

Western Region Cuttings

Winter 2014

Newsletter of the Western Region - International Plant Propagators' Society Vol. 5, No. 1

Portland Recap

The 54th Annual Meeting of the Western Region IPPS was held October 2-4, 2013 with a pre-conference tour on October 1st. The International tours and meeting were held previous to the Western Region meeting. It was wonderful to spend time learning and sharing with members from other regions including; Great Britain & Ireland (now called European Region), USA-Southern Region, South Africa, New Zealand, USA-Eastern Region, Australia, and Japan. Oregon is typically known for its rainfall and we certainly got plenty of it during the pre-conference tours!

The Pre-conference tours included Microplant Nurseries, Inc., Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas, Kraemer's Nursery and PRT of Oregon. The group enjoyed a wonderful bar-b-que lunch at Seven Brides Brewery in Silverton, Oregon. After the tour, many members enjoyed a welcome reception to meet and greet fellow members.

Our first day of general sessions started with a presentation from Peter Gregg from Iseli Nursery on Conifer Grafting followed by Jeremy Deppe of Spring Meadow Nursery, Craig Ford of Shaw Research Centre, Sappi Forest Research in South Africa, Rich Reagan from Oregon State University, Ryan Contreras of Oregon State University and Mark Widrechner of the WLPCGC. The afternoon was filled with tours of Oregon Flowers, Bauman Farms and Bountiful Farms.



One of our excellent tour stops...Bauman Farms.

On the second day we started with tours in the morning going to J. Frank Schmidt, Sester Farms and Porterhouse Farms and Arboretum. Our afternoon sessions included talks by John Cooley of Proptek Root Systems, Joe Slater of Plant Marvel Labs, Hans Sittig of Prime Genetics in South Africa, Steve Hottovy of Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Florida and Rick Crowder of Hawksridge Farms.

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Editor's Note: Embedded hyperlinks work for web and email addresses.

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

I want to introduce myself as the 2014 President of the Western Region of IPPS. My name is Christine (Chris) Ames and I live in McMinnville, Oregon. I've been a member of IPPS since 1987 when I joined while working at Monrovia Nursery in Dayton, Oregon. I remember how nervous I was to ask Jim McConnell and Mike Anderson, outstanding Western Region IPPS members, to sponsor me as a member of IPPS. While at Monrovia, I worked in the Propagation Department under the supervision of Steve Hottovy. Over time, I learned enough about plant propagation (due to Steve's expertise and IPPS connections and meetings) to become the Propagation Manager, working regularly with my counterpart, Dr. Gene Blythe (who was working at Monrovia in Azusa, California).

After 14 years at Monrovia, I took a job at Oregon Pride Nurseries, Inc. where I work to this day. Oregon Pride Nursery allowed me an opportunity to do propagation, but to also learn field and container growing. Oregon Pride Nurseries is a medium-sized nursery that sells containerized nursery stock that has been grown in the field. We specialize in grafted conifers, shrubs and shade trees. At this time I manage operations and production for the nursery.

In my spare time, you will find Anthony and me at the beach with our daughter, Taylor Ames who is 13 and was a big help at the Portland 2013 meeting.



President Chris Ames

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Outgoing President Jim Conner presents the gavel to incoming President Chris Ames.

Western Region President's message:

In 2014, the Western Region Executive Committee will meet to discuss many important issues. At the forefront of our issues is membership and finding ways to not only increase membership, but to give our members more value for their membership dollar. We will continue to work with the International Board to find ways to better communicate with our membership through our website and social media. The board will be meeting in Abbotsford, BC in February and again in October of 2014 to work on these issues.

This year brings change to the Western Regions Secretary/Treasurer position. It is with sadness that we announce Lee Dempsey's retirement from the Western Region. Lee has served the Western Region for many years, her hard work and devotion to the society has been greatly appreciated. Lee has worked closely with many of us and her support and dedication has been a constant. We will all miss Lee and wish her well in her retirement. At this time, a hiring committee is formed and we will be posting a job description this spring. Please check the next newsletter and the IPPS website for details.

I look forward to serving the Western Region IPPS and hope to see you all in Abbotsford, BC next October!

