

# Western Region Cuttings

Winter 2015

Newsletter of the Western Region - International Plant Propagators' Society Vol. 6, No. 1

## Western Region Welcomes New Secretary-Treasurer Gail Gredler

Beginning in January, 2015, the Western Region has a new Secretary-Treasurer. Gail Gredler joins us after a twenty-five-year career in horticultural education in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. She follows Lee Dempsey as the fourth Secretary-Treasurer in the Region's history.



Gail enjoys the great outdoors.  
Photo: G. Gredler

Gail has a long history in horticulture and non-profit management. She received a Master of Agriculture degree in Horticulture from Oregon State University in 1988. After that, she worked for the OSU Extension Service as a research technician and then as a Community Horticulture Extension Agent. In 1999, she moved to The Oregon Garden in Silverton, Oregon to serve as Education Director. From 2004 to 2007, Gail was the Executive Director of Oregon Community Trees, a non-profit organization that focuses on urban forestry education. Since 2007, she has taught horticulture classes full-time in the Nursery and Greenhouse Management Program at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, OR. Gail retired from full-time teaching in 2014. (continued, page 2)



Gail Gredler  
Photo: G. Gredler



### Also in this issue...

President's Message - Valerie Sikkema  
Recently Completed Annual Meeting - Abbotsford, BC  
Upcoming Annual Meeting - Modesto, CA  
China Initiative - IPPS International News Release  
IPPS Exchange Program  
New Members for IPPS-WR

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to introduce myself as the 2015 President of the Western Region of IPPS. My name is Valerie Sikkema and I live in Langley, BC, Canada and work at Van Belle Nursery in Abbotsford.

I have been doing plant propagation as long as I can remember, helping my Dad in Orangeville, Ontario make softwood cuttings in the summers all through grade school and high school. I attended the University of Guelph in Ontario where I got my BSc.(Agr.) in Horticulture in 1990. After taking some years off to raise my 3 children (and do lots of gardening), in BC, Florida and Iowa, we returned to BC in 2005. I have been a member of IPPS since 2006 when I joined Van Belle Nursery as their staff horticulturist. I am responsible for plant buying, plant health, certification and production planning. I love to spend my spare time near water - walking on the beach, kayaking or canoeing, or just sitting and reading a good book.



Valerie Sikkema

Photo: V. Sikkema

Your Executive Committee is looking forward to a transition year as Gail Gredler begins her new position as Secretary-Treasurer. I want to thank Lee Dempsey once again for all her hard work in the past years and for the time she has taken in the last couple of months to get Gail up-to-speed.



Outgoing President, Chris Ames passes the gavel to incoming President, Valerie Sikkema.

Photo: J. Hopkins

Our mid-year meeting will be in Modesto at the end of February where we will tour the September venue and do all the work of your Executive Committee. We hope to once again look at how we can improve the value that you receive as members and how we can continue to promote membership. If there is anything you would like to share with the Executive Committee, or if you have ideas about how we can serve you better, please feel free to e-mail me at [valerie@vanbelle.com](mailto:valerie@vanbelle.com).

## WESTERN REGION WELCOMES NEW SECRETARY-TREASURER (cont.)

Gail is excited to take on this new challenge to help the Executive Committee of the Western Region function well and continue to “seek and share.” “I am very happy to contribute to the successful operation of this important group. Horticulturists are some of my favorite people to work with and I will do my best to help keep the organization running smoothly. I look forward to getting to know the Western Region Executive Committee and IPPS members,” says Gredler.

Gail’s contact information: IPPS-Western Region, P.O. Box 5284, Salem, OR 97304, phone and fax number is 503-362-1353, [ggredler@comcast.net](mailto:ggredler@comcast.net).

Gail lives in Salem, Oregon with Phil Schradle, her husband of 34 years, and an 8-year-old Corgi named Oliver. They have two grown children who live their lives in Portland, OR and Chapel Hill, NC. Gail loves to garden and grows vegetables and flowers in the backyard. She and Phil also enjoy hiking, biking and just about any other outdoor activity.

