IPPS Hartford: Pre-Conference Tour
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
The Eastern Region IPPS annual meeting will be held in Hartford, Connecticut from September 21-24, 2016.
Besides featuring dynamic speakers during the educational sessions, a special emphasis has been put on offering tours that are diversified and focused on production, education and propagation. In addition to 2 half day tours that will feature some of Connecticut's best growing operations, there will be a full day pre-tour that promises to feed your passion for plants.

Hop on the Pre-Tour bus bright and early and we will head northeast to Boston, Massachusetts where the Arnold Arboretum is waiting to show off one of the finest collections of plant material anywhere as well as new state-of-the-art facilities for research and propagation. The Arnold’s living collection occupies 281 acres and is supported by Herbaria collections of more than 1.3 million specimens.

Upon arrival, we will be welcomed by Dr. William (Ned) Friedman, Director and Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. You will then be able to choose from a number of guided tours or walk the collections on your own. Guided 30-minutes tours will visit the Explorer’s Garden, the Leventritt Shrub & Vine Garden, Dana Greenhouse & Nursery and the Weld Hill Research Greenhouse & Nursery. There will be time to enjoy the Self-guided Centenarian Tree tour and the Bonsai/Penjing Pavilion open house. We will pick up a boxed lunch to enjoy on the half hour ride to our afternoon stop.

Our second stop will be Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA. Mount Auburn Cemetery is one of the most beautiful and historic landscapes in America. Its impressive collection of over 5,000 trees represents 630 taxa. Thousands of shrubs and herbaceous plants weave through 175 acres of hills, hills, ponds, woodlands and clearings. Plant species from around the world that grow in a northern temperate climate can be seen on the grounds, including individual specimens recorded as Massachusetts state or New England champions of their species. Guided walking tours will be available or you may explore on your own.

Autumn is a magical time of year in New England. You will not want to miss this year’s IPPS Eastern Region Conference in Hartford, Connecticut, September 21-24th. Please come and join us!
IPPS Hartford: Conference Tours  
Thursday and Friday, September 22-23, 2016

Hartford is the venue for this year’s annual IPPS Eastern Region Conference. The host hotel is the new Hartford Marriott Downtown, overlooking the Connecticut River. The morning program will have a distinct New England flavor and in that spirit we will be visiting some top notch operations throughout the state with two half day afternoon tours.

**Thursday, September 22**

On Thursday, we will head south towards the Connecticut shoreline. We will visit [Summer Hill Nursery](http://www.summerhillnursery.com) in Madison, Connecticut, one of the oldest container operations in the country. Mike Johnson and his daughter Holly offer a diversified selection of high quality plant material. They propagate nearly all of the plant material they sell and will be able to offer those who attend a great opportunity to see both container production practices and diversified plant propagation. Mike joined IPPS in 1957 making this his 60th year of membership!

Another stop on Thursday’s tour will be [Broken Arrow Nursery](http://www.brokenarrownursery.com) owned by Dick Jaynes, famed *Kalmia* breeder and author of the book “Kalmia”. Dick, along with Andy Brand and Adam Wheeler operate a unique destination nursery that offers rare and unusual plant material to the public in addition to being a very successful Christmas tree farm. Broken Arrow incorporates all facets of propagation techniques to support their line of plant material.
The final stop of the day Thursday will round out the day’s tours to three unique growing operations with a visit to Casertano’s Greenhouse and Farms. Casertano’s is a state of the art greenhouse operation specializing in annual plant material, seasonal plants, hanging baskets, perennials and groundcovers.

Friday, September 23

Friday’s tour will head into the eastern Hills of Connecticut. The first stop of the afternoon will be to Prides Corner Farms where lunch will be served in the nursery’s arboretum. While at Prides the attendees will be able to see the nursery’s sprawling propagation department as well as the new shipping system implemented in 2015 that uses carts to shop and ship their plant material. Tours of the nursery will be offered as well as self-guided tours for those who want to wander off on their own.

From Prides Corner Farms the tour will head to The Plant Group, which is a unique herbaceous perennial nursery on 50 acres in beautiful southeastern Connecticut. They specialize in providing wholesale perennial flowers and perennial plants to distributors in the New England area, New York State and New Jersey, offering about 1500 varieties.
The last stop will be Canterbury Horticulture. This fairly new wholesale operation is tucked into the rural hills of eastern Connecticut and offers a large selection of container grown shrubs and perennials to local retailers. In just 11 years, their 85 acre site has grown from 8 hoop houses to over 75, and their production area under irrigation has more than tripled. Guided and self-guided tours of the nursery will be offered as well as of their propagation area.

This year's IPPS Eastern Region Conference will have a lot to offer those who attend and will be packed with great and useful ideas, valuable techniques and practical information that just can't be found at any other conference. We hope to see all of you in September for a conference that shouldn't be missed!