

Vern Black Honored as a Fellow of the IPPS Eastern Region

Eastern Region Board Member Alan Jones presented the award on September 30, 2010 in Warwick, RI with these words...



Fellows of the Region are recognized for outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Society and to the field of plant propagation or production in one or more of the following areas: 1.) leadership in plant production or industry; 2.) research, teaching or extension pertinent to IPPS objectives.

Photo: Vern Black (right) is congratulated by Alan Jones.

This year we are honored to recognize one new member with this distinguished award: Vern Black. Our newest Eastern Region Fellow has been a member since 1981. He has served on many committees and continues to keep IPPS at a high priority level in his life. He has served on the Long Range Planning Committee, the Membership/Publicity Committee, the Local Site Committee. He served on the board of directors of the Eastern Region from 2007 to 2010. Our recipient has most recently served as the chair of the Poster and Research Committee.

After earning a two-year degree in Horticulture, Vern started at Bailey Nurseries in 1972 working in all aspects of production. From 1979-1991, he led the propagation division for the company which is a 22 acre greenhouse operation today doing propagation and growing spring color crops. He has risen through the ranks over the years and in 1997, Vern became Vice President of Minnesota, Iowa & Illinois Production. Bailey Nurseries is a fourth-generation family-owned nursery serving customers throughout the U.S. and Canada. They are widely recognized as one of the United States' largest wholesale nurseries, with products distributed by more than 4500 independent garden centers, landscapers, growers and re-wholesalers. Their main offices and growing fields are located in Newport, Minnesota, (just outside the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul) and they also operate nurseries in Yamhill and Sauvie Island, Oregon; Sunnyside, Washington; Onarga, Illinois; and Charles City, Iowa.

One of Vern's claims to fame is that he discovered the Original Endless Summer blooming in his neighbor's garden and brought it into cultivation. Vern is happily married with 2 grown daughters, one in college and one just out. He has just recently bought a cabin on a lake where he hopes to enjoy more of another of his passions – fishing. His friends say that he thinks he is a good fisherman – but they know otherwise.

Congratulations to the 2010 Fellow Award recipient, Vern Black.