

Western Region Cuttings

Newsletter of the Western Region - International Plant Propagators' Society

Summer 2016

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Destination: Arizona!

“A Different Point of View” is the theme for the 57th annual meeting of the Western Region to be held October 19-22, 2016, in Phoenix, Arizona, at the beautiful Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. “The unique desert climate provides a different view on horticulture,” states Emilie Speciale, chair of the organizing committee for this year’s meeting. “Conference attendees will have the special opportunity to experience the many desert climates and learn from desert-dwelling educators.”

In addition to an outstanding list of speakers, the schedule includes tours of local nurseries, the Arboretum of Flagstaff, and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson. There will be something

for everyone in this information-packed event through posters, trade exhibits, and educational sessions. The event also features a reception, a silent auction, and a closing banquet with live music.

The program and registration form (with hotel information) are now available on the IPPS website at wna.ipps.org. Submit your registration by October 1 for the lowest rates!



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Message from the President



Western Region President Dharam Sharma

The ever-moving wheels of time have brought us very close to the 57th Annual Meeting of our society this October in Phoenix, Arizona. The organizing committee, headed by Emilie Speciale, has drawn up a comprehensive program consisting of pre- and post-conference tours and interesting talks that shall expose the lucky participants to the excitement and fascination of plant propagation in a desert setting. For those of you who like to present your work through posters and introduce newly developed plant cultivars, it is high time that you register for the event and do not miss out on this wonderful opportunity.

The role of Area Meetings in reaching out to new members and sharing knowledge on plant propagation cannot be overemphasized. It is heartening to know that Kerry Beane, our Area Director representing Northern California, has taken the initiative to organize an Area Meeting in the beautiful Lake Tahoe area on August 25, 2016. I would encourage our members to participate in this special event and enjoy the rare opportunity to experience the unique temperate and alpine flora of this region.

In our recent Board meeting, our Secretary/Treasurer presented statistics that can concern all of us who love this society. The membership over the years has gradually decreased, from 2631 in 2002 to 1250 at the international level and from 514 to about 195 in our region. Compare this to the Royal Horticultural Society, London, that had 452,000 members last year! While some of our old members may have retired, more new members are probably not being attracted. Even though it is a trend that is not unique to our society alone, it still needs serious analysis on our part. How can we make efforts to make your society attractive to new membership? This is a question I would like to address to all of you and come up with possible solutions. One thing I can think of to make our society more useful to our members is by providing information on our website about conserving and propagating plants.

I look forward to seeing you in Phoenix, Arizona!



Seeding equipment viewed at Color Spot Nursery during the 2015 Annual Meeting in Modesto, California.



Seed processing facilities at the Harris Moran Seed Company, toured during the 2015 Annual Meeting in Modesto, California.

Bruce Briggs Memorial Scholarship Recipients for 2016

Laurie Rogers-Roach, Oregon Area Director and Grants Committee Chair, reports that the Grants Committee received applications from a wide range of colleges and universities within the Western Region this year. Of the six candidates selected, five are able to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting in Arizona. Scholarships recipients receive full registration and hotel accommodations for the annual meeting, along with a one-year student membership in the IPPS-Western Region. They also assist with various duties at the annual meeting. Be sure to meet and get to know our five scholarship recipients at the annual meeting in Phoenix!

Boston Swan

Utah State University, Logan, Utah

Boston plans to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science from Utah State University in spring 2018. She worked at Fonnesebeck Greenhouse as a greenhouse manager's assistant for three years, learning many production skills, including propagation. Her interest and passion for plants and the nursery industry developed while in this position. Boston is currently working in the Crop Physiology Laboratory as a laboratory assistant and undergraduate researcher. Working at the Crop Physiology Laboratory has given her the opportunity to grow plants from seed, as well as work with chlorophyll meters, colorimeters, and spectrophotometers. Upon graduation, Boston plans to continue her studies in graduate school as she works towards a career in the plant propagation industry.

Gabrielle Rafert

South Seattle College, Seattle, Washington

Gabrielle expects to complete her Associate of Science degree in Horticultural Studies at South Seattle College in spring 2017. She gained an interest in plants after working in the garden center of a hardware store. She has a passion for learning about plants and propagation, including collecting seeds and propagating plants at home. She is an intern at the college's greenhouse and nursery, where she has been directly involved with improving their social media presence and designing their business card. Gabrielle is also a volunteer in a Mahonia project, with the goal of finding disease resistant Mahonia species for the Washington nursery trade. She is interested in learning all that she can about horticulture, as she plans to start her own nursery.