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DR. EUGENE BLYTHE SELECTED FOR CURTIS J. ALLEY AWARD

Dr. Eugene K. (Gene) Blythe is from Los Angeles and attended California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He graduated in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science Degree majoring in Ornamental Horticulture and a minor in Botany. He then joined Monrovia Nursery in Azusa, California, where he worked for over 20 years, first as a Research Propagator, conducting hundreds of projects in cutting, seed, and grafting methods, and establishing Monrovia's tissue culture laboratory. Upon promotion to Assistant Propagation Manager, Gene attended evening classes at Cal Poly, Pomona, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration and then an MBA with his thesis focused on the impact of immigration reform on the Southern California nursery industry. Promoted to Propagation Manager at Monrovia, Gene supervised a department of 150 employees producing some 25 million plants annually, trained new propagators, and developed Monrovia's computerized production scheduling system. In 2000, Gene decided on a major career change, moving to Alabama to attend Auburn University, where he earned a Master of Science Degree in statistics and a Ph.D. in horticulture. His doctoral research focused on alternative methods of auxin application in cutting propagation.

Gene joined the faculty of Mississippi State University in 2007. Currently an Associate Research Professor, he is stationed at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Poplarville, where his research activities are in four areas: 1) ornamental variety trials for the Northern Gulf Coast region, 2) commercial plant propagation, 3) production of aromatic plants for screening of essential oils as potential biopesticides and 4) applied statistical methods for agriculture. Gene has been an IPPS-Western Region member since 1980 and has served as President and International Delegate. Gene is also a member of the Southern Region.



President Chris Ames presents the Curtis J. Alley Award to Dr. Gene Blythe.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR PORTLAND ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to all who made the 2013 Annual meeting a success!

Patrick Peterson
Melanie Miller
Gayle Suttle
Ryan Contreras
Leonard Foltz
Esteban Herrera
David Hicks
Anthony Taylor

Laurie Rogers-Roach
Steve Hottovy
John Wayland
Jim Ellefson
Gail Gredler
Stacia Lynde
Jason Julian
Taylor Ames

Special thanks to Lee Dempsey

**You all made it a wonderful meeting.
Thanks for all your hard work and dedication.**

SECRETARY-TREASURER LEE DEMPSEY TO RETIRE

Lee Dempsey, who has been the Secretary-Treasurer of IPPS-Western Region since 2001, has announced her plans to retire at the end of 2014. More information on Lee and her service to the Western Region will appear in the next issue of this newsletter. For now, Western Region members should know that President Chris Ames has appointed a search committee to fill this important position. Members of this *ad hoc* committee, appointed in November, 2013, include Chris Ames, Fred Hopkins, Patrick Peterson, Bruce Lane and Dave Burger with Second Vice President Valerie Sikkema serving as an *ex officio* member. The committee has developed a position announcement and description that will be discussed, altered as needed and approved at the February mid-year meeting of the IPPS-WR Executive Committee.

BRUCE BRIGGS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Western Region awards the Bruce Briggs Memorial Scholarship to deserving students in horticulture educational programs. The late Bruce Briggs was a proud and active member of the Western Region of IPPS. He enjoyed students and promoted IPPS worldwide. This scholarship is given each year to college and/or university students who are studying plant propagation and demonstrate a strong interest in pursuing propagation as a career. The scholarship pays for students to attend the annual International Plant Propagators' Society meeting held in the Western Region. This year the Bruce Briggs Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Merrit College students Laura Blacona and Steven Rushin.



Chris Ames presents the Bruce Briggs Scholarship to Laura Blacona (left) and Steven Rushin (right).

NEW MEMBERS OF IPPS-WESTERN REGION

Madena Asbell	Timothy Becker	Laura Blacona	Anthony Carrillo
Juan Cortes	Ejay Dehal	Pamela Earles	Jim Farrell
Anthony Fortier	Esteban Herrera	Emerson Jones	Brian Kempf
Jeff Kline	Robert Kurner	Jeanne Matsuda	Jeanne Rich
Don Sayer	Jason Scott	Matt Skaletski	Damian Sowa
Barry Taft	Cristi Walden	Heather Wehnau	

