

Western Region Cuttings

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

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Heading Out on the Oregon Trail: Registration is Now Open for the 2017 Western Region Annual Meeting



It's time to register for the 58th annual meeting of the IPPS Western Region to 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. A wide array of information-packed presentations and exclusive tours of the region's preeminent nurseries are scheduled for the meeting. Trade exhibits and poster presentations will also be included in the meeting activities. Of course, there will be plenty of time to meet up with old friends and make new acquaintances as we seek and share!

The registration form for the meeting is available on the IPPS-Western Region website, (wna.ipp.s.org) along with the full program. The lowest registration rates for the meeting are available through October 9, so be sure to register early. Non-members are also welcome to register for the meeting (at an additional charge).

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The Holiday Inn in Wilsonville will be our host hotel and meeting venue. The hotel is conveniently located approximately 20 minutes from downtown Portland and 30 minutes from Salem. Discounted hotel rates are available through September 26 by calling the hotel directly at 1-503-682-2211. Tell the reservation agent that you are attending the IPPS-Western Region conference.

Plan to arrive early or stay after the meeting to enjoy the region's many recreational opportunities, scenic drives, and public gardens. A drive along the Columbia River Gorge offers some spectacular scenery and a visit to Powell's City of Books in downtown Portland offers a great way to add to your horticultural library.

Nursery operations in the Willamette Valley range from small specialty growers to large producers, with containerized and bare-root crops shipped across North America. Vineyards, fruit and nut orchards, berry farms, and hop-growing operations are also prominent.



The meeting will kick off on Tuesday with a pre-conference tour that includes visits to:

- Youngblood Nursery
- Monrovia
- Carlton Plants (also our lunch stop)
- North American Plants

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The tours continue on Wednesday morning with visits to:

- Aroma Cannabis
- Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas
- Fir Point Farms (lunch stop)
- Microplant Nurseries
- PlantSmith Nursery

The conference will continue on Wednesday afternoon at the hotel with presentations on containers, controlled-release fertilizers, and biocontrol for commercial nursery propagation. On Wednesday evening, there will be time to get together with friends for dinner on your own.

Tours will continue Thursday morning with visits to:

- Heirloom Roses
- Minto Island Growers (and lunch stop)
- Smith Gardens



On Thursday afternoon, presentations at the hotel will cover nursery automation, woody ornamental plant breeding, and natural growing through biology. The annual banquet will take place Thursday evening.

Presentations will conclude on Friday morning, with opportunities to learn about nursery pest management and plant diagnostics in nurseries and greenhouses, along with the Nuggets of Knowledge session and presentations by our Western Region/New Zealand Region Exchange Fellowship Recipients.



Grants Committee Announces Seven Recipients of the Bruce Briggs Memorial Scholarship for 2017

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 eight applicants, seven were chosen to attend the 2017 Annual Meeting in Oregon. Scholarship 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 seven scholarship recipients at the annual meeting in Wilsonville, Oregon!



Christine Quist

Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Langley, British Columbia

Christine graduated in April 2017 with a diploma in Sustainable Crop Production from Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Following graduation, she expects to return to her employment at Green Thumb Wholesale Nursery with a promotion from Assistant Grower to Grower. In her job at Green Thumb, she propagated conifers, herbaceous perennials and ornamental shrubs by seed, cuttings, and grafting. She strives to combine her passion for horticulture with her connection to the environment to find more effective, safer, and more sustainable ways to grow plants. As a research project, Christine worked to identify growing media for propagating *Rhododendron* that had the highest rooting success rates, while being the most environmentally friendly.



Kristin Neill

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

Kristen recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Horticulture at North Carolina State University, with a co-major in Plant & Molecular Biology and minor in Genetics. She has recently begun the Master's program at Oregon State University with a major in Ornamental Plant Breeding, planning to graduate in 2020. Her research at OSU will be focused on cotoneaster and huckleberry. Kristin has worked in the sweet potato breeding program at NC State for three years, where she had the opportunity to learn cuttings and grafting. She has gained valuable skills, including micropropagation, with summer internships at Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, Cornell University, and Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center at NCSU. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in the future and plans to return to academia as a professor. (Continued on next page.)



Sean Markovic

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

Sean is planning to graduate in December 2017 with a Master's degree in Horticulture from Colorado State University. He is currently researching propagation of difficult to root Plant Select® herbaceous plants. Also, he is the Coordinator of the Annual Flower Trials at Colorado State University. Sean worked for two seasons at Welby Gardens as the Plug/Seed Grower, growing annual and perennials by seed. He then worked for Spring Meadow Nursery as Assistant Manager of propagation. Following graduation, he will continue his education to earn a Ph.D. He plans a career in teaching, research, and extension, focusing on PGRs, water conservation, media, and nutrient levels in propagated materials.



