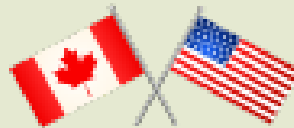


**IPPS**  
SHARING PLANT PRODUCTION KNOWLEDGE



Eastern Region  
of North America



**Columbus, OH: The Heart of it All**



**INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROPAGATORS' SOCIETY  
EASTERN REGION  
MARRIOTT COLUMBUS OSU  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
SEPTEMBER 24 - SEPTEMBER 27, 2024**

# SCHEDULE

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
(MEETING ROOM TBA)
- 4:00 PM HOTEL CHECK IN BEGINS
- 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION  
OPEN
- 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM AUCTION ITEMS ACCEPTED AT  
REGISTRATION

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 6:00 AM REGISTRATION OPEN, LOBBY
- 8:00 AM LOAD BUSES FROM MARRIOTT OSU:  
3100 OLENTANGY RD, COLUMBUS OH 43202
- 8:30 AM MID-OHIO FOOD COLLECTIVE - FARM
- 9:30 AM DEPART MID-OHIO FOOD COLLECTIVE
- 10:00 AM ACORN FARMS
- 12:00 PM DEPART ACORN FARMS  
(BOXED LUNCH ON THE BUS!)
- 12:30 PM OAKLAND NURSERY
- 2:30 PM DEPART OAKLAND NURSERY
- 3:00 PM FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY
- 4:30 PM DEPART FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY
- 5:00 PM ARRIVE AT MARRIOTT OSU
- 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM WELCOME RECEPTION

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 6:00 AM REGISTRATION OPEN, LOBBY
- 7:00 AM SILENT AUCTION ITEMS ACCEPTED, LOBBY
- 7:00 AM POSTER AND DISPLAYS SETUP
- 8:00 AM GENERAL SESSION, BALLROOM
- 8:00 AM OPENING REMARKS, MATTHEW PALMIERI,  
2023-24 IPPS-Eastern Region President
- 8:15 AM KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MARIE CHIEPPO  
"Sustainable issues related to plastic use in the  
nursery industry and alternatives "
- 9:15 AM IPPS AWARDS
- 9:35 AM COFFEE BREAK / SILENT AUCTION
- 9:55 AM  
• PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 12:00 PM AFTERNOON TOURS DEPART
- 1:00 PM TIMBUK NURSERY
- 2:00 PM DEPART TIMBUK NURSERY
- 3:00 PM DECKER'S NURSERY
- 5:00 PM COCKTAILS AND DINNER PROVIDED BY  
DECKER'S NURSERY
- 7:00 PM RETURN TO THE MARRIOTT OSU



# OF EVENTS

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 7:00 AM REGISTRATION OPEN, LOBBY
- 7:00 AM SILENT AUCTION ITEMS ACCEPTED, LOBBY
- 8:00 AM GENERAL SESSION, BALLROOM
- 8:00 AM
  - PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 10:10 AM COFFEE BREAK/ SILENT AUCTION
- 10:30 AM IPPS EASTERN REGION FOUNDATION UPDATE
- 10:35 AM
  - PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 12:00 PM AFTERNOON TOURS DEPART
- 12:30 PM MILLCREEK GARDENS
- 1:30 PM DEPART MILLCREEK GARDENS
- 2:00 PM GROOVY PLANTS RANCH
- 3:00 PM DEPART GROOVY PLANTS RANCH
- 3:45 PM CEARC OSU
- 4:45 PM DEPART CEARC OSU
- 5:00 PM RETURN TO THE MARRIOTT OSU
- 6:00 PM COCKTAIL HOUR/FINAL SILENT AUCTION BIDDING, BALLROOM FOYER
- 6:45 PM SILENT AUCTION CLOSES
- 7:00 PM DINNER IS SERVED, BALLROOM
- 7:45 PM LIVE AUCTION AND LIVE BAND!
- 8:45 PM AUCTION CLOSED
- 9:00 PM DINNER ENDS

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 7:00 AM REGISTRATION OPEN, LOBBY
- 8:00 AM GENERAL SESSION, BALLROOM
- 8:00 AM
  - PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 9:20 AM IPPS EASTERN REGION ANNUAL MEETING
- 9:55 AM COFFEE BREAK
- 10:15 AM
  - PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 11:10 AM SESSION 12: STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATIONS
- 11:30 AM NEW PLANT FORUM
- 12:00 PM END OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**



# ATTENDANCE

## CONFERENCE PASSES

Join us for the IPPS Eastern Region Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio, from September 24-27, 2024!

