

Western Region Cuttings

Newsletter of the Western Region, North America - International Plant Propagators' Society

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A Different Point of View at the 2016 Western Region Annual Meeting

IPPS members and guests attending the 2016 annual meeting of the Western Region this past October in Phoenix, Arizona, gained a unique perspective on horticulture in the Southwestern U.S. With the theme of the meeting being “A Different Point of View,” presentations and tours highlighted the special challenges and unique approaches in nursery production, landscaping, and public gardens in

the desert Southwest.

The meeting began with a pre-conference excursion to the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff, with a chance to experience the history and diversity of the Colorado Plateau through the museum’s collection of Native American artifacts, natural science specimens (including their living plant collection), and fine art pieces.

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Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum



Zvida Growers



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The first half-day of presentations highlighted best management practices for disease prevention and control, use of rice hulls as a mulch in container production, micropropagation of *Grevillea* species and cultivars, and commercial propagation of *Cannabis sativa*. A warm, sunny afternoon with a light breeze provided a fine setting for visits to three nurseries: Zvida Growers, Arid Zone Trees, and Greenfield Citrus.

The second day of presentations brought a discussion of genetically engineered crops, dealing with witches broom on palo verde, integrated weed management in container production, and native grasses and groundcovers for the arid Southwest. The afternoon tour included visits to Desert Tree Farm, Arizona Wholesale Growers, and the Desert Botanical Garden.

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Arid Zone Trees



Greenfield Citrus



Tempe Mission Palms

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Greg Starr was the featured speaker at the annual banquet, speaking on a colorful palette of plants for the Southwest, along with some humorous accounts of his plant-hunting adventures in Mexico. Greg also presented his selection of some up-and-coming plants.

The post-conference tour featured a trip to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum near Tucson. The Desert Museum is a blend of botanical garden, zoo, aquarium, art gallery, and natural history museum.





Arizona Wholesale Growers



Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum



Zvida Growers



Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum



Arid Zone Trees



Desert Botanical Garden



Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Message from the President

Two years ago, while flipping through the pages of our Combined Proceedings (Volume 64), I came across a paper by Peter Orum of Midwest Groundcovers titled “The Uniqueness of IPPS and Why We Need It.”* It had a profound effect on me, to say the least, as I read it over and over again, each time pulling out inspirational ideas for my upcoming duties as First Vice-President and then President.

Peter shares his story of how he became a member of IPPS, and I was so pleased to find that his story paralleled my own. Then it occurred to me: Isn't that the link that brings people together? To know that your story isn't so different from anyone else's? I contacted Peter right away and asked him if I could quote his paper as a guide for driving membership.

As we are all aware, membership is down and has steadily been going down for 5 years or more. Your executive board has been debating this topic at every meeting and many great ideas have surfaced, yet still our numbers decline. As Peter states in his paper, “Many people think that they can get all they need from the Internet,” but as with Peter's experiences, like my own, the human element is

*A PDF copy of Peter Orum's paper from Volume 64 of the Combined Proceedings is attached to the PDF version of this newsletter. Click on the paperclip icon in Acrobat or Acrobat Reader to access the paper.

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missing with the Internet and you cannot sit and have a real conversation about real propagation topics with your computer. It is imperative in your tasks of becoming a propagator to understand that the Internet is only a tool for learning, while sharing real thoughts with real people over a lecture, a tour, a meal, or a drink is where the real learning begins.

In September of 2001, I attended my first Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington. My first takeaway emotion at that time was how welcomed I was and how great it felt to be accepted by peers who had loads more experience than myself. I thought to myself repeatedly, “They can’t really be wanting me to help or be one of them,” but they all did and they all wanted me to be a member. I realized that I also had ideas and tools to share. As Peter states, “There is an acceptance and welcome of young people without much experience to a degree I have not seen anywhere else.” Now in my 20th year of propagation, I know this to be absolutely correct. And I want to share that feeling with more members and I want you to share that feeling with future members.

