

WARWICK HIGHLIGHTS

Our 60th Annual Meeting held recently in Warwick, Rhode Island was a great success! The atmosphere was enthusiastic and collaborative, despite the economic stresses on our industry. Twenty students from 10 different institutions were able to attend thanks to the generosity of the Horticultural Club of Boston. It was a great opportunity for them to see the diversity within the industry and the dedication prevalent in the Eastern Region.

Photo: Students Davita Mowye (right) and Elizabeth Eckholm, interns at the Arnold Arboretum, share a laugh at coffee break.



The Eastern Region conference also hosted the International IPPS Board of Directors with participants from all eight regions of IPPS around the world. These international delegates were able to contribute their unique perspectives on plant production and the state of the green industry globally either as speakers on the program or during informal roundtable discussion groups.

International delegates l-r: Nobumasa Nito (Japan), David Hide (Great Britain & Ireland), Clive Mullett (Southern Africa), Eelco Tinga (Southern), Douglas Justice (Western), Ray Lawson (New Zealand) & Alan Jones (Eastern). Australian delegate David Cliffe was at the podium

The educational program included speakers presenting creative ideas for plant production and marketing and thoughts on the future of the industry. Pest management, plant introduction and breeding presentations were well received. Incoming IPPS Eastern Region President Bob Geneve led a discussion forum on the relevance and future of IPPS that generated a great conversation filled with ideas for enhancing the role of IPPS in the industry.

Photo: Local nurseries supplied plant material to decorate the podium.



Always lots of fun and a rare opportunity to find unique plants, the live auction held after dinner at the Atlantic Beach Club was led by local plantsman Warren Leach of Tranquil Lake Nursery. Some good-natured rivalry ensued as people bid on choice items that included rare and unusual plants (i.e. *Calycanthus floridus* cv. *Purpureus*), a bottle of single malt Scotch whisky straight from the UK, and a copy of the first printed Combined Proceedings. Together with the silent auction, over \$5,300 was raised!



Left: Kris Bachtell & Mark Sellow enjoy the company & the view; Center: View from inside the Atlantic Beach Club Right: Dan Demers and Barb Faraday catch up with Jerry Lavallee of Sunny Border Farms.



Left: Mark Sellow sports his auction prize: an IPPS tie from the Australian Region! Center: Auctioneer Warren Leach works the room Right: A delicious meal complete with clam cakes & 'chowda' was enjoyed by all.

The weather for the pre-conference tour was unseasonably warm and sunny as the group travelled north to Weston Nurseries, Tower Hill Botanical Gardens, Cavicchio's Greenhouses, and Bigelow Nurseries. However the weather took a drastic turn for the worse for tours on Friday as a storm moved up the east coast dropping record rainfall amounts and packing high winds. Regardless of the weather, many unique experiences were enjoyed during the two full day tours – we will be bringing you details in future issues. Across the board, tour hosts extended generous and gracious hospitality including but not limited to wine tastings, a hot dog buffet luncheon with every imaginable topping and a chef serving smoked salmon and many other goodies for breakfast. Thanks to Weston Nurseries, Cavicchio Greenhouses, Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, Bigelow Nurseries, Summer Hill Nursery, The Plant Group, Prides Corner Farms, The Rhode Island Nurseries, Quansett Nurseries, Sylvan Nursery and Portsmouth Nursery.

The Silent Auction concluded Friday evening in conjunction with an Italian buffet meal and roundtable discussion groups. The evening proved to be a relaxing opportunity to eat, drink, bid on plants, brainstorm with colleagues or just chat with friends.



Left: Auction organizer Nick Castrataro; Center: Silent auction bidding Right: Brian Maynard, Gabrielle Torphy & Elwood Roberts tabulate the winning bids



Left: Charles Tubesing, Evie King & Roger Coggeshall Center: Todd Baker, Jeremy Deppe and Scott Clark Right: 2011 Program Chair Dave Sanford (center) gathers ideas from the younger crowd.



The local site committee led by Co-Chairs Brian Maynard of the University of Rhode Island and Susanne Lucas of Pioneer Plants, LLC did a fantastic job. Thanks to them and to committee members Jack Alexander, Nick Castrataro, Mike Ferreira, Dixon Hoogendoorn, Alan Redfern, Denise Rustmann, Julie McIntosh Shapiro, Ronn St. Jean, and Bruce Vanicek. Without their commitment of time, talent and energy, this conference would not have been possible. Thanks to Bob Geneve and the program committee for developing a diverse and appealing educational program. And last, but certainly not least, we thank our sponsors who are vital to the success of the event.

L-R: Program Chair Bob Geneve, ER Sec/Treas Margot Bridgen and Local Site Co-Chair Brian Maynard.

**Mark your calendars now for the 2011 IPPS ER meeting:
Louisville, Kentucky at the historic Seelbach Hilton Hotel, October 19-22!**