

Whet Your Appetite for Warwick...

What allows a company to grow and thrive even during uncertain times? Prides Corner Farms began as a small start-up nursery in the early 80's when interest rates were high, the economy was sputtering and small businesses were struggling to stay afloat. But here it is 30 years later as one of the leaders in the industry. So how did Prides Corner become what it is today? Come and listen as its owner, Mark Sellew (right), talks about the struggles of a fledgling nursery, the spirit that kept it going when things were tough and most of all the determination that eventually put the nursery on the map. Through innovation and diversity, aggressive marketing and service that always puts the customers first you will find out how a small nursery has become one of the most well known and respected operations in the Northeast.



Equally compelling will be the words of Peter Mezitt, fourth generation owner of Weston Nurseries, whose family virtually mastered adaptation and diversification to maintain its reputable integrity, commitment to quality plants and customer service. From hybridizer to destination garden center, Peter will outline how to plan for the future with enthusiastic optimism!

Planning for production is always a tricky task, so come hear the veteran propagator, Bill Hendricks of Klyn Nurseries, Ohio, share his experiences, ideas and helpful strategies. Many of you on the tour last year will remember riding behind the tractor as we toured Bill's nursery.

In fact, Mark, Peter and Bill are just the beginning; we will hear over 20 presentations from successful industry members who will discuss various production aspects, as well as informative presentations about new plants, native plants, invasive plants, urban plants (what are they?), biological controls, plant breeding programs and much more. Mike Klopmeier of Darwin Plants will reveal international stock plant management concepts, and a special section of presentations entitled New England, New Ideas will feature local members sharing their stories.



We all love to visit nurseries, so a great time awaits on the bus, as you will have the wonderful opportunity to visit some of New England's best nurseries, as well as the Tower Hill Botanic Garden. If you've attended an IPPS tour before, you know it is the fun of sharing the bus ride, touring unique facilities and seeing the countryside that makes traveling to the IPPS Annual Meeting such a rewarding experience.

There will be plenty of “down” time to view the poster session, share drinks with colleagues, explore the great restaurants of Providence and Newport, walk on the beach, and bring home some wonderful new plants to play with after your winning bid at the auction helps support the IPPS Eastern Region fund-raising efforts! You can visit with IPPS International board members who will be in attendance from Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Japan for a true international experience.



Jack Alexander, Head Propagator of the Arnold Arboretum always ends the show with the New Plant Forum, which undoubtedly will be worth waiting for. It's not too late for you to submit your own entry!

Hope to see you in Warwick! Register online now. Full conference details available by clicking this link:
<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs083/1102866613054/archive/1103574200919.html>