

# Western Region Cuttings

Summer 2015

Newsletter of the Western Region - International Plant Propagators' Society Vol. 6, No. 3

## The IPPS-Western Region Annual Meeting in Modesto is Here!

### PLANT PROPAGATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

An exciting and informative program has been created for this year's meeting in Modesto. The meeting will include a pre-conference tour including stops at Poots Cactus Nursery, Colorsport Nursery, Valley View Packing Company, Sacramento Packing Inc., California Seed and Plant Lab, USDA Clonal Plant Germplasm Repository and Four Winds Growers Nursery. The oral presentation sessions will focus on topics such as Genetics and Breeding, Cultural Aspects, Environment, Plant Protection and Futuristic Technologies. The Poster Session will include a wide range of topics of interest to WR members. There will also be "Nuggets of Knowledge" and "New Plant Forum" sessions. Half-day tours will take place on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning with stops at Westurf Nursery, Dave Wilson Nursery, Zaiger's Genetics and Generation



DoubleTree Plaza Hilton - Modesto, CA

Growers (Thursday) and Harris Moran Seed Company, Dry Creek Lab and Acclimation Facilities, Duarte Nursery and Duarte Ranch Vineyard and Fruit Tree Plantation (Friday). The banquet Friday night will feature John Duarte, President of Duarte Nursery, Inc. sharing his thoughts on the "Nursery Industry in the Central

#### September 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for:

Early-Bird Registration  
Poster Submission

Hotel Booking at the reduced rate of \$109/night  
Reserving Exhibition Booths

Program and meeting details can be found at [www.ippswr.org](http://www.ippswr.org)



#### Also in this issue...

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



**OCTOBER 19-22, 2016**  
**IPPS WESTERN REGION 57<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

You are cordially invited to attend the IPPS Western Region 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Our meeting is returning to the Sonoran Desert! The desert is alive with exciting horticultural specimens and exhibits. Tour the greater Phoenix area, Tempe, Flagstaff, and Tucson! Visit our website <http://ippswr2016.com>



**HAVE YOU  
HEARD? DID YOU  
KNOW? IT'S VERY  
EXCITING...**

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CALENDAR!**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! As summer wanes, the deadline for early registration for our annual meeting in Modesto is looming. I am sure many of you have already registered, but may I take this opportunity to remind the rest of you who plan on attending to get your registrations in soon. Our First VP Dharam Sharma and his team have been working very hard on the program and we will have lots of opportunities to learn and to seek and share at this meeting so I look forward to seeing many of you there!

I want to remind you all about what I wrote in the spring, in case you have some ideas about this that you would like to share before we meet.



President Valerie Sikkema

*As Executive Committee, we are working on a proposal to share the work of the yearly regional meetings more evenly across all the areas. The local planning committee will still be responsible for the theme, location, tours, hotel and food, and the schedule. We are hoping to spread the workload of sponsorships, some of the speakers, posters, publicity and silent auction over a greater number of volunteers. The idea is that we won't have to reinvent the wheel for each new meeting, and those with experience in one or more of these areas will be able to do this work year after year and train new volunteers when they are ready to pass the torch. We will have something more concrete to discuss at this next meeting, but if you have skills in one or more of the areas I have mentioned, we would love to hear from you.*

*We are also working hard to ensure the stability of the Western Region. Our finances depend considerably on the annual meetings and if we get fewer than expected attendees a year or two in a row, it can put our organization on shaky financial ground. We would love to develop a bit of an endowment fund to help us with this financial stability. If you have ideas for sponsors (not just of the annual meeting, but for year-round sponsorship), please contact Melanie Miller at [MMiller@obcnw.com](mailto:MMiller@obcnw.com).*

All the best!

Valerie Sikkema

## UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS - 2017

### OCTOBER 2017

IPPS Western Region 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
RETURNS TO PORTLAND, OREGON

Itinerary and Dates TBA at 2016 Annual Meeting

## **BRUCE BRIGGS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Grants Committee received fourteen applications this year from a wide range of colleges and universities in the Western Region. This year we chose six candidates to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting in Modesto, California.

