

Western Region Cuttings

Winter 2016

Newsletter of the Western Region - International Plant Propagators' Society Vol. 7, No. 1

Modesto Annual Meeting a SUCCESS!

The 56th annual meeting in Modesto was quite successful. It was marked by excellent attendance, new registrants and study tours covering nurseries, seed companies, diagnostic, micropropagation, research and food processing facilities. The oral and poster sessions lived up to the theme of the year - "Plant Propagation in the 21st Century." The session topics ranged from the role of botanical gardens in plant conservation to futuristic concepts like synthetic seed production and phenotyping through chlorophyll fluorescence. The sixteen speakers were drawn from as far away as Micronesia to the West and Kuwait to the East. They all volunteered to share their knowledge and experience with the membership at their expense. The banquet session was made memorable by the inspiring invocation by Larry Rupp, motivational speech on challenges to the industry by John Duarte, the keynote speaker, and by recognizing three great



1st Vice President Emilie Speciale enjoying the tour at Poots Cactus Nursery (Photo E. Blythe)



Happy meeting attendees! (Photo C. Ames)

pioneers of horticultural industry in the Western Region - Bill Burchell, Jim Duarte and Floyd Zaiger. This was probably the first time IPPS-Western Region recognized the lifetime achievements of individuals who have significantly shaped the industry over the past few decades. The expenses were kept to a minimum by sponsorships from different segments of the industry including individuals and companies. The impressive number of registrants and exhibitors helped to defray the costs and, fiscally, bring the IPPS-Western Region out of the red!

IPPS-Western Region has a new post office box number.
Our new address is IPPS-WR, P.O. Box 5634, Salem, OR 97304
Please make a note for your records.



Also in this issue...

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

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING - 2016

International Plant Propagators' Society - Western Region Announces 2016 Annual Meeting Location

The IPPS-Western Region is pleased to announce its 2016 Annual Meeting will be held October 19-22 in Phoenix, Arizona. "The unique desert climate provides a different view on horticulture," said Emilie Speciale, conference organizer. "Conference attendees will have the special opportunity to experience the many desert climates and learn from desert-dwelling educators." Host hotel for the 57th annual event is the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel and Conference Center. In addition to a robust speaker's slate, the schedule includes local nursery tours, as well as tours of The Arboretum of Flagstaff and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson. Attendees will have the opportunity to absorb information through research poster displays and presentations, a trade exhibition and learning sessions. The event also features a reception, new plant introductions, silent auction and closing banquet with live music.



Tempe Mission Palms Hotel and Conference



Arboretum of Flagstaff

BRUCE BRIGGS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Bruce Briggs Memorial Scholarships are offered each year to help students attend the IPPS-Western Region Annual Meeting. Applications are now available on the IPPS Western Region website: www.ippswr2016.com. Please help spread the word to college or university students about this program.

For more information:

Laurie Rogers-Roach
503-628-8685 ext. 18
Laurie@eshraghinursery.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year of 2015 has been a fateful one. While we lost some of our long-time, distinguished members like Don Dillon Sr., Bruce Usrey and Vern McQueen, new ones were added to the list who shall take our society forward. Our heart-felt condolences go to the families of the departed souls!

Thanks to the efforts of Jim Conner, Past President, and Todd Jones, International Delegate, an International Exchange Program was successfully instituted this year with IPPS-New Zealand Region. Ms. Kathryn Scott, an experienced nursery person in her own right, was the initial exchange visitor. She was hosted by Jim and his family who escorted her from San Diego to the Modesto meeting venue and introduced her along the way to the diverse activities of California horticulture. Her visit culminated by participating in the annual meeting and giving a presentation on the New Zealand nursery industry. We hope to send our exchange delegate this year to that great country. I think the Search Committee has already selected the candidate and shall make it known soon. This opens up an exciting opportunity of developing such programs with other regions and in achieving the IPPS mission of 'sharing plant production knowledge globally'. **Please consider being a host for future exchange visitors.**



President Dharam Sharma

Change is the law of nature and Dr. Dave Burger, our Editor for 25 years, has decided to move on. We had almost taken him for granted! A Search Committee, Chaired by Past President Valerie Sikkema was instituted by your Executive Committee to undertake the hard task of selecting a replacement for him. The Search Committee recommended and your Executive Committee approved Dr. Eugene (Gene) Blythe, our long-time member and Curtis Alley Award winner, as our new Editor. I am happy to announce that Dr. Blythe has accepted the position. So you will have a new person editing the manuscripts from the Phoenix meetings later this year and we should be able to maintain continuity of this important position. We shall certainly miss Dave's ever-pleasant and helping nature besides his unique editorial and organizational skills.