As one of my first objectives as President, I asked the Executive Board to call upon those who have let their membership slip and talk to them on the phone. Ask questions as to why and have a conversation about the importance of being a member of the IPPS. I call upon you as well, as a standing IPPS member receiving this newsletter, to share your stories about your experiences at an Annual Meeting and see what stories can parallel with someone else's. If you can get just one new member, think of all the information we could share at the next meeting with so many new members. This is a reciprocal relationship: I seek, you share; you seek, I share; we all seek and share. It’s just that easy.

Thank you for this amazing opportunity, I hope to serve you well in the next year. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Emilie Speciale

Desert Tree Farm, Phoenix, Arizona (emilies@deserttreefarm.com)



Western Region Hosts New Zealand Region Member as 2016 Exchange Fellowship Recipient



IPPS-New Zealand Region member Patrick Watt toured nurseries in Southern California and participated in the Western Region’s Annual Meeting in Phoenix as recipient of the 2016 Western/New Zealand exchange fellowship. Patrick is a propagator at Ardmere Nurseries (ardmorenurseries.co.nz) near Auckland on the North Island of New Zealand. Ardmere Nurseries produces a wide range of field-grown and container grown plants, including trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses for sale to landscapers, developers, and garden centers.

Jim and Andi Conner of Alta Nursery in San Jacinto, California, hosted Patrick during his time in the U.S. “They’ve been wonderful hosts,” stated Patrick. “The Conners showed me all around San Diego County, including nurseries such as Hines Growers, Village Nurseries, Armstrong Growers, EuroAmerican Propagators, First Step Greenhouses, Tree of Life Nursery, Olive Hill Greenhouses, and, of course, Alta Nursery. I’ve had a very good insight into the Western Region of IPPS, which has been most impressive.”

Patrick made a presentation on his experience in Southern California at the annual meeting in Phoenix, and participated in the meeting’s tours and events as an ambassador for the New Zealand Region. Patrick added, “A big thank you to the IPPS-Western Region’s organizing committee, the IPPS-New Zealand Region, and all members who made this fantastic trip possible. Another special thank you to Jim and Andi Conner for taking great care of me and putting together a great series of nursery visits. I learned a lot, had heaps of fun, and am very grateful for this experience.”

Tony Shireman of Fall Creek Farm & Nursery in Oregon was the other exchange fellowship recipient in 2016, traveling to the South Island of New Zealand and participating in the New Zealand Region’s annual meeting earlier this year. (See the article in the summer 2016 issue of *Western Region Cuttings*.)

Western Region is currently accepting applications for the 2017 exchange fellowship.

[Click here for more information and the application, available on the IPPS website.](#)

Western Region Welcomes New Members and Scholarship/Fellowship Recipients to Arizona



New members and scholarship/fellowship recipients attending the Annual Meeting in Arizona joined several Past Presidents and the Western Region Executive Board for the President's breakfast at the Tempe Mission Palms. Shown in the photo above are (left to right) Susan Malisch (UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley), Kevin Alison (Tree of Life Nursery), Sheila Bhattacharya (Past President), JoWellen Douthit (University of Arizona; BBMS*), Sahar Dabirian (Washington State University; BBMS), Boston Swan (Utah State University; BBMS), Sarah Brackman (BioSafe Systems), Emilie Speciale (First Vice President at time of photo; currently President), Beth Van Tassell (Annie's Annuals and Perennials), Melanie Williams (Annie's Annuals and Perennials), Julia Cissel (Utah State University; BBMS), and Patrick Watt (Ardmore Nurseries, New Zealand; WR/NZ**).

*BBMS: Bruce Briggs Memorial Scholarship Recipient]

**WR/NZ: Western Region/New Zealand Exchange Fellowship Recipient]

A Day on the Alpine Summer Tour



On Thursday, August 25, 2016 Kerry Beane organized a special day-long, IPPS Western Region tour in the Lake Tahoe region, with the theme “Alpine Fire Ecology, Regeneration & Propagation.” En route to the first stop of this 80-mile tour, attendees took in stunning views of natural forest regrowth and Mt. Tallac in the Angora region of South Lake Tahoe, which burned 9 years ago.