Experience inspiring keynote speakers, engaging rapid fire presentations, and insightful tours of local nurseries and botanic gardens.

Connect with industry leaders, expand your knowledge, and explore the latest trends in plant propagation and horticulture.

Find different registration types and packages by scanning the QR code below.



We look forward to seeing you in Columbus!

## CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP

Support the premier event in plant propagation and horticulture by becoming a conference sponsor.



Scan the QR Code above or contact Keith at [ippersponsorships@gmail.com](mailto:ippersponsorships@gmail.com) to learn about our sponsorship opportunities and benefits.

# ACCOMMODATIONS

## MARRIOTT COLUMBUS OSU

Stay at the Marriott Columbus OSU, the official hotel for our annual conference!



- **Prime Location:** Just minutes from The Ohio State University and close to popular venues like the Jerome Schottenstein Center and Ohio Stadium.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Stay where all conference attendees are staying to maximize your networking opportunities and make connections over breakfast, coffee breaks, and evening events.
- **Convenient Access:** Enjoy easy access to morning sessions and conference activities without the hassle of commuting.
- **Special Conference Pricing:** Take advantage of our special IPPS ER conference rates. Reserve your room now at \$159/night!

**Hotel Address:** Marriott Columbus OSU  
3100 Olentangy River Road  
Columbus, Ohio, USA, 43202

### Nearby Airports:

- John Glenn Columbus International Airport
- Rickenbacker International Airport

### Transportation Options:

- Lyft/Uber/Taxi
- Convenient and cost-effective bus via the Central Ohio Transit Authority

**SCAN TO RESERVE  
YOUR ROOM**



We look forward to seeing you at the Marriott Columbus OSU for an unforgettable conference experience!

# TOUR DESTINATIONS

## Tuesday's Pre-Conference Tour



### Mid-Ohio Food Collective

Yes, we're a foodbank. We collect and distribute an impressive amount of food. But that's not all. We're a hub for caring people who want to give back with their time, talent and treasure. We're a welcome place to imagine and to test out fresh new ideas to tackle tough social issues. We're a collection of passionate people who want to do all we can for poverty and health as a whole. So, when life happens, we're here for our neighbors who need us.

Our mission is to end hunger one nourishing meal at a time while co-creating communities where everyone thrives.

Our vision is hunger-free and healthier communities. <https://mofc.org/>



### Acorn Farms Nursery

Acorn Farms Inc was founded in 1976 as a Central Ohio wholesale nursery and tree farm on a 80 acre tract in the Alum Creek Valley of Central Ohio. Acorn Farms continues to grow and expand offering over 800 acres of the highest quality shade and ornamental trees and 80 acres of container stock including wholesale shrubs, perennials, annuals, succulents, poinsettias, mums, bulbs, and seasonal plants. Sales are generated by both on and off site staff, with truck delivery to the US East Coast including New York, Long Island, New England, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, and to the Midwest areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan, Kentucky, Virginia, W. Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa.

We offer a vast selection of the highest quality plant material including hardy, native plants and unique, hard to find ornamentals. Our timely service, whether you are close or far away, has afforded us the opportunity to expand rapidly without compromising quality to become a leading producer of wholesale nursery stock across the US. <https://www.acornfarms.com/>



### Oakland Nurseries

Since 1940, Oakland Nursery has been dedicated to bringing high quality plant material to central Ohio homes and businesses. We've grown from a small store on Maize Road, to four retail operations, a wholesale farm, a comprehensive landscape design/build firm, interior/exterior services, and two specialty shops. Today, Oakland Nursery is a diversified company that not only sells horticultural products but designs and installs living landscapes. We offer retail delivery, plant installation, landscape design, landscape construction, irrigation installation, interiorscape design & installation, and wholesale services in our quest of being a total horticultural entity. <https://www.oaklandnursery.com/>



### Franklin Park Conservatory

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is Central Ohio's premier botanical garden and home to the iconic John F. Wolfe Palm House which dates back to 1895. Situated just east of Franklin Park, the Conservatory is approximately two miles from downtown Columbus.

