

Student Conference Attendance and Support Soars!

by Shelby French

The IPPS Eastern Region Student Conference Scholarship program provided full conference registration to 20 students at the Newark, Delaware conference in September. Only in its second year, we nearly doubled the number of students who attended on scholarship in 2017! Recipients came from as far away as Ontario, New York, Massachusetts, Illinois and Missouri, while over half attended from local college campuses. Although most students pay their own travel and lodging costs, this year the Eastern Region was able to give four students a bonus towards covering those expenses. (This was in addition to funds awarded to five students by the IPPS Eastern Region Foundation- see article in the September newsletter.) Some students attended the entire conference, others attended for the day.



We were thrilled to have so many enthusiastic students in attendance. Their presence and participation energized the entire group and proved mutually beneficial, judging from the feedback we received. But don't take it from us, here's what some of this year's students had to say:

I had a great time at the IPPS Eastern Region Conference. I felt that the conference was very inclusive and gave me the opportunity to meet the leading experts in the field of plant propagation. One of my favorite aspects of the conference was traveling to different plant production facilities. A firsthand look at these facilities gave me better appreciation for all of the working parts and work that go into plant propagation and mass production. Furthermore, I really enjoyed the different speakers and the topics they discussed. I learned great deal from the IPM presentation and the plant trial presentation. Thank you again for taking the time to help the students of IPPS and show us a great time. I hope you have a great day.

Vincent Galatolo

Propagation Intern at Morris Arboretum

The IPPS conference was a fantastic opportunity to see inside some of the larger local production facilities and learn the details of their systems and operation. Available natural water sources and the ability to filter and reuse that water in a safe and sustainable manner was a fascinating topic that was approached differently in different areas based on geographic and geological limitations. Of the lectures I was able to attend, I truly enjoyed hearing Anna Ball discuss industry and consumer trends. It was a moment that made me feel as though I possess knowledge and insight that could be useful if shared to the rest of the professionals in that room, when up to then, I had only been absorbing information. I was sad that my schedule limited my attendance to two days, but I am sincerely grateful for how warm and open and genuinely interested in my education each individual that I met seemed to be. I am very excited to be a new member of IPPS and promise to keep spreading the word about the wealth of knowledge that can be found within for future generations of members!

Raymond Carter

PG Student at Longwood Gardens

I was impressed by how friendly and welcoming the attendees were and by the diversity of backgrounds. It is interesting to see people from the nursery trade, public gardens, and academia come together to discuss the same topics that affect them in both similar and different ways. This is only the second conference I've attended in this field of work. At the previous one, people from different fields tended to congregate separately rather than intermingle with those from other parts of the industry, so it was refreshing to see more interaction at IPPS. Attendance was much smaller at IPPS than at the previous conference I attended, so maybe that is part of it. Regardless, I really liked the size of the attendee group, and I liked that people seemed to be having fun. Although I learned a lot, it was not all serious, and that made it a very relaxing and fun way to learn.

Angela Magnan

Oregon State University, online (Maryland)



After the opening reception a group of 30 ended up on Main Street in Newark at the Iron Hill Brewery, including the 9 students in attendance that day.