

## Long Island Hosts the IPPS meeting this September

Long Island is hosting the annual conference for the Eastern Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society (IPPS) this September 27-30, and you are cordially invited.

The IPPS is not just about plant propagation, it is an international association of plant production professionals, a forum for sharing plant production knowledge and skills. The motto of IPPS is 'to seek and to share' and this motto remains the core value guiding the society activities.

The Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Long Island in Hauppauge, NY. There will be three half-days of educational sessions, 3 half-days of tours, and an optional full day Pre-Conference Tour. The theme of the conference is appropriately called "Island Time!" It will be a time to reconnect with old friends, to recharge, and to learn from the best in the business. Guests will see what makes Long Island horticulturally unique and will be able to take home valuable insights that can be put to work for their business.

On **Tuesday, September 27**, there is an optional all-day Pre-Conference Tour which will visit three amazing horticultural hotspots: Untermyer Gardens and Conservancy, Wave Hill Gardens and the New York Botanical Garden. The bus leaves the hotel at 8 am for the first stop at Untermyer Gardens and Conservancy an historic 43-acre city public park overlooking the Hudson River and the New Jersey Palisades. From Untermyer, we travel down the eastern shore of the Hudson River a few miles to Wave Hill Gardens. This famous public garden in the northwest Bronx also affords views of the Hudson River and features with flower gardens, alpine house, greenhouses, and a cultural center. Lunch is at Wave Hill on the Kate French Terrace.

The final stop of the day is the world-famous New York Botanical Garden ([www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)). When we arrive, we will be greeted by Marc Hachadourian, Director of Glasshouse Horticulture and Senior Curator of Orchids. The Garden contains 50 different gardens and plant collections including waterfalls, wetlands and a 50 acre old-growth New York forest. We will return to our host hotel in time for the Welcome Reception.

On **Wednesday, September 28**, there will be morning educational sessions with a half day Eastern Long Island tour in the afternoon. Wednesday's keynote speaker is Brie Arthur on "A New Era for IPPS." Then Long Island's Vinnie Simeone from Planting Fields Arboretum on "New & Exciting Trees & Shrubs for the Forward-Thinking Horticulturist", followed by Thomas Molnar from Rutgers University on "Cornus and Corylus" and Alisha Conde talking about "Production in Lieu of Automation." Cornell's entomologist, Dan Gilrein, will be share his insights on "Insects & Mites in Propagation & Production."

At the conclusion of the morning educational sessions, we will grab a boxed lunch to enjoy en route to eastern Long Island. Landcraft Environments and the newly formed Landcraft Garden Foundation combines a unique botanical garden and a successful wholesale production business in one visit, and we will be able to tour both! Owners, Dennis Schrader and Bill Smith will greet us and explain how they created a Foundation and transformed their 14-acre private garden into an oasis that opened to the public just last year. This is a jewel of a garden not to be missed!

Our next stop is Half Hollow Nursery, a premier grower and distributor of quality nursery stock. This nursery features a broad selection of their own Long Island grown evergreens, deciduous trees, perennials and seasonal color. Their General Manager, Karl Novak, will greet our bus when we arrive and along with David Scheer, Container Manager, will guide us through their 625-acre production site on Long Islands' North Fork. We will see their propagation facility and a wide range of container and field grown plant material.

Our final stop of the day is Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center (LIHREC) located in Riverhead. This 68-acre campus of Cornell University is celebrating 100 years of service to the Long Island agriculture community in Suffolk County, the #1 county in New York for plant agriculture. World-renowned plant pathologist, Margery Daughtrey, New York's premier applied entomologist, Dan Gilrein, and LIHREC Director Dr. Mark Bridgen, will lead tours of the LIHREC and answer questions. After the tours, we will have a chance to relax and socialize with a delicious BBQ dinner under a tent on the grounds while sipping local wines and beer.

On **Thursday, September 29**, there will be morning educational sessions with a half day Western Long Island tour in the afternoon.

During the morning sessions, the keynote speaker is Dr. Brian Jackson from North Carolina State University speaking on "Perspectives, Trends, and Sustainability Initiatives in the Growing Media Industry." There will be a panel discussion about Plant Tissue Culture and Micropropagation with panelists Lindsay Curran from Prides Corner Farm in CT, Johnathan Janinski from Microplant Nurseries in Oregon, Dr. Mark Bridgen from Cornell University, and Kelly Elsworth from Next Stage Labs in Michigan. Then, Erin Agro from Grow-Bark will present "Recent Innovations in Growing Media," Jeremy Pickens from Auburn University will speak on "Revisiting Root Zone Temperatures," and Bill Barnes will present "A New Look at the IPPS Website."

After morning talks conclude, we will grab a boxed lunch and head to western Long Island to visit two Gold Coast estates that are on the National Register of Historic Places. Our first stop is Planting Fields Arboretum, where we will be guided by Vincent Simeone, Director. Planting Fields is a magnificent estate from the 1920s located in Oyster Bay, New York. Originally landscaped by the Olmsted Brothers, the 409 acres of Planting Fields includes an extensive collection of gardens as well as two greenhouses.

Our final tour stop is Old Westbury Gardens. This elegant estate features a 44-room English manor house and traditional, formal gardens sprawling over 200 acres. You will have the opportunity to explore both the house, furnished with priceless antiques and decorative artwork, and the grounds, which include sweeping lawns, wooded paths, and beautiful gardens, largely untouched from the Phipps era. Upon our return to the hotel, we will enjoy cocktail hour with final silent auction bidding following by a delicious banquet and live auction to cap the night.

The last day of the conference is a morning educational session that ends at noon on **Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**. The keynote speaker for Friday is Long Island's Margery Daughtrey speaking about "Are we Propagating Plant Diseases?" She is followed by Dr. Ryan Contreras from Oregon State University talking on "Breeding for Non-invasive Nursery Crops: Status of Cultivars and Regulation." Then there are some Rapid Fire Talks with Kendall Kuxhouse, Propagation Manager at Schwope Tree Farm and Rose Daly, Northcreek Nursery. The final speaker of the morning is Laura Robles from Walters Gardens, who is followed by the ever-popular New Plant Forum. The program concludes at 12 pm.

Check out the program and tour stops in detail [www.ippseasternregion.org](http://www.ippseasternregion.org). Register by August 19th to get the Early Bird rate.

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