OFF THE SHELF

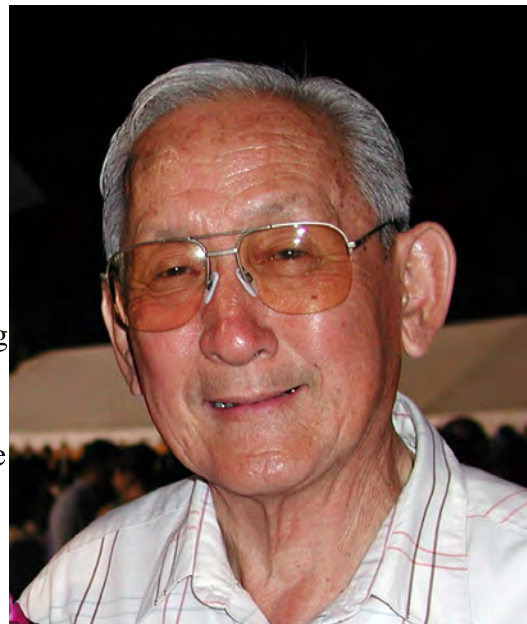
From Jim Conner:

"Raising Native Plants in Nurseries" by Kasten Dumrosese, Thomas Landis, and Tara Luna, is an 8" X11", 84-page booklet with 130 color photos that is a must have for anyone in propagation or growing plant native to the western states. It was published by the Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, as General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-274, in June 2012. It can be ordered at (970)498-1392, fax (970)498-1122, email rsschneider@fs.fed.us, or on the web at http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr274.html



IM MEMORIAM - GEORGE SHOICHI OKI

George Shoichi Oki passed peacefully in his sleep on October 5th, 2013. George served the IPPS by leading the Western Region as President in 1973-74 and as International President in 1977. George was born on March 9th, 1927 in Sacramento and was a lifelong resident of Sacramento, attending Washington School, Kit Carson Junior High School, and Sacramento High School. He was 15 years old when the Oki family was interned in the Poston Arizona Relocation Camp during WWII. After graduating from Poston High School, George attended college in Oklahoma for two years studying petroleum engineering. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force in 1945 and was posted in Occupied Japan. Upon his discharge from military service in 1947, George joined his parents and brother in the family nursery business and helped it grow and evolve in the 1950's and 60's. Growing fruit trees for orchards, adding a retail nursery operation, expanding the ornamental tree and shrub production, selling the retail nursery business to focus solely on the wholesale nursery business, adding greenhouses, and in the end it was one of the ten largest wholesale production nurseries in the United States. It had four growing grounds, three in California and one in Oregon; employed a total of 500 people; and occupied over 400 acres of land. Approximately one million square feet of that were greenhouses. It was unique in the industry as few nurseries were growers of ornamental trees and shrubs, greenhouse, and bedding plant crops. George was active in the local community supporting many causes and organizations and was involved in many business and professional organizations. George became one of the most recognized and respected leaders in the California nursery industry and remained so for more than a half-century.



IM MEMORIAM - PHILIP EUGENE PARVIN

Dr. Philip Eugene Parvin passed away at home in Port Charlotte, Florida, on September 17, 2013. He was born July 3, 1927, in Manatee, Florida, and earned a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Florida, a Master's degree from Mississippi State University, and a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Michigan State University. As Associate Professor at the University of California at Davis (1963 - 1966), Dr Parvin worked as extension floriculturist with flower growers of California. In 1966, Dr. Parvin served as General Manager of the Rod McClellan Company, California orchid producers, until becoming Superintendent of the University of Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station on Maui, Hawaii, in 1968, where he remained for more than 25 years until his retirement. Dr Parvin, credited with being the "father of the Hawaiian protea industry," was a pioneer in research on proteas and other ornamental plants. His research led to both the development of the protea growing industry in Hawaii and the widespread use of the exotic protea flowers worldwide. Dr. Parvin was a member of the International Plant Propagators Society - Western Region and the International Society of Horticultural Scientists. In 2007, a protea was registered and named the "Phil Parvin" in his honor.



INTERNATIONAL BOARD TOURS OREGON AND WASHINGTON

The IPPS International Tours were broken down into two parts. The first part covered Washington in the Seattle area. Then on to Mount Vernon, Whidbey Island to Port Townsend and finishing in Portland at the Embassy Suites. The short tour on which Andi and I participated started on Saturday, Sept. 28 with 29 other members. We started down the Columbia River Gorge with stops at Crown Point Vista Point, Multnomah Falls, Bonneville Dam and Timberline Ski Lodge. We had a great lunch at Full Sail Brewery in Mount Hood and enjoyed shopping in the very charming downtown. Dinner was cruising on the Willamette River on the Spirit of Portland.