Hsuan Chen

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

Hsuan is planning to graduate from Oregon State University in 2018 with a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding & Genetics and a minor in Statistics. He completed his undergraduate studies and a Master's degree in Plant Breeding in Taiwan. He is working to perform protoplast fusion between *Hibiscus syriacus* and *H. moscheutos* to develop novel hybrids that have hardiness, persistent shoots and massive flowers with saturated colors. Hsuan has also done research on *Phalaenopsis* seedlings to investigate the effect of variable light regimes in tissue culture on endoreduplication ratios and the effects of variable culture media on in vitro germination. Following graduation, he plans to become a plant breeder.



Pinki Devi

Washington State University, Mt. Vernon, Washington

Pinki is studying Horticulture at Washington State University and plans to graduate in December 2020. Her research goal is to investigate propagation methods to increase the grafting success of seedless watermelon. She will also be evaluating grafted plants in the field to measure the impact of grafting on fruit yield and quality. Prior to graduate school, Pinki spent five years as Senior Research Fellow in the Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory, Tree Improvement & Genetics Division at Institute of Wood Science & Technology in Bangalore, India. Her research was focused on micropropagation of *Embelia ribes*, *Santalum album*, *Tectona grandis*, and orchid species. She also researched nutritional value and management of tissue cultured plants in the greenhouse.

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Peter Swenson

Diablo Valley Community College, Pleasant Hill, California

Peter is planning to graduate with an Associate degree in Natural Sciences from Diablo Valley College in spring 2019. He is a student worker in the Horticulture Department, assisting in plant propagation, preparing for and advertising the plant sale, and doing computer/IT work. He has a passion for plant propagation and is self-driven to experiment with propagation techniques and environment. He found success with sowing *Casuarina equisetifolia* seed with soil and material found under the seed source. Peter found that he had a higher germination rate and more vigorous seedlings with the addition of the mycorrhizal inoculant. Upon graduation, he is interested in a career in nursery or greenhouse management.

University of Idaho

Shannon Royals

University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho

Shannon is a student at the University of Idaho and plans to graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Crops: Horticulture. She has worked in the research program of Dr. Robert Tripepi and has completed experiments in shoot organogenesis from leaves, rooting stem cuttings of pitcher plants, and completed propagule transfers for axillary shoot cultures of different herbaceous and woody plant species. She has helped propagate plants for the Plant & Soil Science Club. Shannon also assisted in a plant grafting workshop, teaching homeowners how to graft and bud apple trees. She plans to pursue a career in the greenhouse or nursery industry in propagation and is interested in starting her own nursery.



Call for Posters

If you have an innovative technique or method for growing plants, share it through a poster! Posters do not have to be academic or scientific in nature. Any research, development, or horticultural practice about plant propagation or plant production is appropriate as long as it is non-commercial in nature.

Also, for the second year, the IPPS-WR conference is using a different format for the New Plant Forum. Rather than presenting new plants in an oral session with limited time, new plants will be presented as posters. This change should help ensure that everyone gets a chance to see the new introductions and allow time for more in depth discussion. Both non-patented and patented plants may be presented and posters should discuss the unique characteristics of each new plant and the features that make the plant unique. Information on the taxonomy and source of propagules (seed, cuttings, plugs, liners, etc.) should also be presented. Authors should also feel free to bring specimens to present with the poster. Please limit your plant introductions to those from 2016 or newer.

For more detailed information about the poster session and poster specifications, download a copy of the announcement from the 2017 IPPS-Western Region Annual Meeting web page. The deadline for applications is **September 22, 2017**.

Coordinator: Larry Rupp, larry.rupp@usu.edu



A New Format for Nuggets of Knowledge

This year we are changing the ‘Nuggets of Knowledge’ to a session about what we see on our tours or problems that keep you up at night. As we tour leading-edge nurseries, don’t you ever wonder: How much did that equipment cost and was it worth it after they installed it? Or what was the thinking behind why they used that process? Or has anyone tried this technique on these cuttings? Or what would you do if...? As you can see, the number of questions is endless, and the possibility of getting real answers from real propagators on real issues is priceless. Propagators from organizations of any size can always learn by listening to other propagators, especially as our industry changes.



We will have a question box to receive your written questions throughout the conference (through Thursday evening). You can identify yourself or simply remain anonymous. The ‘Nuggets of Knowledge’ session will be Friday morning. We are hoping you will join us for both answers and stimulating discussion that will help your operation prosper into the future.

Coordinator: Danny Takao, dtakao@takaonursery.com

Recipient of New Zealand Exchange Fellowship to Visit Western Region

IPPS-New Zealand Region member Dharini Marinkovich is recipient of this year's New Zealand Region/Western Region exchange fellowship. Dharini will be traveling from her home in Auckland, New Zealand to the Pacific Northwest of the U.S., where she will be hosted by Western Region members and visit nurseries and botanical gardens during October. Her visit will include attending the Western Region's annual meeting in Wilsonville, Oregon.

