

Memorable 2012 Conference

The 2012 IPPS Eastern Region Conference is memorable for so many reasons: the evening socials with great food and open bars, high quality speakers in the elegant, lush ballroom at Longwood Gardens and the stately Copeland Lecture Hall at Winterthur, tours to remarkable, unique locations, and regrettably, the last time many of us will ever see long-standing IPPS member Harlan Hamernik, who passed away just after the Conference.

In coming newsletters, the tours will be covered to whet your appetite for the 2013 Conference in Chicago. In the meantime, here are some of the highlights from the Brandywine Valley Conference.

The Welcome Reception at the Tyler Arboretum featured a live bluegrass band and what Paul Cappiello deemed an “instant tradition”: a lively raffle to benefit the Eastern Region Foundation. The bucolic setting offered a beautiful backdrop for a wonderful social gathering that raised nearly \$1400 for a great cause.



Our meeting day at Longwood Gardens special indeed! Kirk Brown in character as John Bartram entranced the audience with his portrayal of America's first world-class plantsman. He connected the IPPS tag line '*sharing plant production knowledge globally*' to John's role at the very beginning of the international world of plant discovery and identification. We enjoyed a number of other great speakers, a behind the scenes tour of the Longwood production areas and topped off the day with a fabulous evening reception amid the splendour of the Conservatory, generously sponsored by Longwood Gardens.





Tom Intven & Adrian Reimer ponder their bids.

The plant auction Friday evening featured an amazing number and selection of plants (over 200). And whose idea was it to have an open bar during the live auction bidding??? The auction generated \$8,200 and was organized by Andrew Bunting and Carrie Wiles. The evening event also featured the "Return of the Mysterious Question Box" which brought forth question topics ranging from the ethylene glycol treatment of *Chionanthus* to the number of ribbons on Bill Barnes' name tag as compared to that of Alan Jones. The evening included a surprise announcement which we will reveal to you in a separate message in the coming weeks!



Non-plant items generated interest too!



Allen Bush & Shari Solow showcase a plant.

The final day of the conference was spent at Winterthur Estate and Gardens for another round of great talks. The "rapid fire" 5-minute presentations were a big hit. Watch for these great production tidbits in coming newsletter issues. Following the educational sessions, attendees were able to tour the grounds via tram or walking tour and could also tour parts of the mansion, Henry Francis duPont's magnificent museum of American decorative arts.

192 people attended the Conference which had a very different format from our usual. If you have thoughts about this new format, please drop Margot a line at ippser@gmail.com.

And a huge "Thanks!" to the Local Site Committee:

Steve Castorani, North Creek Nurseries, Chair
 Tim McGinty, North Creek Nurseries
 Bill Barnes, Barnes Horticultural Services
 Alan Jones, Manor View Farm
 Ron Strasko, Creek Hill Nursery
 Nancy Parr, Aris/Green Leaf
 Harold Sweetman, Jenkins Arboretum
 Andrew Bunting, Scott Arboretum

Carrie Wiles, North Creek Nurseries
Jim Harbage, Longwood Gardens
Eric Hsu, Chanticleer
Betsey Ney & Rick Colbert, Tyler Arboretum
Jeanne Frett, Mt Cuba
Shelby French, Mt. Cuba
John Rausch, Conard Pyle
David Wells, W. D. Wells & Associates

Also thanks to the Program Committee Chair: Paul Cappiello, Yew Dell Gardens; to all of our tour stop hosts who generously donated their time and staff to ensure us a great visit; and last but not least to our generous sponsors.

Members reconnecting over breakfast at the hotel...



L-R: Mike Emmons, Susanne Lucas, Julie Shapiro, Shelley Dillard, Joel Kroin



L-R: Peter Orum, Scott Clark, Dave Sanford



L-R: Ron Kujawski, Dennis Mareb



L-R: Win Dunwell, Bill Hendricks, Matt Chambers