



## **Darrel Apps Receives 2010 Eastern Region Award of Merit**

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

The Award of Merit is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an Eastern Region IPPS member. The Award of Merit recipient is recognized for significant contributions to plant propagation or production in one or more of the following areas: 1) scientific discovery or application of facts to the propagation or production of plants 2) development of new plant propagation or production practices or techniques 3) services rendered to the science and practice of plant propagation or production 4) extraordinary service to the Society.

This year's Award of Merit recipient is certainly most deserving of this honor, having lived and breathed the IPPS code of 'seek and share' for the past 35 years. Since becoming a member in 1975 he has been a devoted and committed member, serving in many capacities to ensure that IPPS ran smoothly and efficiently. Our recipient served as our Executive Secretary-Treasurer in the early 1990's and got our society organized and 'back on track'. He has served on numerous committees including the Local Site Committee in 1986 and again in 2005, the Program Committee for 2 meetings: 2002 and 2007, the Long Range Planning Committee, the Budget Committee, the Fellow Recognition Committee, the Research Grant Committee, and the Staff Evaluation Committee.

This Fellow Award winner served as the Eastern Region President in 2006-07 and was one of the original IPPS Eastern Region Foundation directors. Throughout his membership, he has worked tirelessly for the good of our society.

Darrel was born and raised in Wisconsin where he attended the University of Wisconsin and earned a PhD in Agriculture Extension Education in 1969. He first worked as a Specialist in Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Kentucky. Darrel's main responsibility was developing a state-wide landscape design program with 14 area specialists. While in Kentucky he started the hobby of breeding rebloom daylilies. Two well known plants that came from his early hybridizing efforts were Happy Returns and Pardon Me. Both were produced by Roy Klehm, Klehm's Nursery and introduced by John Elsley, Horticulture Director at Wayside Gardens.

In 1973 Darrel moved to The Pennsylvania State University as Associate Professor of Horticulture. At Penn State Apps taught two academic courses: Garden Center Management and Nursery Production.

In 1975 he became Departmental Head of Education at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. He led several programs and also directed Botanical Garden Management Students when they worked at Longwood. Dr. Apps was Adjunct Professor at the University of Delaware and served on several graduate student committees. Darrel and his staff member Lorie Howley designed the Certificate of Merit in Ornamental Horticulture Program at Longwood Gardens. While at Longwood Gardens he was involved with two plant collecting trips with the US National Arboretum--one in 1984 to Korea and islands in the Yellow Sea.

1993 Darrel decided to start his own nursery in Bridgeton, NJ. It was named Woodside Nursery. The nursery had several functions: breeding new plants, evaluating daylilies from several growers, selling through a mail order catalog, selling retail to the general public, and selling wholesale to large mail order catalogs. Each year Woodside Nursery produced 25,000 - 30,000 new seedlings. Over a span of 40 years Darrel has introduced 381 new daylilies. A long term partnership with Centerton Nursery of Bridgeton, NJ produced two Centerton trade mark names Trophytaker Daylilies, and HappyEverAppster.

Darrel was one of the charter members of the Gold Medal Award of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society and received their Distinguished Achievement Award in 2005 for his educational work. He received the American Hemerocallis Society's highest award for hybridizing, the Bertrand Farr Silver Medal in 2006. He received the Award of Merit from the Perennial Plant Society in 2009.

Our Award of Merit winner is a family man with a lovely wife of 44 years, 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. Darrel and Marilyn Apps sold their Woodside Nursery to Centerton Nursery in 2007 and retired to their hometown of Wild Rose, WI. You just can't hold down the IPPS desire to share in him - Since moving back to his Wisconsin hometown, he has spear-headed a project to plant the town's namesake, wild roses, throughout the village and has many inhabitants joining in.

Please help me in honoring our Award of Merit recipient, Darrel Apps. *Darrel was unable to attend the conference for health reasons, but sent this acceptance letter which was read to the audience.*

## Award of Merit Acceptance

It's not so easy to say thank you for this award without being there! Maybe you're lucky I wasn't able to attend—I might have gone on for a while!

I found out about IPPS when I took a college course in Plant Propagation at the University of Wisconsin many many years ago! I considered it the best course I had ever taken. That's when I got my first chance to see the IPPS Combined Proceedings

The first IPPS meeting I attended was heavy on Taxus, Thuja and Rhododendrons and the conference was dominated by such notables as Jim Wells, Case Hoogendorn, Bill Flemer III,

and Ralph Schugert. It was good to “rub shoulders” with people who had a passion for plants. Very quickly IPPS became my most favorite annual conference and it still is today. Our organization has a complex matrix which is a recipe for success: international participation; a diverse membership group including plant breeders and selectors, propagators, plant producers, marketers, middle managers, CEO’s and once in awhile a politician!; presentations from both academics and those propagating and growing the plants; a group of officers and directors giving freely of their time; paid staff with equal dedication; and all of this neatly packaged with a conference and a Combined Proceedings.

Although I’m probably best known for daylilies my plant interests are quite diverse. Thanks to each and every one of you for piquing my interests and getting me involved with so many different plant genera and species. When I finally developed my own business in the so called “real world” what I’d learned from IPPS was immeasurable. I do have a regret or two. As an example I don’t think I ever convinced Dale Deppe that daylilies were a viable crop or topic for IPPS but there have been a couple of occasions when I felt a slight crack in his woody plant veneer! Of course there still may be more opportunities because by no means have I stopped producing new daylily seedlings!

It is sort of ironic to do something you really like and then receive an award for doing it. I’ll proudly display this plaque on my office wall! Many many thanks to all of you.

Darrel Apps