

STEVE CASTORANI RECEIVES IPPS EASTERN REGION AWARD OF MERIT

Steve Castorani, President of North Creek Nursery in Landenberg, PA was recently presented with the prestigious Award of Merit from the Eastern Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society. The Award of Merit is the highest honor the Eastern Region can bestow upon a member.

One member from the Eastern Region is selected each year for significant contributions to the field of plant propagation or production. This can be in the form of scientific discovery or application of facts to the propagation or production of plants; development of new practices or techniques; services rendered to the science and practice of plant propagation or production; and/or extraordinary service to the Society. Steve was recognized this year for his contribution to all of these areas.



Steve Castorani (l) with Committee Chair Bob Geneve

North Creek is a propagation nursery that supplies starter plugs to wholesale and retail nurseries. They produce a large selection of perennials, grasses and ferns with an emphasis on new varieties and Eastern North American natives and their cultivars. North Creek also produces many native plants in larger Landscape Plugs™ that are used in restoration projects and by highway departments, municipalities and conservation societies. Their mission is to propagate and market plants that develop the relationship between people and sustainable outdoor environments.

An IPPS member since 1992, Steve Castorani's service to the Society has been extraordinary. He is a past president of the Eastern Region, has served on the region's board of directors and numerous committees including Chair of the local site committee for the recently successful annual meeting in Pennsylvania. He became a Fellow of the Eastern Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society in 2005 and served as a founding member of the Society's non-profit Foundation Board.

Steve graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science in 1977. After graduation he established Gateway Landscaping & Woodworking in 1977. The company expanded to include a garden center to support the landscape company in 1986. This was soon followed in 1988 with the establishment of North Creek Nurseries as a wholesale propagator and producer specializing in local native plants.

Among Steve's many accomplishments, he helped create the American Beauties native plant brand with Prides Corner from Lebanon, Connecticut. A portion of each sale benefits the National Wildlife Foundation's wildlife habitat program.

He has served as President of the Delaware Nursery and Landscape Association and on the committees or boards of the Delaware Invasive Species Council, the Delaware Center for Horticulture and the Horticultural Research Institute. In 2010, Steve was the recipient of the "Farmer of the Year" Award for Chester County, Pennsylvania. In 2011, Steve was honored with the "Distinguished Alumni Award" from the University of Delaware's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The International Plant Propagators' Society is a non-profit organization of nearly 1100 members organized into eight separate regions around the world. The membership is made up of those with a professional interest in plant propagation and production from businesses, colleges and universities, botanic gardens and arboreta. The motto of this non-commercial organization is "To Seek and To Share" knowledge and experience in plant propagation and production.