

He and his wife, Mary, of 37 years have 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren.

Please join me in congratulating Wilbur L. Bluhm, winner of this year's Curtis J. Alley Western Region Award of Merit.

**WESTERN REGION LIFETIME  
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

Presented by Joseph Solomone, Western Region President

One of the highest honors an IPPS Region can give is to award one of its members a "Lifetime Honorary Membership". This evening I have the pleasure of making this presentation.

This "Honorary Membership" category is for those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of plant propagation, and who have made equally outstanding contributions to our Society for at least 10 years.

Our Awardee has become a worldwide leader in tissue culture production of woody plants. His research to develop a tissue culture laboratory has set the groundwork for further experimentation and innovation in plant production systems.

Innovation exemplifies his commitment to the future of the nursery industry. He is an excellent reminder that the learning process is not confined within university walls. He has spent a lifetime being inquisitive. If he needed an expert, he found one. He has surrounded himself with strong young minds full of new ideas.

Development of the woody plant tissue culture technology and the tissue culture laboratory at his nursery is an excellent example of his commitment to develop, adapt, and integrate research information into a small business. He enlisted Dr. Wilbur Anderson of Washington State University, in cooperative research that led to a breakthrough in woody plant propagation through tissue culture. He notes that the last 10 years have seen tremendous refinements in the tissue culture process, but believes tissue culture will go up many avenues that have not yet been explored.

He has openly and enthusiastically shared information from his research. Since beginning his tissue culture research and production program in 1964, he has published over 20 research reports in publications ranging from the *IPPS Proceedings* to *Acta Horticulturae*.

He is internationally recognized as a leader in the nursery industry. He has been President of the IPPS Western Region; he has

been an International President of the IPPS; he was named “Man of the Year”, and presented the “Outstanding Service Award” by the Washington State Nurserymen’s Association; the “Service Award” was presented in recognition of his many years as chairman of the Washington State Nursery Association Legislative Committee. He has served on the boards of the Horticultural Research Institute, National Germplasm for Ornamentals, Rhododendron Species Foundation, University of Washington Arboretum, and the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Leadership, from whom he received the Distinguished Service Award. He has also served on practically all of the committees that the IPPS Western Region has to offer.

As if he has not done enough, he is presently much involved in water issues. I guess one can keep on going, so at this time it gives me great pleasure to present to Bruce Briggs an “IPPS Western Region Lifetime Honorary Membership Award.”