The visitor experience spans about 13-acres and is comprised of the Conservatory building, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden and the Grand Mallway. The experience consists of botanical biomes, lush gardens, special horticulture and art exhibitions, and seasonal offerings. A collection of glass works by artist Dale Chihuly is also on display and included with admission.

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus is a sprawling 4-acre garden adjacent to the visitor experience that encompasses an apiary, rose pavilion, berry house and 40 community garden plots as well as, a demonstration kitchen and Live-Fire Cooking Theater. This area is open to the public at no charge from dawn until dusk. <https://www.fpconservatory.org/>

# SPEAKERS & PROGRAM

Theme: Sustainability



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MARIE CHIEPPO

Ecological Landscape Designer  
Accredited Organic Land Care Professional

**Bio:** Marie Chieppo is a native plant designer and horticulturalist who works with nature to create beautiful landscapes with maximum function for living organisms. For 23 years she has incorporated thousands of native plants in residential, commercial and public settings. <https://ecoplantplans.com/>

**Topic:** sustainable issues related to plastic use in the nursery industry and alternatives

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## JOE BOGGS

Assistant Professor, Ohio State University Extension,  
Hamilton County  
Associated Faculty, OSU Department of Entomology  
Co-Leader: OSU Extension, Buckeye Environmental  
Horticulture Team (BEHT)



**Topic:** An Overview of the Box Tree (Boxwood) Moth:  
Identification, Biology, Threat, and Management

*Program schedule TBA!*

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**RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

**Interested in speaking?**

Contact Shelby French at [sfrenchdoerun@gmail.com](mailto:sfrenchdoerun@gmail.com)

# TOUR DESTINATIONS

## Wednesday's Tour



### Timbuk Farms

Timbuk Farms is one of Central Ohio's oldest and largest Christmas tree farms. The first crop was planted in 1952 and the farm now spans 300 acres.

When the dream of a Christmas tree farm became a reality for the Schmidt family, Granville was quite remote from their home in Columbus. So, a drive to the farm was like a trip to Timbuktu. Thus, the family named the farm "Timbuk."

With many native species of trees, meadows of grasses and wildflowers, rolling hills, and three large ponds, Timbuk Farms is a unique environment and sanctuary for wildlife.

Timbuk Farms is also active in the research and development of evergreen species that are suitable for Christmas trees. The farm has had a major role in developing the Canaan fir as a Christmas Tree that is perfect for Ohio.

In 2004, after 53 successful years in business, the Schmidt family retired and turned the farm and greenhouses over to Jim and LaVonda Gibson of Granville. They have a strong knowledge base of the horticultural industry and are dedicated to producing the highest quality products. The Timbuk Farms name reflects the tree farm's ties to its rich tradition and hospitality as well as to the new energy and commitment to service and quality in its entire farm and greenhouse business. <https://www.timbuk.com/>



### Decker's Nursery

From 1921 - Livingston Av, Columbus Ohio | Getting started, doing it with old world - valued and traditional horticulture practices.

The Decker's Nursery, Inc. family nursery business began in the year 1921. The business was founded by Paul Offenberg. Paul was a new immigrant from Holland, where he had been Royal Garden Advisor for Kaiser Wilhelm prior to the beginning of World War I. The business was named The Paul Offenberg Nurseries, and was located in Columbus, Ohio at 1988 E. Livingston Ave. The business was involved in propagation, grafting, liner production, retail landscaping, and general retail sales. In 1945, the business relocated to 3415 E. Livingston Ave. The focus remained the same, however more space was available for evergreen B&B production.

To 1971 - Rager Rd, Groveport Ohio | Expanding with a vision!

