

Thursday's Terrific Tour Territory

by Victoria Bolden

The conference tour held on Thursday, October 17th visited three unique stops in the Madison, WI area.

University of Wisconsin Arboretum

At the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, IPPS attendees had the opportunity to see apple and maple tree collections. Our guide did a wonderful job combining history, stories, and nature. We did not have time to see the whole collection, but the crabapple collection was quite impressive.



One attendee, Kathy M. said, "I learned that crabapple trees are in the same genus as apples and the only difference is based on the size of the fruit". The Arboretum staff stopped evaluating for fruit longevity because wild turkeys that were reintroduced started eating up the fruit along with the rest of the winter birds. Crabapple trees breeders look for apple scab resistance, cold hardiness and lately weeping crabapple habit with yellow fruit.

Courtney K. enjoyed seeing an institution where "one of her favorite authors Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac*", served as research director in 1934. Although only involved as director for a very short time, Aldo continued to be involved and many of his writings talk about natural prairies.

Epic Systems

The highlight of the trip seemed to be the world where horticultural landscaping and healthcare collided: Epic Systems. Epic Systems is a healthcare software company with 5 different campuses including *Farm Style*, *Harry Potter* and *Space* themes to name a few.

Epic to Ashley C. represented "all the dreams, materialized and with unlimited money all the things we could create." IPPS Fellow Richard Munson commented "Unique bikes, nice idea for travel between campuses". Brittany W. a student, "really liked the lack of unsightly structures, with underground parking and green infrastructure."



Allen Centennial Garden

We ended the day at Allen Centennial Garden, which was packed with many different landscapes and plants in a small space. Ryan, the horticulturist at the garden, talked about the importance of working with professors to provide teaching materials and engaging students in volunteer and internship opportunities. Emily C. from the Morris Arboretum, "Loved the rock garden and all the different sections of western phlox and hens and chicks".

Special thanks to all the tour hosts and bus captains for the terrific tour!