The broad outreach of this society has the ability to connect all those who love the vocation of nurturing plants. Whether it be a householder, farm worker, grower, student, research scientist, extension specialist, environmentalist or an industrial house, IPPS provides everyone a single platform to address their interests and concerns. However, that brings the challenge to work and develop linkages at the ground level. Expanding these linkages shall bring in new ideas, new leadership and shall keep IPPS-WR rejuvenated, youthful and sustainable for years to come. I think we should place more emphasis on holding area meetings as often as possible, if not on a regular and periodic basis. I would urge upon each Area Director to work on this concept who are required to hold such meetings at least once in two years as per our Bylaws. That shall help generate interest, increase membership and make us more sustainable.

A few decades back in my hometown in India, I was a member of a Masonic lodge where the people of the caliber of Rudyard Kipling used to rub shoulders a century before us. I have ever since nurtured the hitherto unfulfilled dream of having a horticultural lodge that would provide a forum for all those who love plants to share their experiences in the craft. I have reached a stage in my life where I need to pass this idea on to those who could adopt and propagate it further. That shall be a great service in maintaining the greenery on our planet Earth which is being converted into a vast, choking, concrete landscape. For now, I wish you all a happy rest of the year 2016. We shall look forward to seeing you all in Phoenix, AZ next October where Emilie Speciale and her team are working hard to make our 57th annual meeting a memorable one.

ANNUAL MEETING - 2015 (continued)

Last but not the least, this year's Curtis J. Alley Award went to our own Loren Oki whose family has been nurturing our society for two generations.



One of the many tour stops (Four Winds Growers Nursery, Winters, CA) at the 2015 Modesto meeting. (Photo M. Miller)



Dr. Loren Oki receives the Curtis J. Alley Award from outgoing President Valerie Sikkema (Photo D. Burger)

INTRODUCING NEW IPPS-WR EDITOR

On the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Search Committee, chaired by Past President Valerie Sikkema, the IPPS-WR Executive Committee approved the hiring of Dr. Eugene (Gene) Blythe to be the next Editor for the Western Region. Gene is a long-time member (1980), Past President (1998-99) and Curtis J. Alley Award recipient (2013) of the WR and brings considerable knowledge, background, education and experience to the position. Gene holds numerous degrees including two B.S. degrees (Ornamental Horticulture, Business Administration), M.B.A., M.S. (Probability and Statistics) and Ph.D. (Horticulture). He worked at Monrovia Nursery for 20 years on all aspects of plant propagation before starting his academic career in 2000. Since 2007, Gene has been a Professor at the Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station, Poplarville, MS. Gene looks forward to carrying forward with the Proceedings and newsletter, as well as examining new means of sharing information among members via the new IPPS website. **Please welcome Gene as the next Editor of the Western Region.**



Dr. Eugene Blythe, IPPS-WR Editor

IN MEMORIAM - VERNON CHARLES MCQUEEN, JR.

Vernon Charles McQueen, Jr. was born on November 27, 1932 in Modale, Iowa. He passed away on November 11, 2015 in Hayward California. He was a resident of Berkeley. Besides being an avid gardener at the local gardening club, his other occupations were; "Radio Man," AT&T crew manager, and a salesman. Vernon was a "Cat Man"- he loved cats! His glass ran over. Wonderful sense of humor! He is survived by his sister, Joy Belt, 84. A memorial service was held on Sunday December 13, 2015.



Vernon Charles McQueen, Jr.

RENEWING YOUR IPPS MEMBERSHIP

Have you renewed your IPPS-Western Region membership for 2016? With the roll out of the new International website, some members have been confused about the process of renewal. There are a couple of ways to renew:

1. Go to ipps.org. Click on "log in" at the top right hand corner of your screen. Your user name is your e-mail address. If you can't remember your password, click on "forgot my password" and the website will send it to you via e-mail immediately. (**Check your Spam folder if you don't get it right away.**) Once you are logged in, click on "My Profile". Add any new information to your profile. At the bottom of the profile page, you can renew by using a credit card, making a bank transfer, or have the website send you an invoice and you can pay off of that invoice.

2. If you do not want to renew via the website, you can send a quick e-mail to Secretary-Treasurer Gail Gredler at ggredler@comcast.net. She will send you an invoice and you can send her a check or your credit card number as payment.

**We value your membership and hope you will join us again in 2016!
If you have already renewed, thank you very much. If not, please renew today.**

AN EDITOR'S FINAL NOTE



Dave Burger

It has been my honor and pleasure for the last 25 years to serve as the Western Region's second Editor. Western Region Charter Member and plant propagation icon, Dr. Hudson Hartmann, was WR Editor for the first 31 years and I succeeded him. During my time as Editor, everyone I've met and/or with whom I've worked has embodied the motto "To Seek and To Share" when it comes to plant production. I leave confident the Editor's position is in good hands with Gene Blythe and the thoughtful leadership of the Executive Committee. Thank you all and I wish you all the best!

Dave



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