JoWellen Douthit

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

JoWellen plans to graduate from the University of Arizona in December 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science. She became interested in the nursery industry after working in nursery sales. She is an active member of the school's plant club, propagating and selling plants. JoWellen also works in the university's lab and greenhouse, where she is responsible for propagation, plant care, applying experimental treatments, collecting data, and analyzing results. JoWellen is currently conducting salinity tolerance research with lettuce cultivars and plans to work with dodder to identify the causal agent of palo verde witches' broom. Following graduation, she plans to continue her education at the university to achieve her Master's degree in Plant Sciences.

Julia E. Cissel

Utah State University, Salt Lake City, Utah

Julia is working toward a Bachelor of Science in Plant Science at Utah State University. She previously earned an MBA in Marketing and Multinational Management, an M.S. in Biomedical Engineering, and a B.A. in Chemistry. She has worked in the agriculture industry for over ten years, working with scientists, plant breeders, and growers in product development and bringing new products to the industry. Julia recently completed the USU Extension Master Gardener volunteer training. Her love of plants and gardening has motivated her to pursue a career in the green industry following graduation. She has an interest in desert plants and landscapes. Julia is interested in propagation, as it directly relates to her previous experience in the agriculture industry.

Sahar Dabirian

Washington State University, Mt. Vernon, Washington

Sahar plans to graduate from Washington State University in January 2017 with a Master of Science in Horticulture. She has a strong interest in propagation, especially seed-propagated and grafted vegetable crops. For her Master's project, Sahar has been working on methods of improving current cucurbit grafting protocols to increase survival of grafted vegetable plants and reduce the cost of grafting. She is also working to produce vegetable plants that have a better chance of resisting disease pressure and environmental stresses. Upon graduation, Sahar is interested in pursuing a career in propagation as a vegetable production research scientist in the agricultural industry.

Western Region Represented on the IPPS International Tour on the South Island of New Zealand



Left to right: IPPS-New Zealand Region tour leaders Philip and Janine Smith, and IPPS-Western Region members Allison and Todd Jones, Judy and Fred Hopkins, Tony Shireman, and (kneeling) Gene Blythe at the Hosta Garden in Glencoe.

The Western Region was well represented at the IPPS International tour on the South Island of New Zealand in April. The tour began in Christchurch, a city which continues its recovery and rebuilding after the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. Along with representatives from all IPPS regions, the tour group made its way across the Canterbury Plains to Oamaru, then on to Dunedin to visit the Dunedin Botanic Gardens and the gardens of Larnach Castle.

Heading toward Invercargill, the group departed the bus and hiked a steep hill to visit the extensive gardens of Manuka Farm Gardens, and then traveled on to view the tulip bulb processing plant of Triflor NZ Ltd. At Fiordland National Park, the group hiked to examine the native alpine flora before traveling on to Queenstown, where the first of the International Board meetings was held.

After an overnight stay at Mount Cook amidst the Southern Alps, the tour group headed back to Christchurch for the final International Board meeting, then the New Zealand Region's conference.

Current and emerging international issues, committee activities, and strategic planning for the future of the society were discussed extensively at the International Board meetings and subcommittee meetings, including future direction of the IPPS website, the China initiative, possibilities of new regions, an international sponsorship program, membership programs, and the IPPS Proceedings.

2016 IPPS-Western Region/New Zealand Region Exchange Scholarship

Tony Shiremen, IPPS-Western Region member from Springfield, Oregon, traveled to New Zealand in April 2016 as recipient of the 2016 IPPS-Western Region/New Zealand Region Exchange Scholarship. While in New Zealand, Tony had the opportunity to interact with plant producers, attend the 2016 IPPS International Conference Tour of the South Island of New Zealand, and represent the IPPS-Western Region at the New Zealand Region Annual Conference. Most importantly, Tony also served as an ambassador of the IPPS-Western Region in fostering professional interaction and goodwill between the two regions.

Tony states, “I was honored to be so well received during my time with the IPPS New Zealand Region. The international tour covered much of the South Island and included stops at nurseries and stunning sites in Christchurch, Oamaru, Dunedin, Invercargill, Queenstown, Fiordland National Park, and so much more. With all the locations visited, it’s impossible to summarize such a trip into just a few short sentences. In addition to the spectacular scenery, numerous nurseries, plus the private and botanic gardens, the friendliness and hospitality of everyone I met was spectacular.”