## RECENTLY COMPLETED ANNUAL MEETING - ABBOTSFORD, BC

The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Region IPPS was held October 2-4, 2014 in Abbotsford, BC with a preconference tour to Vancouver on October 1. The tour started with a train ride into the city early in the morning, a seminar and then time at the CanWest Show. The afternoon was spent either at Granville Island or VanDusen Gardens. After that there was a short Seabus ride to Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver for dinner and a bus ride back to Abbotsford. It was a long day, but enjoyed by everyone.

Our first morning was spent with speakers on various edibles, Dharam Sharma on micropropagation of fruit trees, Tom Baumann on small fruit research in BC and Eric Gerbrandt on Haskaps. After the break we learned about rain garden research from Rita Hummel, feeding Monarch Butterflies by propagating milkweed by Tom Landis



IPPS members take train into Vancouver.

Photo: J. Hopkins



Ray Maleike enjoys the CanWest display.

Photo: J. Hopkins

and Tom Saunders came all the way from the Southern Region to tell us about his experience with evapotranspiration-based irrigation. The afternoon was spent in Langley, watching a cranberry harvest, tasting fruit wines at Fort Wine Company, touring the research facilities at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and visiting Bevo Farms - one of the largest greenhouse growers in BC. The second day we started with a recap of the International Tour to South Africa by Jim Conner and Todd Jones, an interesting

introduction to biocontrol use in agriculture in Cuba by Deb Henderson, Bruce McTavish on NAPPRA and trade, Dave Woodske on the latest research in biodegradable containers, Evan Rafuse on invasive plants and, finally, Mario Lanthier on compost use in horticulture. With our box lunches in hand, we once again boarded busses to tour Qualitree and Pacific Northwest Propagators in Chilliwack and Van Belle Nursery in Abbotsford.

(continued, page 4)



Cranberry harvest.

Photo: J. Hopkins

## ANNUAL MEETING RECAP (cont.)



Grafting demonstration at Pacific Northwest Propagators

Photo: L. Rupp

Friday evening's banquet featured a yummy buffet of BC's best local foods and our banquet speaker was a very entertaining David Tracey who had us thinking about the growing popularity of city-raised food and urban agriculture.

Saturday morning we looked at how best to control inventory with Dave VanBelle, Kent Apstol gave us some tips about using LED lighting and Cameron Lait talked about how we can replace Neonics in pest control. After a few Nuggets of Knowledge and new



Banquet speaker David Tracey

Photo: J. Hopkins

plant introductions, we were all ready to go home to put in practice all the new things we learned. Although the attendance was smaller than in the past few meetings, the interactions were great and there was lots of learning and networking, seeking and sharing. Thanks to everyone on the organizing committee and



Past Presidents welcome new members to the IPPS-Western Region.

Photo: J. Hopkins

Executive Committee for all your hard work and support, and to everyone who attended and participated! I want to give a special word of thanks to the five Bruce Briggs Scholarship recipients who helped out in many ways during the conference: Christie Asquivel, Morgan Fish, Krysta Huston, Emma Jobson, and Samantha Laney. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Modesto, CA, September 23-26, 2015.

## UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING - MODESTO, CA

Preparations are under way for the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Region at the Double Tree Plaza Hilton, Modesto, CA, from September 23-26, 2015.

I shall greatly welcome the input and advice from our members for specific talks, tours, exhibits and/or events they would like to see included in this meeting. I also want to solicit the help of those who wish to volunteer/be a part of the local organizing committee. You may kindly contact me at my e-mail address below or IPPS Secretary, Western Region at [ggredler@comcast.com](mailto:ggredler@comcast.com).

The details of the final program shall be covered in the next newsletter. I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Dharam P. Sharma, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
[dharampsharma@gmail.com](mailto:dharampsharma@gmail.com)

## CHINA INITIATIVE - IPPS INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASE, 11/2014

IPPS is a global network of professionals with an interest in plant production, including horticultural research and education with the aim to improve the skills, productivity and professionalism of its members.

IPPS has 1600 members over eight geographical regions around the world, spread over four continents.

