

## IPPS Eastern Region Ontario Area Meeting

By Dr. Darby McGrath, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre

The 2013 IPPS Eastern Region Ontario Area Meeting was held at the Copetown Community Centre on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was organized by Keith Osborne from Gro-Bark and Director on the IPPS board and Chair of the Membership Committee. The day was successful and profitable as a result of Keith's excellent schedule and organization of planned events. Although inclement weather was forecasted for most of the day, it held off until the end of the last tour. The day was filled with seminars, good discussions and excellent tours to local Landscape Ontario growers. We had 82 attendees overall; including 20 speakers, sponsors, and tour hosts. The theme of this workshop was: Sustainable Practices for Plant Propagation and Nursery Production. The seminars covered many different topics and perspectives surrounding this theme.

Below is the list of speakers and topics:

- Dr. Darby McGrath, Research Scientist from the Vineland Research and Innovation "Soil Ecosystems: The Marriage of Economy and Ecology"
- Bob Reeves, President of Root Rescue "Root Rescue- The Natural Advantage"
- Colin Ashbee, BioWorks "An Introduction to Soil Biofungicides"
- Janice Carmichael, Connon CB VanderKruk Holdings Ltd., "Sustainable Plant Production Practices"
- Kathy Osborne, Sheridan Nursery "Integrated Pest Management"
- Stacey Hickman, Natural Insect Control "Friend or Foe? Recognizing your Pests and Knowing your Beneficials"
- Dr. Darby McGrath, Research Scientist from the Vineland Research and Innovation "Vineland: Past, Present and Future"

Thanks to the meeting sponsors:

<b>Sponsor Group</b>	<b>Activity Sponsored</b>
Plant Products	Breakfast
Kam's Grower Supply	Morning Break
Gro-bark and Connon NVK	Lunch
Kam's Grower Supply	Afternoon Break
Annapolis Valley Peat	Speakers
BioWorks	Tours

The three tour stops provided excellent hands-on practical demonstrations of innovative sustainable practices in industry.

### Winkelmolen Nursery: Tour Theme "Efficiency in Production Practices"

- Demonstration of pot-in-pot installation using new efficient machinery that simultaneously lays tile drain and drip irrigation
- T-grafting demonstration of maples
- Tour of irrigation ponds and water retention area



*Attendees observe a grafting demonstration by brothers Jeff and Nick Winkelmolen (left).*



*Jan Winkelmolen demonstrates the operation of the machine he uses to install the irrigation, drainage, and pots for his pot in pot operation.*



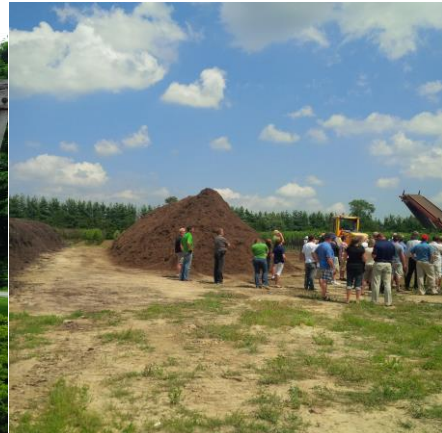
*A leisurely wagon ride on one of two sets of wagons through the pot in pot and field operations.*

## **Connon NVK: Tour Theme “Recycle to Reuse”**

- Demonstration of composting practices and machinery
- Discussion on use of compost and green manure for water holding capacity
- Demonstration of staking machine innovation and new products to replace bamboo stakes



*Attendees gather around the Gro-Bark Grinder for a discussion on utilising organic nursery waste to create organic compost for use in the field operations at Connon NVK*



*Attendees checking the quality of the finished ground material at Connon NVK 's compost yard.*

## Verbinnen's Nursery Tour Theme: "Innovations in Native Plant Production"

- Demonstration of use of plastic-mulch for field-seedling production
- Tour of propagation facility including seed collection in seed zones, seed handling, cleaning and germination
- Talks about container production trials and beneficial insects in greenhouse



*White plastic normally used as weed control for liner stock.*

*Trials are underway to assess organic mulch as an alternative.*

All-in-all the day was information packed and well-organized. I am sure many people will be looking forward to next year's area meeting; I know I am!