“If I had to choose just one part of the trip as the highlight, between the soaring mountains, glacial lakes, wildlife, art, food, gardens, I think that far and away it would be the people I met that were the best and most memorable. Their openness, sharing, and great humor made the tour and the conference an unforgettable experience. It truly was an adventure of a lifetime. Many thanks to everyone in the region for sharing so much and I hope to be able to return your kindness when we next meet. I’m looking forward to sharing more about the entire adventure at the IPPS-Western Region Annual Meeting in Arizona this October. I hope to see you there!”



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Tony Shireman (left) discusses his experience on the IPPS International tour on the South Island, following his introduction at the New Zealand meeting by Mark Stevenson (right) of HortFert Plus. Tony was also one of six young professionals (the “Six Pack”) who assisted with registration and other duties at the New Zealand meeting. The “Six Pack” was sponsored by HortFert Plus.

A Few Highlights While Touring the South Island of New Zealand



Lignite Pit Gardens, Invercargill (a reclaimed lignite pit)



Sheep shearing at Roslyn Downs Partnership, Glencoe



Washing tulip bulbs at Triflor NX Ltd., Invercargill

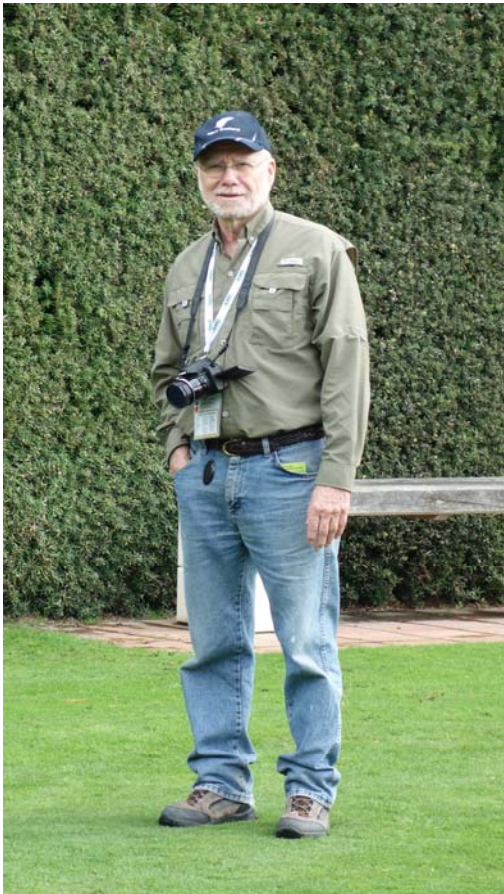


Busily pruning at Broadfield NZ Landscape Garden



A fall afternoon in April with the IPPS International Board, other IPPS members, and hosts at the Hosta Gardens, Glencoe

News from the International Board



Todd Jones, International Delegate

The International Board met in New Zealand in April, 2016, with every region represented and a full agenda of items to address. The two most notable discussion items were membership and website functionality.

Attracting new members is an ongoing focus in nearly every region and an area on which the International Board is very much focused. Improving our online image and reaching out to students and youth are areas where the board is working. In addition, we had a number of people from China join us on this year's preconference tour, as this area continues to work towards building their own region. We also now have contacts in India with interest in forming a region there. Both of these regions have the potential to be very large someday.

The new IPPS website, which was launched during the 2015 meeting, is now fully functional, though still underused by most of the regions. Unifying the different regions around a single website is no small task and one that will continue to require ongoing adjustments. However, with online functions like conference registration and membership renewal, searchable access to our proceedings, and how-to informational videos, the board believes this investment will serve us well over time. The board is also actively recruiting corporate sponsors

to help with website maintenance; this should reduce costs for all of the regions.

The opportunity to connect and build friendships with members from all over the world is what makes IPPS such a valuable resource. It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the International Delegate for the Western Region. I invite you to please contact me through the Western Region Secretary if you have questions or concerns you would like the International Board to address.

--Todd Jones, International Delegate



Larnach Castle (left), in Dunedin, New Zealand. California native *Romneya coulteri* (above) finds a home in the Larnach Castle gardens.