International Directors of the IPPS visited China in November, 2014 to investigate the possibility of establishing an IPPS China Region and learn more about the pace of change within horticulture in China. The group visited various nurseries and garden centers in the Shanghai and Hangzhou areas as guests of the Nursery Stock Branch of the China Flower Association and other regional businesses.

The International Board of the IPPS recognizes the importance of the developments in the Chinese horticultural industry and the pace of how horticulture in China is developing. IPPS wishes to expand its membership to include individuals from the Chinese plant production industry to join its global plant production knowledge network.



The International IPPS group visiting the Senhe Seed Company in Hangzhou, China

IPPS board members engaged with and were welcomed by some of China's leading industry figures. The idea of seeking and sharing knowledge was welcomed with interest and enthusiasm. Officials of the Nursery Stock Branch of the China Flower Association have undertaken to assist the IPPS with the initial arrangements and formalities to pave the way for individuals in the plant production industry in China to join IPPS.

The IPPS is looking forward to a mutually beneficial relationship of sharing plant production knowledge with members of the Chinese horticultural industry.

Hans Sittig  
International President, 2014

Contact details, IPPS International Office:  
IPPS—International Plant Propagators' Society  
174 Crestview Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823 USA  
Email: [secretary@ipps.org](mailto:secretary@ipps.org)  
[www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org)

## IPPS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Western Region-USA and New Zealand Regions will be initiating a membership exchange Program in 2015-2016. The New Zealand member will arrive in California two weeks prior to our Annual Meeting in Modesto, CA. The first week will be spent seeing and working in nurseries in the San Diego area. The member will then move on to Northern California and participate in the conference and tours in Modesto.

Our Western Region member will be going to New Zealand in April, 2016, which will be the site of the annual International Conference. This is basically an all-expenses-paid trip.

The criteria for the exchange candidate are as follows:

1. Must be working or studying in the plant production industry.
2. Must be a current member of IPPS.
3. Must be a minimum age of 18 years.
4. Should be undertaking or have completed some form of industry relevant training.
5. Must exhibit an ambassadorial attitude.

In Volume 62, 2012, starting on page 33 of the Proceedings is a four-page report from Richard Beaumont of Auckland, New Zealand on his exchange experience in Japan. New Zealand and Japan and Australia as well as South Africa have had very successful exchanges for several years.

For further information about the program contact Jim Conner at [altaconner@aol.com](mailto:altaconner@aol.com) or phone 951-654-8210.

Submitted by Jim Conner

## NEW MEMBERS - 2015

**Cassy Bright**, Hortis USA

**John Duarte**, Duarte Nursery

**Gail Gredler**, Chemeketa Community College

**Kelsey Hannegan**, Kraemer's Nursery, Inc.

**Ryan Maher**, Fall Creek Farm & Nursery

**Andy Navage**, The Bloedel Reserve

**Lily Penfold**, Duarte Nursery

**Antonio P. Sanchez**, Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Garden

**Martin E. Stockton**, First Step Greenhouses

**Mark Van Hoef**, Oregon Pride Nurseries

**Luis Yup**, Duarte Nursery

**Alexander Cooper**, Willamette Nurseries, Inc.

**Daniel Grace**, Dark Heart Nursery

**Jan Gulley**, Gulley Greenhouse, Inc.

**James D. Lewis**, J Farms LLC

**Patricia Murray**, Kauai Comm. College

**Shawn A. Nerison**, Surface Nursery

**Reid Robinson**, Sierra Gold Nurseries

**Steve Rushin**, Merritt College

**David J. Teuschler**, Valley Crest Tree Company

**Denae Watanabe-Smith**, Microplant Nurs., Inc.

**Nissim Zvida**, Zvida Growers

## UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING

**56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Region**

**Double Tree Plaza Hilton, Modesto, CA**

**September 23-26, 2015**

More information:

**Dharam P. Sharma**, [dharamsharma@gmail.com](mailto:dharamsharma@gmail.com)



**Western Region Cuttings**

*published by the*

*Executive Committee of the*

*Western Region - International Plant Propagators'*

