

Highlights from this year's IPPS Eastern Region Conference

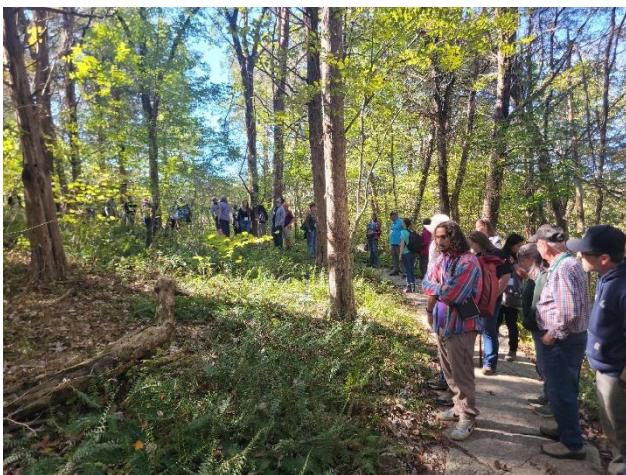
CONFERENCE PRE-TOUR

This year's IPPS Eastern Region Conference was held October 14-17 in Louisville Kentucky. The theme was "Home of Fast Horses, Good Bourbon and Horticulture." I have to say we delivered on all three!

The **pre-conference tour** took us around to three of Louisville's most iconic places. We started the morning at the world-famous **Churchill Downs**, home of the Kentucky Derby. Horses were getting some track time as the group toured with Horticulturist Matt Bizzell. Hearing about the incredible efforts Matt's team must go through during Derby week was hugely impressive. Churchill Downs is truly the most beautiful horse track in the country.



Next, we travelled to the **Parklands of Floyds Fork**. This unique Park system is privately funded and meant to continue what the Frederick Law Olmsted system of Parks built in the 1890s did for the city of Louisville by creating the green necklace. Fast forward to 2004, this new park system moves further out and tries to duplicate the success of the Olmsted Parks system of over one hundred years ago. Blending natural spaces with Horticulture in an incredibly unique way.



Our last stop was to Cave Hill Cemetery and Arboretum. Cave Hill, established in 1848, is one of the most beautiful and historic cemeteries in the country. Here we saw an incredible variety of specimen trees. From Chestnut Oak, Shingle Oak, Ginkgo, Japanese Zelkova, Henry Hicks Sweetbay Magnolias, and a personal favorite Amazing Grace Weeping Katsura, all nestled in amongst the 296-acre site.



Pre-Conference Tour Day concluded with our Welcome Reception in the Rathskellar, the world's only surviving Rookwood Pottery room in our host hotel, the iconic Seelbach Hilton. It was a unique and beautiful setting for attendees to catch up with old friends and colleagues and make new connections over a glass of wine or, of course, bourbon!

