

Hello Fellow PNWPMC Participants,

I am looking forward to reconnecting with colleagues and suppliers at the annual Pacific Northwest Pest Management Conference coming up February 23-25th, 2023 in Hood River, OR.

In addition to continuing education sessions, the popular vendor's showcase and networking opportunities, the always festive banquet and fundraising auction will again return Friday, February 24th.

This year we have an exciting announcement and challenge with respect to the fundraiser, and that is the formation of the **Laurel Hansen Scholarship Fund**. We have a goal of raising at least \$25,000 at the banquet to establish an Endowment for the next generation of pest control experts in Laurel's honor. As a longtime member of our Conference Association and one of the world's premier experts on Carpenter Ants, Laurel Hansen has been leading the charge on ant abatement and best practices for identifying and controlling one of the region's most annoying and destructive pests. As you plan to reconnect with professional colleagues at the Pacific Northwest Pest Management Conference in Hood River, I hope and trust you'll consider making a special and meaningful contribution to the Laurel Hansen Scholarship Fund. As an added incentive, one of our members has generously put out a challenge to help us reach that goal, and that is a **DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MATCH**, up to \$15,000 total! To clarify, when you give \$1,000, an additional \$1,000 will go to the scholarship fund... so let's do this!

Also, auction procurement is supported by association members like yourself, so if you can contribute time at a vacation home, seaside cabin, sporting tickets, library wines (those that score 90+), culinary experiences, restaurant gift cards or other unique and universally appealing items, large or small, to the Live Auction and/or Silent Auction, you can help the conference maximize both the fun *and* fundraising. The best and easiest way to contribute an item to the auction is through the form at our new conference website <https://pnwpmc.org/auction/>

In the coming days and weeks, we'll be highlighting some of the items that will be available at the auction, so review those and think about contributing to help expand the growing list of enticing auction items.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity yet to come. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the end of the month in Hood River!

With appreciation,

Sean Bergmann & The PNWPMC Board Members