It continued to rain harder on Sunday the 29th while we toured the Portland International Rose Garden and the Portland Japanese Garden. Then on to Bailey Nurseries, who hosted a great lunch for us and a tour outside through the 100 plus 100' by 30' propagation houses. Jim McConnell, Steve Aime, and Jeff Stoven are to be commended for coming in on a rainy Sunday for us. Monrovia Growers was toured from inside our bus, then on to Carlton Plants. Past President Michael Anderson did a presentation in their propagation warehouse on the workings of the nursery. We finished the afternoon gawking at the "Spruce Goose" in the Evergreen Aviation facility along with a lot of aviation history.



The night was spent at the Inn at Spanish Head with no power in most rooms due to the weather. It was quite an adventure. We enjoyed dinner at Spirit Mountain Casino. Chris Ames served wine and hors d'oeuvres in one of the few rooms with lights.

Monday morning was spent seeing the beautiful Oregon coast and getting educated at the National



Clonal Germplasm Repository in Corvallis, Oregon. Their mission is to preserve diverse living germplasm for all time. Then we headed to the Oregon Garden Resort Hotel in Silverton, with a stop at the Willamette Valley Vineyards for lunch. President Verl Holden, who has been involved with the gardens in Silverton since their inception, led us on a wonderful tour. The afternoon was spent in meetings for International Board Members. Through all the tours our President Verl astounded us with his knowledge of the current and past history of the State of Oregon, his knowledge of the Oregon Nursery industry and his plant identification skills. He kept us entertained and laughing despite the weather. But then,

the weather is why Oregon is so beautiful!

Tuesday we traveled directly to the Embassy Suites Hotel in Portland where International Board meetings extended from 9:00 to 5:00. The 54th Annual Meeting ran from Wednesday, Oct. 2nd to Friday Oct. 4th.

Respectively Submitted,
Jim Conner
International Delegate

DAVID LANNOM WINS AWARD IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Former IPPS-Western Region First Vice President Professor Dave Lannom of Mt. San Antonio College was chosen as the 2013 Horticulturist of the Year by the Southern California Horticultural Society. During the award ceremony Dave was introduced as an example of what a huge influence a truly great teacher can have on an entire industry. Dave himself was a student in Ornamental Horticulture at Mt. SAC. After completing coursework there, he transferred to Cal Poly-Pomona and received a Bachelor's Degree in Ornamental Horticulture. He worked as their first Greenhouse Manager/Technician while he completed a Master's Degree. He also began his teaching career at Cal Poly and rose to the level of Assistant Professor. Dave took a short detour into nursery management at La Costa Nursery in Encinitas and then Deigaard Nurseries in Santa Barbara, where his love of palm trees really took root. (To this day, his truck license plate is Palm Man). However, he soon realized that his passion lay in teaching. When a faculty position opened up at Mt. SAC in 1985, he headed back into academia and, over the years, taught a wide variety of classes and eventually became the Department Chairperson for Agriculture. In his own words, he has been "corrupting the youth of America" for over 30 years and the youth have responded. He received the Mt. SAC Outstanding Faculty Member Award in 1996 and the Faculty of Distinction Award in 2005. His teaching style of mixing facts with stories from his long and legendary career have created fiercely loyal students. Many of his students have gone on to run nurseries, supervise parks departments, or earn PhDs. As if teaching college kids wasn't enough, he has taught through the University of California Master Gardener Program and often gives horticulture talks to groups around Southern California. It seems like everyone in horticulture in Southern California has at least heard of Professor Dave!



PORTLAND RECAP (continued from page 1)

Our evening banquet featured guest speakers William McClenathan and Judy Alleruzzo from a local television program called Garden Time which was entertaining and gave us a bit of retail perspective on gardening. Dr. Eugene K. (Gene) Blythe was the Curtis J. Alley award recipient and was honored for his participation in the Western Region as a member since 1980 and as President and International Delegate for the Western Region. We congratulate Gene for this honor. We also welcomed our Bruce Briggs Scholarship recipients Laura Blacona of Merritt College and Steve Rushin also of Merritt College. Congratulations to them as well.