In Late 1953, Paul's son-in-law, Bernard J. Decker joined the business as Vice President. Bernard's background was in ornamental iron and steel fabrication, which he had practiced since returning from World War II as a decorated radio operator and gunner in the US Air Force over Europe. The training in steel and construction eventually paid off later in his career. During his time, all greenhouse construction at our present location was fabricated in house under his direction.

Bernard Decker took over the reins of the business and proved to be a quick study as company President, propagator, landscape designer, and nursery sock salesman. In 1967 Bernard was elected President of the Ohio Nurseryman's Association. The business steadily prospered over the years, and in 1974 new land was purchased in Groveport, Ohio as a site for future relocation. At this time, Brian M. Decker, Bernard's son and Paul's grandson, pursued Horticulture as a career, and in 1976 enrolled at The Ohio State University seeking a degree in Horticulture.

Brian graduated in 1979 from Ohio State, and joined the business as a manager and landscape salesman. In 1981, the business relocated to its current location in Groveport. The focus in the gradual construction of the new facility was propagation, pot liner, field B&B production, and container production. In addition, the corporation was reorganized, and the name was changed in 1981 to Decker's Nursery, Inc. In 1992, Brian became President of the company and in 1993, Brian was elected President of The Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association. <https://deckersnursery.com/>



# TOUR DESTINATIONS

## Thursday's Tour



### Millcreek Gardens

Millcreek Gardens was established in 1978, and we grow high quality container-grown Perennials, Herbs, Annuals, Ornamental Grasses, Shrubs, Ferns, and Vines. Our nursery is family owned, and we have been growing finished retail-ready plants on a wholesale basis for nearly five decades. We provide our products to Independent Retail Garden Centers, Landscape Professionals, Farm Markets, Municipalities, and the like in Ohio and the surrounding states. We look forward to growing for you.

Millcreek Gardens is built around an experienced team of growers and customer service members. We employ 25 full-time, and up to 40 additional seasonal workers. Our team includes many Horticulture or plant science graduates, who all share in the day-to-day growing and customer care responsibilities. Our knowledgeable team produces and sells over 1,000,000 containers of premium quality annuals, herbs, perennials, ferns, ornamental grasses, peonies, shrubs, and vines each year. We invite you to meet our amazing team members below. <http://millcreekplants.com/>



### Groovy Plants Ranch

Groovy Plants Ranch exists to be a plant oasis full of botanical oddities for everyone to experience. We want all who visit to feel welcomed, comfortable asking questions, and to enjoy their time here. GPR is more than a store, it is an imaginative plant experience. We provide plants in all categories that are both expected favorites and hard to find or unusual.

Groovy Plants Ranch seeks to be a destination garden center by providing high quality plants in all price points. We are committed to growing and maintaining clean, pest free plants for our customers. We are devoted to pushing the envelope on what plants we are able to provide by maintaining stock plants, growing hard to find plants from seed, and breeding efforts. We seek to be on the cutting edge of innovation in the horticulture industry by adopting new best practices and providing excellent new plant varieties.

We employ friendly and knowledgeable staff in all parts of the business. So, when a customer reaches out to us in person, on the phone, or online they are able to receive high-quality, kind, and knowledgeable assistance. We are committed to improving our staff's knowledge by offering enrichment opportunities such as conference attendance, online courses, webinars, and access to industry magazines.

Jared and the team seek to continually improve the experience at GPR by updating the grounds, garden art, and infrastructure. Groovy Plants Ranch regularly receives visits from customers that live hours away. We strive to make the experience exciting no matter how far they drive to get here. <https://www.groovyplantsranch.com/>



### CEARC OSU

The Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex (CEARC) opened in September 2022 and provides a platform for interdisciplinary research at the nexus of horticulture and crop science, engineering, entomology, plant pathology, food science, computer science, and human nutrition/health. The \$35.8 million project was constructed at Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory and offers dynamic platforms for hands-on teaching, outreach, and engagement activities.

