
Western Region Member Andrew Abate: Recipient of the 2018 Exchange Fellowship

Andrew Abate has been selected as the recipient of the IPPS-Western/New Zealand Regions Young Professional Exchange Fellowship for 2018. Andrew will have the opportunity to travel to New Zealand as a guest of the IPPS-New Zealand Region. While there, Andrew will interact with plant producers and represent the Western Region at the New Zealand Region's Annual Conference, acting as an ambassador of the Western Region in fostering professional interaction and goodwill between the two regions.

Andrew currently works for the J. Frank Schmidt and Sons Company as an Assistant Farm Manager, producing field-grown shade trees. Andrew states, "My responsibilities include leading teams and managing operations, such as planting seed, digging trees, packing and shipping, taking cuttings, and a multitude of other propagation procedures. My tasks keep me outside in the field working with heavy machinery, such as tractors and front loaders, there being so much acreage to tend to. So, I am gaining more valuable experience with both propagation skills and equipment operation."

Andrew graduated from Montana State University in 2016 with a major in Environmental Horticulture and a minor in Hispanic Studies. While pursuing his degree, Andrew worked as a Greenhouse Assistant at MSU's Plant Growth Center. Andrew reports, "This is where I learned the basic skills of fertility management, setting a watering schedule, utilizing an IPM program, as well as all processes involved in producing potted plants in a controlled environment."

"I also worked as an intern at the Central Agricultural Research Center in Moccasin, Montana, gaining valuable knowledge and experience with pruning techniques, plant identification, and taxonomy. I was also involved in a research project focused on the propagation of *Caragana arborescens*, the Siberian peashrub, examining use of this plant for shelter belts in the wide open and wind-exposed farmlands of the area."

After graduation, Andrew moved to California to start a job as Propagation Manager for ProTree Nursery. Andrew comments, "While my job as Propagation Manager mainly kept me working in the greenhouse, acclimation tunnels, and outside sectors, I also received some experience inside the tissue culture laboratory."

"Horticulture is not only my chosen career path, but my passion and hobby as well. I have known for years that my future lay in the horticultural field and I see myself working in the nursery industry for the foreseeable future. My ultimate goal and perhaps greatest desire is to open a nursery of my own."

Andrew will be reporting on his New Zealand experience at the Western Region's annual meeting in Hawaii.



Registration is Now Open for the 2018 Annual Meeting: The Pacific Rim Conference



Tropical island adventures await you this summer as IPPS-Western Region holds the 2018 Annual Meeting, the “Pacific Rim Conference”, on the Big Island of Hawaii at the Courtyard King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel in the Kona Village. Dates of the event are July 31 to August 4, 2018.

On-line registration with itineraries, packages, and pricing are available at:

<http://wna.ipps.org/event/Regional-Events/2018-Pacific-Rim-Conference/QjJFQVIBJTNEJTNE>

Early registration prices are valid until April 15, 2018, so be sure to book now!

Prices increase starting April 16, 2018.

The discounted hotel rate at the Courtyard King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel in Kona Village for the conference will also be available for 3 days prior to the conference and 3 days after the conference so that you and your family may plan for extra days of vacation on the Big Island!

Registration for the Annual Meeting with tours on the Big Island of Hawaii is OPEN NOW.

Be sure to register and make your hotel reservations soon!

[Note: Due to exceptional demand, the pre-conference tour on Oahu has sold out.]

The Pacific Rim Conference: A Unique Opportunity for Western Region Members

Todd Jones, First Vice President of IPPS-Western Region, recently shared some of his personal thoughts about his experience as a member: “I have been an IPPS-Western Region member for over 35 years. As I’ve told many new IPPS members, my biggest regret as a member is that, as a young nursery professional, I never had the experience of connecting with other international members. It was many years later when I had an opportunity to get to know members from other regions, and it was an absolute delight. In many ways, I think this represents the uniqueness of IPPS. This year, Western Region members will have a unique opportunity to visit Hawaii and interact with members from other IPPS regions.”

