County total of 115 people attended some



More details on the presentations and, in many cases the actual PowerPoint slides, can be found on the IPPS-WR website.

spectacular new called "The Great Park". A part of the annual meeting.



Save the Date:
54th Annual Meeting
October 2-4, 2013
Portland, Oregon

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MEET A NEW DIRECTOR - Laurie Rogers-Roach

Laurie Rogers-Roach grew up in a small farming community in Northern California. As a young child, she helped her parents on their small farm and watched her Dad harvest hay as his second job. Laurie graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, with a Bachelor's degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Her work experience in the nursery industry began in college with an internship program at High Ranch Nursery in Loomis, CA. Laurie also worked as Propagation Manager for an orchid grower and at the Cal Poly Horticulture Unit. Prior to graduation, she interned at Monrovia Nursery in Dayton, OR. Upon graduation, she was Production Supervisor for Phillip Curtis Farms, producing perennials and ornamental grasses and then Propagation Manager for Fisher Farms, LLC in Gaston, OR. Now, she is with Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas in Woodburn, OR. She has been a member of the IPPS since 1998. Laurie has been married to her husband, Steve, for 19 years. They have three children ranging in age from 9 to 15 years old. In her spare time, Laurie enjoys gardening, genealogy and scrapbooking, time biking, hiking and camping with her family.



BRUCE BRIGGS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Hallie Schmidt
Amanda Borges
Kari Olsen
Julie Ingalls

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Cabrillo College
Merritt College

NEW MEMBERS - 2012

Richard Anderson
Kerry Beane
Conor Carey
Phillip Cox
David Cunningham
Kaikhushroo Daruwalla
Scott Ekstrom
Gerry Fields
Mark Gardner
Denisse Graham
Barbara Grant
Julie Ingalls
Joyce Kawahata
Joe Kupillas
Alisdair MacLeod
Jana Mariposa Muhar
Gary Neels
Gregg Opgenorth
Barbara E. Phillips
Brandon Schmidt

Utah State University Botanical Center
Four Winds Growers
Terra Nova Nurseries
L. E. Cooke Company
Merritt College
Olds College
Ekstrom Nursery, Inc.
Retired
Merritt College
Merritt College
Merritt College
Merritt College
Merritt College
X-Calibur Plant Health CO.
Iodome Tree Nurseries Ltd
Mariposa Nursery
Qualitree Propagators Inc.
Plug Connection
Merritt College
Ekstrom Nursery, Inc.

AN INTERNATIONAL REPORT

IPPS INTERNATIONAL TOUR JAPAN 2012 - Fred Hopkins

The International Board meetings were held in Japan, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Japan Region. During the nine-day tour the International Board spent many hours networking on the concerns of their respective IPPS members. This face-to-face activity enabled us to come to a greater understanding of the challenges facing IPPS in the future. We spent two days in Board Meetings. Among the many issues discussed were: 1) cost of membership (it was agreed that there will be no increase of International dues for 2013 and 2014), 2) the Proceedings (its cost, which continues to increase and its viability as a printed book) and 3) the possibility of having a quarterly soft cover journal. High on the discussion list was membership, communication with members, cooperative sponsorship and joint conferences with other organizations. The International Board is doing everything it can to cut costs where they can in keeping with the times and staying relevant to our members and the plant world as a whole. The good news is that the International Board cut \$13,000 in expenses and is operating on budget.

