

## 2010 IPPS President's Message

As 2010 comes to a close and I to my tenure as President of the International Plant Propagators' Society, its time to take a look back at accomplishments, look forward to envision how the changes we have made might impact the Society and to present a little bit of my philosophy regarding IPPS.

Over the years I have been involved with the International Board, many changes have occurred. I believe we have always taken input from the regions, worked on ways to integrate concerns and suggestions into the way we do business and have made changes where needed. Change is something that comes more easily to some than others. Part of our job is to convey the reasons behind changes to help our Regions understand why changes happened and the expected outcomes from those changes.

Probably the biggest issue we have had to face over the years is that of declining membership. It's an issue that is not unique to IPPS, as many other professional organizations are experiencing similar declines. I think we have determined that our declining membership is a simple problem that has a complex answer.

The decline definitely started before this economic downturn. Some regions have spent a fair amount of time looking into the problem and came away with some answers we probably didn't want to hear. While economics is an issue, the fact that our membership is growing older may be more of the problem. As our membership retires, their positions are also not being refilled. It seems that almost everyone is operating with fewer personnel and with less personnel, there is reduced opportunity for new members.

So what do we do? We are a unique organization that places a high value on generating information and sharing that information with others. At the same time, we are an organization of friends. We honestly look forward to getting together with others of like interest, not only to share information, but also to share meals, a drink and good times.

My question is: how many friends do we have out there who we do not yet know or we do know but are not involved in IPPS? The Society was started with friends inviting friends and I believe we have to return to that method of increasing our membership. My introduction came through my graduate professor, Dr. John Havis, who some of our older members knew. He was the one who started me on this 28-year IPPS adventure during which I have missed only one meeting of the Eastern Region of North America (jury duty) and have attended the last six International meetings. The reason I ultimately became President was probably the result of a simple question asked by Dr. Darrel Apps who inquired if I would like to become more involved in the Society. Why do I keep coming back? The information is great but, in a large part, I enjoy being with the many friends I've come to know.

The economic downturn has also affected IPPS. As a Board, we've made decisions that will once again change the way we operate in an effort to make IPPS stronger. The irony, from an International perspective, is that the downturn that forced change is not uniform throughout the world. Right now the Regions that had economic issues not too many years ago are ones that are in a little better position while the situation is reversed for a number of other regions that had been doing quite well a few years ago.

What changes have been made in the last year?

- The ISHS website is now operational and we have increased our opportunity "To Seek and To Share". It is our Society's motto and it has always been the philosophical basis from which the Board of Directors has looked toward the future of our Society. We have proposed Constitutional changes that we believe will allow the Society to become more streamlined, responsive and cost-effective. It will be considered at your next annual meeting.
- Over the last year, and a few previous, we have allocated expenses of operation to cost centers. That way we more accurately determine dues differences between categories of membership. While expenses vary depending on the location of the

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International meeting, the projected bottom line for 2010 showed about 83.5% of your dues being directed toward preparation of the Proceedings and general operation of the Society at the International level. The remaining approximately 16.5% supports Director, Officer, International Editor and International Secretary travel to the International meeting and associated meeting space costs. The travel percentage is anticipated to drop in 2011 due to procedural changes adopted by the Board.

- We have also been working to have an International newsletter to provide current information and to help all members understand that we are, indeed, an International Society. Remember, no one can accomplish change on one's own. Credit is given to the International Board of Directors and the ideas we have used from member input.

My thanks to each of the members of the 2010 IPPS International Officers, Directors and Alternates, and our support staff

### Officers:

Greg McPhee, Vice President  
Dr. Nobumasa Nito, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

### Board of Directors and their Alternates:

David Cliffe, Australia	Lionel Sach
Alan Jones, Eastern, NA	
David Hide, Great Britain & Ireland	Peter MacDonald
Ray Lawson, New Zealand	Peter Waugh
Clive Mullett, Southern Africa	Elsa Du Toit
Eelco Tinga, Southern, NA	Dr. Ted Bilderback
Douglas Justice, Western	Fred Hopkins

### Support:

Charles Heuser, International Editor  
Pat Heuser and The Heuser Group for management of IPPS

I thank you all for the opportunity and honor of serving IPPS throughout the years. It has been a remarkable journey that has resulted in many friendships. I wish you the best in the future.

Speaking of the future; IPPS will be in good hands. The International Board of Directors continues to be strong. Greg McPhee, our elected International President who resides in Australia, will lead the Society for 2011. Greg has been a leader since coming on the Board. He was instrumental in moving us from higher risk investments to lower risk ones. While higher risk investments did well for us, Greg could envision a time when we could have challenges. The bottom line is that when the economic recession hit, we lost about 20% of our portfolio's value. That, according to financial people was not bad. As of mid-2010 we fully recovered from those paper losses.

During early 2011, David Cliffe, our Australian International Delegate on the Board will be assisting Greg with Presidential duties. Greg is on the way to recovery from some serious health issues but even with his illness, he has been an active participant in discussions and decisions. David has also been an effective leader for the Society, leading educational initiatives, working with our International Editor and helping with financial issues.

I wish Greg the very best on his recovery and in his Presidency and wish David the very best in his leadership roles for 2011.

Jim Johnson  
2010 IPPS President