Wildflowers, remediation, and garden strategies were touched upon in an excellent talk by retired US Forest Service spokesperson, Leona Allen, during the first stop at the Evans Family Garden (www.evansfamilygarden.org). In addition, Julie Roth, a local propagator, discussed native perennials available from her nursery and Kerry Beane presented two propagation strategies for *Calluna* (heather).

Next, at Comstock Seed Company (www.comstockseed.com) in Minden, Nevada, attendees were treated to an outstanding tour of drying and sorting operations, with open sharing of information about machinery and seed separation techniques. Comstock Seed serves public and private lands remediation and development projects with wild collected stocks.

At Mountain View Tree Farm (www.mountainviewtreefarm.com), the tour group viewed impeccably maintained trees, including evergreens, fruit trees and ornamentals suitable to the region. With many large specimens, Mountain View sells to local homeowners as well as the landscape trades.

Following lunch in the pioneer town of Genoa, the group headed back to the Lake Tahoe Basin by way of the scenic Kingsbury Grade, making a brief stop at Sunbasin Nursery (www.sunbasinlandscape.com) to take in “pondless” water features and be greeted by the owner. Next, at the League to Save Lake Tahoe’s Allen Demonstration Garden, the group viewed remediation strategies to protect lake clarity through reduced runoff (<https://keptahoeblue.org>).

Thanks to Ed Garrett and Fresh Spin Farms for generously donating all transportation costs. Most of all, thanks to the IPPS members who attended, making this event a success.

2017 IPPS International Tour: England, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany



All IPPS members are invited to participate in the 2017 International Tour and European Region conference. The International Tour will be held July 2-11 and will visit southeast England, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The European Region conference will take place July 12-14 in the Netherlands. A post-conference tour to Germany will be held July 14-18. For more information on the tour, and to download a complete itinerary, [click here](#). (To assist organizers, please submit the Expression of Interest form, available on the website).

Western Region Annual Meetings for 2017 and 2018

First Vice President Melanie Miller-Gonzales and her Planning Committee have an informative and enjoyable meeting and tour schedule prepared for the 58th Annual Meeting of the Western Region-IPPS. The meeting will be held October 17-20, 2017, in Wilsonville, Oregon. Wilsonville is located south of Portland, north of Salem, and just off of Interstate 5 in the beautiful Willamette Valley. Commercial nursery operations in the Willamette Valley range from small specialty growers to large producers, with container-grown and bare-root crops shipped to customers across the U.S. and Canada. Vineyards, fruit and nut orchards, berry farms, and hop-growing operations are also part of the horticultural enterprises of the Willamette Valley. [Click here to read more about the meeting.](#)

Second Vice President Todd Jones reports that planning is moving along for the 2018 Annual Meeting in Kona, Hawaii. The meeting is tentatively set for July, pending a final contract with the host hotel. The Western Region will be inviting IPPS members from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and China to participate in this Pacific Rim conference. Watch for more details during the coming months.

2017 Membership Dues

If you have not done so already, be sure to renew your IPPS membership for 2017! You may renew your membership through the IPPS website or by returning the renewal form sent to you in the mail. Due to increasing costs, it was necessary to raise the basic dues rate this year, but rest assured that the leadership of your society remains focused on making your membership worth every dollar!

One More Chance to Order Your Limited Edition T-shirts!



We still have some of our limited edition t-shirts available for sale. These attractive, blue t-shirts were custom-designed for the 2016 Annual Meeting in Arizona and are priced at \$20.00 each (including shipping).

Available sizes and quantities are: small (3), medium (1), large (6), XL (6) and 2XL (2). Sizes tend to run small, so please keep this in mind when placing your order.

To order your t-shirts:

1. Email your t-shirt order to Emilie Speciale at emilies@deserttreefarm.com with:
 - T-shirt size(s) and quantity of each size
 - Name
 - Shipping address
 - Phone number
2. Upon receiving an order confirmation from Emilie by Email:
 - Make your check payable to:
IPPS Western Region.
 - Write “t-shirt” in the memo field.
 - Mail your check to:
Gail Gredler
P.O. Box 5284
Salem, OR 97304, USA

One More Thank You to the Sponsors of the 2016 IPPS-Western Region Annual Meeting!!

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