“We have invited all of our neighbors around the Pacific Rim to join us at the 2018 IPPS-Western Region Annual Meeting. We will be meeting in the middle, which happens to be the “Big Island” of

(Continued on page 14)





(Continued from page 13)

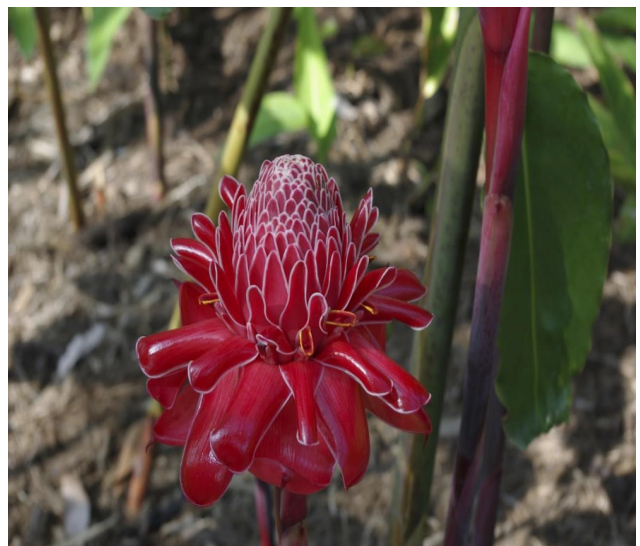
Hawaii. The dates are July 31 to August 4. This is a little bit earlier than we normally meet – the middle of summer for Western region members and the middle of winter for members from the Southern Hemisphere. You may be thinking, ‘Hawaii may be a nice place to visit, but why would I want to attend a meeting there?’ Well, we’ve come up with some pretty good reasons.”

1. **Make new contacts** with members from IPPS regions all around the Pacific Rim. One of the great strengths of our organization is the opportunity to meet and develop friendships with nursery professionals from throughout the world.

2. **Learn about regional trends** in horticulture around the Pacific Rim. Are you wondering about the most popular plant selling in Sydney, Australia? Are you curious about what is going on in China right now? We’re going to trade ideas, which is what we do at IPPS. You might just come up with a great idea to take back to your company.

3. **Trade ideas and products**, and share in a wealth of knowledge with great speakers from Micronesia, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Japan, China, India, and Hawaii. Two special speakers on the program are Ian Duncalf, who will be discussing his nursery experience in New Zealand, having been

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from page 14)

the Director of Research and Development for Duncan and Davies, which at one time was the largest export nursery in the southern hemisphere; and David Cliffe, the most recent Past Chair of the IPPS International Board, who has worked in horticulture worldwide, and will be sharing with us from his vast experience.

4. Investigate: What's the next big thing? What is coming up in the world of horticulture? Chad Davis will be giving us a behind-the-scenes look at what has been called the world's most expensive landscape project in Singapore. Julienne Zhu, Executive Vice Secretary-General of the Nursery Stock Branch of the China Flower Association, has her hand on the pulse of the horticultural trends in China. Along with this, we have several wonderful speakers who will bring us up-to-date on Hawaiian native plants, propagation, and nursery production in Hawaii.

5. Experience the horticulture of Hawaii. There will be two tours during the annual conference on the Big Island of Hawaii. First, an all-day tour will travel to the east side of the island across the mile-high Saddle Road that cuts between the two large mountains: Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea. We will be visiting nurseries in Hilo, have lunch at Nani Mau Gardens, and then visit Mauna Loa (macadamia nut processors) and Akatsuka Orchid Gardens in Volcano, Hawaii. We will travel through lava flows and other interesting terrain as we circle the south end of the island and make our way back to Kona. Second, a half-day tour will feature visits to a coffee grower and local nurseries in the Kona area.



This is your chance to make connections and network with propagators, growers, and researchers from other parts of the world. We may come from different countries, but IPPS members are always an endless source of ideas, knowledge, inspiration, and lifelong friendship. Come “Seek and Share” at the Pacific Rim Conference. Oh, and one more thing – visiting Hawaii is always a lot of fun!



