

President's Welcoming Remarks®

Alan Jones

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Welcome to Milwaukee. I am Alan Jones, President of Eastern Region, North America of I.P.P.S. and it is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to the 54th annual meeting of the Society.

This year's meeting is unique in that it is the first time we have had concurrent sessions offering specifically woody plant and perennial plant topics. We are very interested in hearing if this is a format we need to continue in the future.

I would like to welcome all those attending their first meeting either as a new member or as a guest, as well as members from other I.P.P.S. regions. I would also like to congratulate the Eastern Region member who has traveled the farthest — Dr. Hailong Shen from Harbin, China.

A meeting like this is no easy task to put together. The work that goes on behind the scenes is enormous. I would like to thank the local site committee for all their efforts in planning and coordinating events for this meeting. The local site committee is led by Deb McCown who worked with Ron Amos, Jon Carlson, Bernie Fourrier, Kathy Freeland, Ralph Gerber, Brent McCown, George Radtke, Mike Yanny, Chuck Ellsworth, and Tom Buechel. The Poster Chairman is Steve Castorani and I thank him for organizing the great display of posters this year.

The expanded program is awesome and I know this has been a dream of Tom Intven for a couple of years. Coordinating this many speakers has been an enormous task and we owe Tom a huge debt of gratitude for the superb program he has put together. Thank you Tom for a job well done.

I would also thank Margot Bridgen for everything she does for the Society and specifically for this meeting.

Sadly, I have to announce that we have a few members who have died since we gathered in Portland, Maine, last year:

- Carl Totemeier, Wisteria Farm, Fayetteville, Arkansas, a member since 1968 died 3 July 2004.
- Robin Hastie, Mountain Laurel Nursery, Cincinnati, Ohio, a member since 1992 died on 3 July 2004
- Ian Donovan, Janes Garden Nursery, Pembroke, Massachusetts, a member since 1987.

Are there any others we need to know about?

Please stand for a moment of silence as we remember those members who have died.

Enjoy the meeting and if there is anything I or any of the board members can help you with, please don't hesitate to ask.