

## A Welcome to I.P.P.S. Members on the Occasion of Our 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting<sup>®</sup>

### Dale Deppe

Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc., 12601 120th Ave. Grand Haven, Michigan 49417-9621 U.S.A.

It is great to be at the start of this our 50th Annual Meeting. For me, the I.P.P.S. meeting has always been the highlight of the propagation year for many years and I think it is the same for many of the individuals in this room. I know there is a lot of anticipation in this room about the papers that will be presented. I can tell you that this will be a great meeting and I know we are all looking forward to it. We had a great pre-tour yesterday, almost 200 on the tour and the tours tomorrow are packed, so a wonderful meeting awaits us.

We are going to be looking back on 50 years of history at this meeting and at the same time we are trying to balance the history with the present; I think we have a good balance. It is good to look back, especially at 50 years but we will also be looking forward to continue our mission of "Seeking and Sharing". The next 3 days will be full of tours, papers, and the opportunity to talk propagation. There is also a lot of business conducted in hallways, during lunches, and on tour buses. I encourage you to introduce yourself to some new propagators that you have not met before, and enjoy talking about plants and the plant world.

The first order of business is introductions. This is an International Meeting for us and the International Board is with us to celebrate our 50th. At this time I would like to acknowledge all those International Board members. First is Peter Orum, a Past President of this Region, and President of the International Board. Would the International Board members present from the regions please stand. If you have not noticed, the International Board members have red, white, and blue ribbons; please introduce yourself to them. Next I would like to introduce members from other regions; will you please stand. Special introductions next goes to those attending their first I.P.P.S. meeting; will you also please stand.

Putting together a meeting such as this is a huge job. As president I can tell you that those are not my duties. You do that when you are first vice president. It takes a lot of legwork and we would like to thank Dan Studebaker, Program Chair and First Vice President. And coming right behind him as our poster chair, which is fantastic this year, I would like to recognize Dick Bir the Poster Chair and Second Vice President.

This podium is a special place when you think back 50 years and all the information that has passed from here to members. It is hard to describe what it is like to be here and realize that we will have a total of 50 volumes from those spoken words. And combine those books with all the other ways information is passed on at a meeting and that would fill this room. When I visit nurseries here and around the world I realize that our history is really planted every place in this world. So we need to be proud that we have changed the world in a positive way. In the past year the I.P.P.S. has suffered the loss of some great members; in a way I expect some of those who have passed to walk into this room today. They were always full of energy and excitement and without exception willing to help the Society. Please stand to honor them. And now I will introduce Anna Knuttel to start the papers.