Dharini currently works as an Assistant Plant Breeder for Dr. Keith Hammett, a private professional plant breeder based in Auckland. Dharini earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Classical Studies from the University of Auckland. Most recently, she earned a Postgraduate Certificate in Science (Plant Breeding) from Massey University.

Dharini states, "I only recently discovered my interest for plants during my Bachelor of Science at the University of Auckland. Through my Bachelors, I learned valuable research skills and laboratory protocols, but I realized after working in the plant molecular biology laboratory on model plants for genetic studies that I wanted more time outdoors growing plants for direct use. While working at Seedling Systems seedling propagation nursery, I discovered plant breeding which appealed to me because of its scientific and practical components, and so I began working with Dr. Keith Hammett."

"At this early stage, I can only say I want to be involved in plant breeding in my future career because I enjoy all aspects of running and maintaining a breeding program. I imagined a career in vegetable or fruit crops or sustainable agriculture; however, I have found myself in the ornamental plant world. Therefore, I would like to take time to explore the different aspects connecting the plant breeder to the market, such as plant propagation and marketing. In the future, I would like to run my own plant breeding program and make a contribution to New Zealand horticulture. I'd like to be able to exchange information and a passion for plants with other like-minded people of the industry."

"The IPPS emphasis on sharing knowledge aligns with my personal values and is something I want to maintain in my future career. I have felt the same enthusiasm for sharing knowledge as a part-time biology tutor, and this is a quality I want to maintain in my future career. The exchange program is a great opportunity for me to see the potential of ornamental plant breeding as a career. It will give perspective to my work with Dr. Keith Hammett as I have learned the importance of the international market in sustaining New Zealand-based plant breeding businesses. I have already been inspired by the passion and encouragement from the IPPS New Zealand members and I look forward to learning more and meeting people through IPPS in the coming years."

Be sure to meet Dharini during the upcoming annual meeting in Wilsonville.



Report on the 2017 Oregon Area Meeting

On June 21, 2017, an Oregon area meeting was held in Silverton at Conifer Kingdom and the Oregon Garden. We had a great turn-out of 19 participants, including both members and non-members. The tour began at Conifer Kingdom and then continued at the Oregon Garden.

Sam Pratt, Sales Manager, guided the tour at Conifer Kingdom. Conifer Kingdom is a retail outlet that specializes in Japanese maples and dwarf conifers from liners to specimen sizes. Most of the propagation is done in-house, including grafting and cuttings. A majority of the retail sales is through mail order, including shipping large specimen trees by common carrier. Conifer Kingdom is owned by Brent Markus, who founded Rare Tree Nursery and Markus Farms, LLC in 2007 to provide specimen trees to the landscape industry.

The tour continued at the Oregon Garden with guide Doug Wilson. Doug is a long-time volunteer at the Oregon Garden's conifer garden. He is also an active member of the American Conifer Society, which sponsors the conifer garden. Doug knows the conifer garden well, since he does much of the planting and procures the plants from the Conifer Society and nurseries. The conifer garden is filled with specimen plants, including towering giants, dwarfs, and companion plants. They have the largest collection of dwarf and miniature conifers in the United States.

Following the tour of the conifer garden, the tour group enjoyed lunch at the Oregon Garden, where everyone had a chance "To Seek and Share" with colleagues.

Thank you to our sponsor, Wilbur-Ellis.



Western Region Represented on the IPPS International Tour of England, Belgium, and the Netherlands



Left to right: IPPS-Western Region members Dharam Sharma (IPPS-WR Alternate Delegate), Gene Blythe (IPPS-WR Delegate), Allison and Todd Jones, Andi and Jim Conner, and Nicky Hughes at Solitair Nursery (Belgium).

Several IPPS-Western Region members traveled to Europe this summer to take part in the 2017 IPPS International tour, with some 90 tour members representing IPPS regions throughout the world. Setting out from Guildford, England, the group visited Fairweather's Nursery (young plants for international wholesale growers, mail order companies and retailers) and New Forest Plants (specializing in herbaceous perennials, garden herbs and alpine plants), followed by the garden of Beaulieu and the National Car Museum. The next day, it was off to the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, the second most visited gardens in the United Kingdom, followed by the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flowers Show. Hillier's Nursery and Arboretum were the highlights on day four, with the nursery dating back to 1864. Day five included tours of Walberton Nursery and Binsted Nursery (part of the Farplants Group, a cooperative supplying over 2,000 varieties of plants), Newey Roundstone (a major producer of protected plants), and West Dean Gardens (established in 1622).

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