

*Our 2019 Annual Conference to be held in Madison, Wisconsin will feature a full day pre-conference tour on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> followed by two afternoon Conference Tours. Read on for the details of those afternoon tours!*

## **IPPS Eastern Region Conference Tour: Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>** ***Enjoy an amazing corporate campus and some of the university's delights!***

Thursday's conference tours will begin with an exceptional tour at one of the largest company campuses in the area, Epic Systems in Verona, WI led by local landscaper Jeff Epping. Epic has changed the landscape of not only its campus but the surrounding area with over 9000 employees living and working in southern Wisconsin. Epic Campus' landscaping is known for remarkable creativity and whimsical themes. We will explore a wide variety of playful settings, featuring lush, native plantings, a stream, waterfalls, pond, and themed outdoor gathering spaces. Sustainability is woven into three distinct but integrated campuses. This includes more than eight acres of intensive green roof over underground parking and one of the world's largest gravel gardens.



Back in Madison, we will visit the University of Wisconsin Arboretum which features distinct ecological communities, horticultural collections, effigy mounds, more than 17 miles of trails, with a Visitor Center. The Arboretum has three distinct garden collections that provide sensory delights, educational opportunities, and practitioner resources. They include Wisconsin's premier collection of hardy trees, shrubs and vines, as well as a unique native plant garden representing native plant communities of southern Wisconsin.

Nestled next to lake Mendota, our last stop is the Allen Centennial Garden. We will get a real feel for the campus as this garden is the artful living laboratory and public botanical garden of the Horticulture Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Garden occupies 2.5 acres surrounding the historic Dean's Residence and was designed to complement the home and its existing plantings. The Garden serves as an outdoor classroom for UW-Madison students and the surrounding communities, providing meaningful learning opportunities for visitors of all ages. While there we will enjoy Babcock ice cream made a few blocks away. Babcock produces signature products for the university and community, the Plant and Dairy Store help support the UW Food Science Department's mission of research, teaching and outreach. Bring the family to Madison and have them join us at this stop, it's very close to the conference hotel!



## IPPS Eastern Region Conference Tour: Friday, October 18, 2019

*Enjoy behind-the-scenes tours to Jung Seed Company, McKay Nursery Company and end the day at beautiful Olbrich Botanical Gardens.*

The IPPS ER Friday conference tour will take us north of Madison, first to **J.W. Jung Seed Company** in Randolph, WI. Jung is a leader in propagating and growing the majority of what they sell in their retail stores and catalogs. Jung has been growing recently and has been working to increase their propagation and production areas. They have 200 acres of land on which they grow daylilies, peonies, iris, birch trees, onions, and more. They also have 15 greenhouses where they propagate or grow on many of the potted plants found in stores and through mail order sales. Jung was started in 1907 by the family's great grandfather and has gone through many changes over the years. At the present time Jung prints 8 catalog titles and over 8 million catalogs each year, with about 3,500,000 of those being the spring and fall versions of the Jung catalog. Jung has five garden centers across southern Wisconsin and has become a household name in garden supplies in the area.



Our second stop will be at the largest Nursery in Wisconsin, **McKay Nursery Company** in Waterloo, Wisconsin. McKay is an employee-owned company nestled among the farmlands of southern Wisconsin. Since 1897 they have been providing high quality plants and landscape design for homeowners, businesses, and fine retailers through-out the Midwest. McKay is a leading source for landscape design, construction and maintenance across the state. McKay is one of the 1st growers to be SANC certified (Systems Approach to Nursery Certification) across the entire nation. This certification is evidence that they are meeting federal growing, training, self-inspection and audit requirements to make their business stronger and more resilient against plant pests and diseases, which creates a top-of-the-line product. Sustainability and earth-friendly practices are not new to the Company. Since 1897, they have been caring stewards of their growing fields, which total almost 2,000 acres.



Our final stop will take us back to Madison where we will visit **Olbrich Botanical Gardens**. We can stroll 16 acres of outdoor display gardens featuring stunning landscapes and Midwest-hardy plants. The gardens include the Thai

Pavilion and Garden (the only one in the continental United States and the only one outside of Thailand surrounded by a garden), the Rose Garden (featuring innovative mixed borders of Midwest hardy shrub roses and perennials) and other specialty gardens such as the Perennial Garden, Sunken Garden, and Herb Garden. We also have the option to visit the tropics without leaving Madison! The Bolz Conservatory, a sunny 50-foot-high glass pyramid, houses a diverse collection of tropical plants, a rushing waterfall, free-flying birds, and blooming orchids.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens is a locally treasured and globally renowned source of beauty and education celebrating the importance of plants in a sustainable world. Olbrich Botanical Gardens is dedicated to the creation, conservation and interpretation of gardens and plant collections hardy to the American Midwest or native to the world's tropical forests for study, enjoyment and public benefit. As part of Olbrich's **Rooted & Growing Capital Campaign**, the Gardens will soon undergo a major addition to facilities with the construction of the first dedicated education space in Olbrich's history, along with the construction of an all-new production greenhouse. Olbrich is a must see on any trip to Madison!