The last day of general session was very lively. Our speakers were Polly Owen from The Oregon Hazelnut Commission, Dr. Carol Barnett from Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Melissa Lujan of the ODA, and Bob Adams. The meeting concluded with a lively Nuggets of Knowledge session moderated by Gayle Suttle who got us all dancing around the meeting room.

The 2013 Western Region Annual Meeting was a big success, thanks to our hard-working committee that planned it. I also want to thank all those member who attended and participated. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Abbotsford, British Columbia October 1-4, 2014.



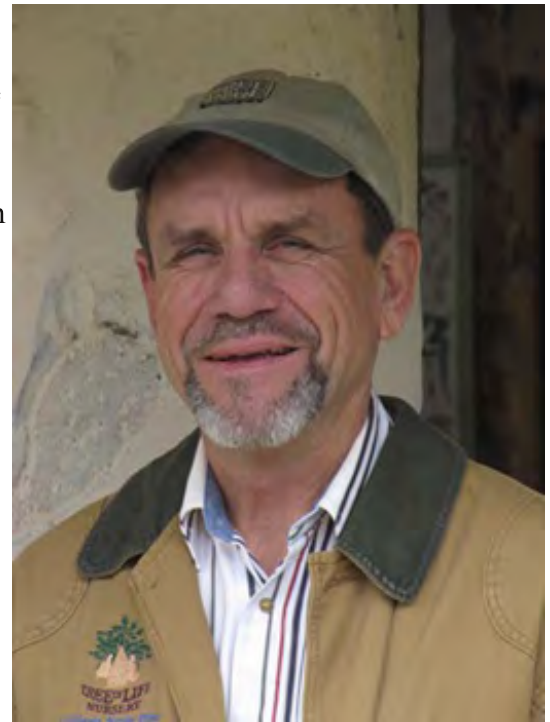
William McClenathan (left) and Judy Alleruzzo (right) provide the after-dinner entertainment at the Portland banquet.

J. MICHAEL EVANS RECEIVES THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD OF HONOR

J. Michael (Mike) Evans was awarded the International Award of Honor at the Portland Meeting. Mike is Co-Owner and President of Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano, CA. Mike was born and raised in southern California and demonstrated an early love for the outdoors. He worked with several nurseries both retail and wholesale, before establishing his own nursery business in 1976. Tree of Life began as a wholesale nursery/landscape contracting firm propagating and growing California native plants and specializing in authentic garden design for southern California, as licensed contractors. In 1981, a partnership was formalized between Mike Evans and Jeff Bohn. In 1986, the nursery moved from a 4-acre leasehold on the Lacouague Ranch in San Juan Capistrano to its current location on Rancho Mission Viejo. The entire focus since 1981 has been propagation, production and wholesale supply of California native plants for landscape and ecological restoration.

Mike has been a highly visible and active member of the IPPS since he joined in 1976. The list of leadership positions and offices he's held is extensive, including (in chronological order):
1986 – 1987 Chair - Poster Session and Chair - Ad hoc Newsletter Study Committee

1989 – 1990 Chair - Publicity & Promotion
1990 – 1991 4th Vice President – Western Region
1991 – 1992 3rd Vice President – Western Region
1992 – 1993 2nd Vice President – Western Region
1993 – 1994 1st Vice President – Western Region
1994 – 1995 President – Western Region
1995 – 2002 Chair - Latin America Expansion Committee
1995 – 1996 Chair - Long Range Planning Committee
1996 – 1997 International Delegate
1997 – 1998 Chair - Honors Committee
1997 – 1998 Chair - Publicity & Promotion Committee
2000 – Curtis J. Alley Award
2004 – 2005 International Vice President
2005 – 2006 International President



J. Michael Evans



Mike Evans is presented the International Award of Honor from Verl Holden, International IPPS President.

For his long-standing dedication to the field of horticulture, with a particular emphasis on the propagation and utilization of California-native plants, his service to the International Plant Propagators' Society and, especially, for his leadership in the Western Region of IPPS that included a focus on starting a region in Central/South America, J. Michael (Mike) Evans was awarded the International Award of Honor from the International Plant Propagators' Society.



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