By more accurately controlling environmental factors such as temperature and light, researchers can explore new methods for improving nutrient density and flavor in vegetables and fruits. Large quantities of produce grown under standardized conditions make possible clinical studies examining the efficacy of enhanced nutritional value in the human diet. Advanced sensing technologies optimize harvesting, with integrated machine learning and integrated pest management practices to promote more precise control of insects and pests. The CEARC is an interactive communication hub between departments and stakeholders, enabling collaborations and workshops. <https://buildingthefuture.osu.edu/controlled-environment-agriculture-research-complex>

# IPPS-ER 2023-2024 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Executive				
<p style="text-align: center;">Matt Palmieri President Chesapeake Nurseries (410) 726-8386 matt@chesapeakenurseries.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shelby French First Vice-President sfrenchdoerun@gmail.com</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Jeff Martindell Second Vice-President jmartindell@deckersnursery.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Liz Erickson Past President liz@knighthollownursery.com</p>
Area Meeting			Publicity	
<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Jeff Kurtz Spring Meadow Nursery (616) 846-4729 Jeff@springmeadownursery.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Keith Osborne (Ont) , Liz Dunham (Midwest) , Sarah Shank (New England), Kendall Kuxhouse, Kim Shearer, Tyler Easter ,Isabel Mooney (Mid Atlantic), Phil Cabassa</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Kyle Banas Pizzo Native Plant Nursery (815) 826-0495 kyleb@pizzonursery.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Rachel Conley, Phoebe Joyner, Kyra Matin, Claire Zuidervliet, Adam Kobes, Trevor Trevino, Cathy Thomas</p>
Finance			Nomination and Recognition	
<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Adam Kobes Kobes Nurseries (905) 926-8214 adam@kobesnurseries.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Matt Palmieri (Pres), Scott Clark, Kelly Snair</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Liz Erickson (PP) Knight Hollow Nursery (608) 831-5570 liz@knighthollownursery.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Brian Maynard, Steve Castorani, Peggy Walsh, Megan Mathey</p>
Long Range Planning			Program	
<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Mike Gates McKay Nursery (920) 478-2121 mgates@mckaynursery.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Liz Erickson, PP , Dennis Roher, Jessica Gulczynski, Ross Strasko Paul Pfeifer, Keith Osbourne</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Shelby French 1st Vice-President The Farm at Doe Run (302) 723-644 sfrenchdoerun@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Brian Decker, Ryan Butcher, Jack Schaefer, Matt Fredrickson, Jeff Martindell</p>
Membership			Staff Evaluation	
<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Cathy Thomas Chicago Botanic Garden (847) 835-8240 cthomas@chicagobotanic.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Kyle Banas, Adam McClanahan, Ryan Butcher, Stephanie Hopfinger, Will Utech, Vicki Gustafson, Julie De Guire, Gladys Opiyo</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Matt Palmieri (P) Chesapeake Nurseries (410) 726-8386 palmierimdor@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Liz Erickson, Shelby French, Jeff Martindell</p>
Poster & Grant Research			Local Site	
<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Lincoln Gillon Prides Corner Farms (860) 614-5381 the1stplantmaster@gmail.com Posters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Jeff Martindell 2nd Vice-President Decker's Nursery jmartindell@deckersnursery.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Daniel Jacobs, Connor Hagemeyer, Brandon Miller</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Brian Decker Decker's Nursery (614) 554-0672 bdecker@deckersnursery.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Keith Osborne, Pam Dukes, Jeff Martindell, Gladys Opiyo, Katie Fulcher</p>
International			Editor	
<p style="text-align: center;">Delagate: Dave Sanford Penn State University P.O. Box 7009 Reading, PA 19610</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Alternate: Keith Osborne</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Jeff Martindell 2nd Vice-President Decker's Nursery (252) 216-8674 jmartindell@deckersnursery.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contract Editor: Bill Barnes</p>
International Site				
<p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Liz Erickson Past President Knight Hollow Nursery (608) 831-5570</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Keith Osborne, Jeff Kurtz, Kyle Banas, Jeff Martindell, Mark Wessel, Mike Gates, Robert Geneve, Bill Barnes, Kim Shearer, Cathy Thomas, Matt Fredrickson</p>			

# Thank you to our Sponsors

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**Decker's Nursery**



## GOLD SPONSORS



## BRONZE SPONSOR



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CONTACT [IPPSERSPONSORSHIPS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IPPSERSPONSORSHIPS@GMAIL.COM)