Alpine Summer Tour



Wildflowers, Fire Ecology, and Propagating Sierra Natives is the theme of a special IPPS-Western Region tour. Join Kerry Beane, tour leader and IPPS-WR board member, for the IPPS-WR Alpine Summer Tour on Thursday, August 25, 2016 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

The tour is free for IPPS-WR members and \$45.00 for non-members (or free with a new membership). Payment may be made by check or cash at the event.

The tour will leave at 9:30 AM from Bert's Café, 1146 Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. Bert's Café opens at 7:00 AM, so come early for a good breakfast.

This tour begins at about 6300 foot elevation, traversing high mountain passes before dropping into the Carson Valley desert and then returning to lake level.

With a focus on regenerative ecology, this tour sets out in the Angora area, which was ravaged by fire in 2007. Passing stunning views of natural forest regrowth and majestic Mount Tallac, we will view native wildflowers and explore the Evans Family Garden with Garden Administrator Leona Allen. Julie Roth of Plant Native Roots will share her insights on propagating Sierra natives.

Next, proceeding over scenic Luther Pass and route 88 toward Gardnerville, we will visit two distinct operations where you may wish to purchase seeds and plants. At Comstock Seed Company we will see drying and sorting operations for many native seed stocks. At Mountain View Tree Farm we will tour a wide selection of impeccably maintained trees, including evergreens, fruit trees, and ornamentals suitable for this region.

After enjoying lunch in the historic pioneer town of Genoa, we'll return to the Lake Tahoe Basin by way of the scenic Kingsbury Grade and conclude the tour by 3:30.

If you plan to attend the tour, please be sure to RSVP by August 20, 2016, to Kerry Beane: kera108@mac.com or 916-704-6483.

Thanks to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District as a participating agency.



In Memoriam

Long-time IPPS member Dave Lannom passed away peacefully on May 12, 2016, at the age of 70. Dave began an active retirement in 2006 after decades of service as Professor of Horticulture at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and Mount San Antonio College. Dave was an enthusiastic instructor, inspiring many students who went on to have careers in horticulture, including numerous IPPS members. During his years at Mount San Antonio College, Dave served as the Agriculture Department Chair and the Horticulture Farm Manager. Dave was honored with the Mt. SAC Faculty Member of the Year award, the Cal Poly Pomona Alumnus of the Year award, the Excellence in Horticulture Education award, and was also named the Southern California Horticultural Society's 2013 Horticulturist of the Year. Dave was also chosen as the Mt. SAC Alumnus of the Year Speaker at its Commencement in 2015. Dave served as IPPS-Western Region Second Vice President in 2010-2011 and organized the Annual Meeting in Ventura that year. In his spare time, Dave was a model train buff. Dave will be missed by all who knew and loved him, and there weren't many who didn't know and love him!



Dave was also named the Southern California Horticultural Society's 2013 Horticulturist of the Year. Dave was also chosen as the Mt. SAC Alumnus of the Year Speaker at its Commencement in 2015. Dave served as IPPS-Western Region Second Vice President in 2010-2011 and organized the Annual Meeting in Ventura that year. In his spare time, Dave was a model train buff. Dave will be missed by all who knew and loved him, and there weren't many who didn't know and love him!

New Plants ... New Format

This year the IPPS-WR conference is going to try a different format for the New Plant Forum. Rather than presenting new plants in an oral session with limited time, the New Plant Forum will be included in the poster session. This change should help ensure that everyone gets a chance to see the new introductions and allow time for more in depth discussion with the originators.

A poster is a great venue for you as an individual or company to introduce the newest and latest-to-market plants to the IPPS membership. Both non-patented and patented plants may be presented and posters should discuss the unique characteristics of each new plant and the features that will make that plant stand out in the landscape! Information on the taxonomy and source of propagules (seed, cuttings, plugs, liners, etc.) should also be presented. Please limit your plant introductions to those from 2015 or newer.

New Plant Forum posters should follow the same format as traditional posters (please see the call for posters in the annual meeting website at <http://wna.ipps.org/>). Please submit a 2016 Poster Session Application Form by September 26, 2016 to Larry Rupp at Larry.Rupp@usu.edu. The application should include a one-page summary of the poster's content. If accepted, the summary will be published in the 2016 Combined Proceedings.

Remember, a donation (optional) of your new plants for the Silent Auction (including written information on each plant) would be welcome! (Questions? Contact Larry by Email or at 435-232-1158.)



A Special Thanks to the Sponsors of the 2016 IPPS-Western Region Annual Meeting!!

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