2018 Call for Poster Submissions: Open April 1 to June 30, 2018



You can participate in the Pacific Rim Conference by bringing or sending a poster to the meeting in Kona, Hawaii. A poster describing any research, development, or horticultural practice about plant propagation or plant production is appropriate as long as it is non-commercial in nature. Posters do not have to be academic or scientific in nature! If you have an innovative technique or method for growing plants, feel free to share it through a poster. Membership in IPPS is not required.

The IPPS-WR conference is continuing to also use the poster session for our New Plant Forum. Rather than presenting new plants in an oral session with limited time, new plants are presented as posters. This helps ensure that everyone gets a chance to see the new introductions and allows time for more in depth discussion. Both patented and non-patented plants may be presented. Posters should discuss the unique characteristics and features of each new plant. 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 2017 or newer.

More information and application: http://admin.ipps.org/uploads//IPPS-WR_2018_Call_for_Posters1.pdf.



IPPS-WR Executive Committee Plans for the Future



The IPPS-Western Region Executive Committee held their annual mid-year meeting in early February in Vancouver, Washington, to plan for upcoming annual meetings and area meetings, discuss sponsorships and publicity, review the region's finances and establish budgets, and discuss a wide range of issues of importance to the operation of IPPS-Western Region. During the coming months, the committee will be holding additional meetings via Skype.

Volunteers are critical to the ongoing activities of IPPS-Western Region. Every member should consider how they can help the society as a way of giving back to an organization that has done so much to promote an open exchange of ideas among its members, keep members up to date on the latest technology, enhance the careers of horticultural professionals, and form the basis for so many life-long friendships.

Don't hesitate to contact an Executive Committee member about volunteering with IPPS-Western Region!

Melanie Miller (President) - mmiller@obcnw.com

Todd Jones (First Vice President) - toddjones57@hotmail.com

Danny Takao (Second Vice President) - dtakao@takaonursery.com

Laurie Rogers-Roach (Director: ID, OR, WY) - laurie@eshraghinursery.com

Lexa Dillon Hall (Director: NV, Northern CA) - lexadillon@gmail.com

Sarah Brackman (Director: MT, WA) - sbrackman@biosafesystems.com

Glenn Enomoto (Director: AZ, Southern CA, HI) - glenn@americanhort.com

Douglas Justice (Director: AL, AB, BC, SK, YT) - douglas.justice@ubc.ca

Larry Rupp (Director: CO, NM, UT) - larry.rupp@usu.edu

Gail Gredler (Secretary-Treasurer) - ggredler@comcast.net

Gene Blythe (Editor; International Director) - blythe@pss.msstate.edu

Dharam Sharma (Alternate International Director) - dharam@gmail.com

Emilie Speciale (Immediate Past President) - emiliemspeciale@gmail.com

One More Thank You to the Sponsors of the 2017 IPPS-Western Region Annual Meeting

Platinum Sponsors (\$1,800+)

Nursery
MANAGEMENT

**FALL CREEK**[®]
FARM & NURSERY, INC.

**PHILLIPS**
SOIL PRODUCTS

**BioSafe**
Systems[®]

**Harrell's**
Growing a Better World[®]

POLYON[®]

**American
Horticultural
Supply, Inc.**

"we supply the goods to keep you growing"

www.AmericanHort.com | (800) 247-1184

Platinum Sponsors (\$1,800+)



OBC NORTHWEST, INC.
Nursery & Greenhouse Supplies

Gold Sponsors (\$1,300)



proptek



PINDSTRUP

Silver Sponsors (\$800)



Stuewe & Sons, Inc.

Tree Seedling Nursery Containers



Bronze Sponsors (\$500)



T.O. PLASTICS

Western Region Cuttings

is published by the Executive Committee of the
Western Region, North America - International Plant Propagators' Society
wna.ipps.org