Our tour began with our arrival in Tokyo where we were met at the airport by the International President, Dr Nito who escorted us to our hotel. A welcome reception was held at the hotel with all regions represented. On Sunday we visited the Naritasan Shinshoji Temple just minutes away from the airport. Then proceeded to Keisei Rose Nurseries where

they breed roses and new plants and operate a very successful garden center. Lunch was served at the Crab House where we enjoyed a number of Asian dishes featuring crab; we especially liked the crab dumpling. Our next stop was at Chiba University's Plant Factory. Japan is faced with an aging population of farmers and increasingly stringent food safety requirements. The Japanese government has commissioned three universities to accelerate learning on the potential of 'plant factories' to improve the efficiency of horticultural production as a short-term means of addressing these challenges. Chiba University is home to Japan's biggest Plant Factory consortium; it currently has some eight



projects ongoing, focused on tomato and lettuce cultivation. The form of tomato cultivation being studied is not high-wire, but single-truss, which means that the plants are planted in high density and do not grow beyond 1.8 meters (~6 feet) in height and only grow for a short period. Tests are being carried out to establish whether the application of this innovative form of horticultural lighting during the right growth stage of the plant will improve the taste and nutritional value of tomatoes – two key criteria for Japanese consumers. With energy prices very high in Japan, the research should also demonstrate whether the increase in production would recoup the investment in this new technology.

We left the city of Omiya and traveled to a place called the Omiya Bonsai Village and Art Museum. This is one of the most wonderful attractions in the world if you are a fan of bonsai. It isn't just a bonsai museum; it is a whole bonsai village. There are literally hundreds of amazing bonsai of all kinds; some of which are over 250 years old. It is a bit



atypical in that it isn't like a clinical museum. It is more like two very large collections of indoor and outdoor bonsai with a whole series of smaller locations spread throughout the village. Just amazing! It is kind of like a Japanese style suburban area with nice little houses nestled in together and various bonsai yards and gardens that you can walk in. Our next stop was at the Senso-ji Temple, an ancient Buddhist temple; it is Tokyo's oldest temple and one of its most significant. According to legend, two brothers kept trying to return a statue of Kannon, the goddess of mercy, to the Sumida River only to have it returned to them the next day. This temple was built to honor her.

Nurseries and Gardens

Clema Cooperation Greenhouses is a state-of-the-art production facility growing clematis. We were welcomed with cherry blossom tea and then a brief introduction to the facility and a tour. The family provided us with a wonderful variety of Japanese sweets, tea and a beautiful fruited gelatin concoction.

Kamogawa Horticulture Nursery, which grows only begonias, was a very interesting stop. They had clips for the greenhouse plastic and innovative pots that were shared with members of our group who had room in their luggage.



Suzumoto Nursery produces orchids at this facility. They pot and grow-on seedlings that have been propagated in Taiwan or the Philippines, selling only to the Japanese market.



Suzuki Fruit Orchard Garden produces Japanese Apple Pears, at a cost of \$15 to \$18.00 each, mandarin oranges and blueberries that are being grown in greenhouses.

Hamamatsu Horticulture Co. is a container nursery that produces a wide range of herbs and flowering plants. They also hosted an incredible barbecue for the tour group.

Takegawa Kachyouen is a large bird and flower park. Some members of our group had their picture taken with the birds and had their feet cleaned by fish.

Our final stop was at the Okura Act City Hotel in Hammamatsu where the second board meeting took place and the Japanese Regional Conference. Our hosts were wonderful and the food was an introduction into Asian cuisine. We ate traditional Japanese food with many members mastering chopsticks, raw fish and seaweed during the 9-day trip.



The 2013 International Tour will be hosted by the Western Region. The tours are available to all members to travel with the International Group. We hope you will join us since it is great fun and provides an opportunity to meet wonderful people from around the world.

IN MEMORIAM

Bob Ticknor

Robert Lewis Ticknor, long-time Oregon State University extension agent, passed away September 24, 2012. He is survived by wife, Ruth; two children; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. One son preceded him in death. A memorial service was held Sunday, Oct. 7 at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden in Portland. Mr. Ticknor spent more than three decades working for the OSU extension service before retiring in the mid-1990s. He performed research on rhododendron and holly plants, among many others, as well as growing media and herbicides. He also played a key role on the Ornamentals Northwest seminars, which were a predecessor to the Farwest Show Seminars. He was inducted into the Oregon Nurseries' Hall of Fame in 1996.



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