

Louisville Conference Tours and Auction

Despite a threat of rain (that never materialized) on Thursday afternoon, an intrepid group of IPPS-ER faithful boarded busses for Cave Hill Cemetery and Yew Dell Botanical Gardens. Cave Hill offered a stunning tree collection in a unique landscape, featuring one of the largest ginkgos in North America, as well as memorable specimens of *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Amazing Grace', *Cedrus libani* var. *stenocoma*, *Hovenia dulcis* and more.

One participant recalled anticipating the 2-hour cemetery tour in cold, blustery weather, as something of a chore. But tour leader Paul Cappiello's and the group's passion for these outstanding trees soon made her forget the weather. When Paul questioned why *Corylus* is not more popular with the public, Brian Decker said maybe the name Turkish hazel isn't sexy enough. Leading a younger participant to respond, "But I've got a funny name and I'm sexy enough."

Following a short drive to Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, the group toured the grounds and extensive plant collections and was treated to a top notch bbq complete with authentic Kentucky bluegrass music.



Paul Cappiello addresses the group under a huge *Taxodium distichum* at Yew Dell.



Massive Ginkgo at Cave Hill.

On Friday, the tour stops included Whitehall Historic Home and Wallitsch Garden Center, both in Louisville. Whitehall's fern garden and varied woody plant collections were a hit that was made that much better by the fact that it was a beautiful fall day. A bus tour through Louisville's Olmsted Parks offered commentary on the history and development of the parks and surrounding areas, including Mike Hayman's Seneca Gardens neighborhood arboretum. The final stop of the day brought the group to Wallitsch Garden center that offered tours of their unique production systems, excellent idea sharing on retail and merchandising topics – and an excellent assortment of snacks – always a hit with IPPS members!



Whitehall garden



Stump garden at Whitehall



Jim Wallitsch welcomes the group.



Mike Hayman at Seneca Gardens

Once back to the Seelbach Hotel, the group engaged in spirited silent auction bidding on such specialties as *Parrotia subequalis* and *Mahonia gracillipes*, before moving on to a sumptuous dinner and one of the most memorable auctioneers ever to grace an IPPS event. All in all, it was an event not to be missed. . . and we're guessing next year's local site committee will be pulling out all the stops to top Louisville's effort – so plan to be there!



Tim Brotzman extols the virtues of this plant.



Julie Shapiro tries to tempt Tom Ranney (left) and Rick Lewandowski to dig deep.