

## **Meet your new President!**

Stephen A Foltz

Hello everybody! My name is Steve Foltz. I am your new President of the International Plant Production Society Eastern Region. I would like to share a little bit about who I am and how I came to this position. I was born and raised in Northern Kentucky, just a few miles south of Cincinnati across the Ohio river. I am married to my wife of 38 years, Maureen, and have four children, Collin, Erin, and twins, Quinn and Corey. I have a new grandson, our first, named Brady.

I went to the University of Kentucky in Ornamental Horticulture in the early to mid-80s. My plant propagation teacher was Leonard Stoltz, and my mentor and woody plant teacher was Bob McNeil. Bob took me to my first IPPS meeting while I was in school in Kentucky. That is when I became aware of this great organization. While at UK I did 2 summer internships at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

After college I worked at Delhi Garden Center for Bob Maddux for a few years. I would say most horticulturists in Cincinnati worked for Bob at some time or another. In 1988 I started my career with the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden as a full-time Horticulturist under Dave Ehrlinger. I became the Director of Horticulture in 2002. From then until now I have continued my career at the Cincinnati Botanical Garden...and Zoo Loving every minute of it!

For the past 34 years I have been an adjunct instructor at the University of Cincinnati, teaching the Woody Landscape Plant Identification courses. Woody Plants 1 in the fall semester and Woody Plants 2 in the Spring. We also have a wonderful 2-year Horticulture program in Cincinnati State and Technical College. I also taught Woody Landscape Plants 1 in the Fall semester and Sustainable Plants in the Spring Semester at Cincinnati State for the past 34 years.

I have worked closely with the nursery industry over the past 40 years. It has been such a joy to teach both horticulture students and interns over the years. I have lectured frequently locally and regionally. In 2016 I was given the Distinguished Contribution Award from the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association, and in 2022 received the Honorary Hall of Fame by the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association.

I have gotten so much out of IPPS over the years, it is time to give something back!

Thank You!

Steve Foltz

President IPPS Eastern Region