### **Carly Feldman – University of California, Davis**

Carly is a junior at University of California, Davis. She is majoring in Environmental Horticulture & Urban Forestry. She is an intern in the nursery at the UC Davis Arboretum, where she assists in propagation and management of native plants. She is enthusiastic about learning about propagation. Carly hopes to be a nursery manager after graduation and would like propagation to be an integral part of her career goals.

### **Carrie Juchau – Oregon State University, Corvallis**

Carrie is a senior at Oregon State University, Corvallis. She is majoring in Agricultural Sciences/ Horticulture. She has been a volunteer for five years at a junior high school in Davis, CA, as the school garden coordinator. In this position, she has expanded the school garden to a sustainable three-acre garden and outdoor classroom. She also has spent 15 years developing and maintaining elementary and secondary school gardens. She has a passion for propagation and teaching youth about all aspects of agriculture. Carrie hopes to continue teaching upon graduation, as well as return to her family farm to grow specialty vegetable crops.

### **Mauro Trujillo Jr. – California State University, Fresno**

Mauro is a senior at California State University, Fresno. He is majoring in Plant Breeding and Genetics. He has been working with the campus' propagation team, assisting a graduate student in micropropagation of cacti. This past summer, he worked as a propagation intern at Monrovia Nursery in Woodlake, California. Following graduation in December, Mauro is interested in becoming a plant breeder or propagator.

### **Miranda Elsby – Olds College, Alberta, Canada**

Miranda is a senior at Olds College in Alberta, Canada and plans to graduate in December with a degree in Horticulture. She has been an author for the publication 'Modern Agriculture Magazine' for several years, as well as active in organizations like Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada. She also has experience working in an Entomology lab, researching management tools for pests in berry crops. Upon graduation, Miranda has been accepted into a graduate program at the University of Greenwich in the United Kingdom in the Agriculture for Sustainability Development program.

### **Robin Turner – Edmonds Community College, Washington**

Robin is working toward his AS degree at Edmonds Community College in Washington. He is majoring in Ornamental Horticulture with a specialization in Nursery/ Greenhouse. He has interned at Kruckeberg Botanic Gardens, where he has experience with cuttings and will be learning about seed stratification in the fall. He has many years of experience in landscape maintenance and retail nurseries, including currently working at Sky Nursery. After graduation, Robin would like to pursue work at a botanic garden as head propagator or a nursery manager. He also has a passion for teaching propagation and plant identification.

### **Yoomin Chae – University of California, Davis**

Yoomin is a senior at University of California, Davis. She is majoring in Plant Sciences. She was an intern in the Plant Science laboratory on campus where she was able help students with data collection, maintain classroom plants and to learn grafting. At the conclusion, she wrote a research paper on grafting tomatoes. She has also volunteered as a coordinator for the Agriculture Field Day Agronomy Contest and a volunteer at the California Center for Urban Horticulture's Annual Rose Weekend. Yoomin seeks to learn more about propagation and gain hands-on experience, which she can develop for her future goal as a propagator in the plant industry.

**Please help me welcome the 2015 Bruce Briggs Memorial Scholarship candidates.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Rogers-Roach, Oregon Area Director & Grants Committee Chair

## IN MEMORIAM

### **Bruce Usrey**

It is with sadness that we note the passing of IPPS-Western Region member Bruce Usrey. Monrovia announced the passing of its former CEO:

*For nearly fifty years Bruce guided the growth and expansion of Monrovia, the largest grower of premium container plants in the U.S. After serving in the United States Air Force, he joined Monrovia in 1968 and managed plant production. From 1986 to 1998, he was chief operating officer, overseeing the company's expansion of new growing locations in Dayton, Ore., and Visalia, Calif. In 1998, Bruce was named president and later, in 2002, chief executive officer. Under his leadership Monrovia saw another surge in growth with its merger with Wight and Berryhill Nurseries, adding three East Coast growing fields to Monrovia's production. In recent years, Bruce served as a managing director of the company, and was based in Dayton, Oregon. "Bruce was a true horticultural craftsman," said Miles Rosedale, CEO of Monrovia. "He will be greatly missed." Bruce is survived by his wife, Susie, who has also worked for Monrovia for nearly 40 years.*



Bruce Usrey



### **Western Region Cuttings**

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