

## Terrific Nursery Tour in PA

The nursery tour during the IPPS Conference in Pennsylvania last October was really terrific. Kudos to the site committee for their excellent efforts! Here's a glimpse into what we saw and did:

**Mt. Cuba Center:** Mt. Cuba Center is a non-profit horticultural institution located on nearly 600 acres. They are dedicated to the study, conservation, and appreciation of plants native to the Appalachian Piedmont Region through garden display, education, and research. Of particular interest is their newly renovated trial garden. They are currently evaluating *Heuchera* and *Coreopsis* so there will plenty of discussions taking place surrounding this new trial area. We even had the opportunity to provide our own feedback on the individual varieties.

<http://www.mtcubacenter.org/>



**Water Crest Farms Nursery:** Founded in 1974, W.D. Wells and Associates is one of the last Design/Build landscaping contractors in the region that also operates their own nursery. They produce a diverse line of high quality nursery stock for sale to the wholesale trade. In 2010 they opened a re-wholesale yard to help satisfy the demand from the regional landscape trade. There were many unique specimen trees here for our viewing pleasure. <http://www.wdwells.com>

**The Conard Pyle Company:** Founded in 1897 as a retail mail order firm specializing in roses, The Conard-Pyle Co. has evolved from a wholesale container nursery to a leading genetics company involved directly in breeding roses (Knock Out Roses®, Star Roses®), perennials and woody plants, and introducing plants from other breeders around the world. We toured their newly completed 3 acre open roof gutter connect range as well as their extensive trial gardens. These trial gardens of primarily shrubs and perennials are unique in comparing new and not-so-new varieties side-by-side. It allows you to make up your own mind about which varieties are best. And a chef served a beautiful lunch in the Star pavilion. <http://www.conard-pyle.com>



**North Creek Nurseries:** As a wholesale propagation nursery, North Creek specializes in growing starter plants or plugs of perennials, ornamental grasses, ferns, vines and shrubs with an emphasis on Eastern US native plants. We toured a constructed wetland, rain gardens, meadow, a display of green roof plants, extensive trial gardens and a community vegetable garden project. All this while eating locally-made ice cream on one of the windiest and coldest October days you can imagine. What fun!  
<http://www.northcreeknurseries.com/>



Attendees enjoying an IPPS tour day – see if you recognize anyone!

