

IPPS International Tour 2015 - New Orleans to Tampa



New Orleans
Biloxi
Mobile
Tallahassee
Tampa



The “Big” IPPS Tour



IPPS– Big Easy ♦ Big Bend ♦ Big Bay

Join us as we go from the Big Easy, through the Big Bend, and down to the Big Bay! Temperatures along the Gulf Coast often range between 75-85 °F with nights in the 50's during this time of year.

Airports for arrival in the vicinity are New Orleans International, Gulfport/ Biloxi International, and Mobile Regional. Often the smaller airports are cheaper, and transportation to the meeting from any of the airports listed is available. Additionally, Tampa and Orlando airports will be the best for departure.

Alternative arrival and departure dates will be listed on the registration form, which will be posted soon! **If you plan to arrive early to absorb more of the area, let us know and we will be happy to provide information on local attractions.**

October 3, 2015

Arrival in New Orleans. We will begin with a casual reception that leaves a little time to take in some of the “Big Easy” atmosphere.

Host Hotel: [The Embassy Suites Convention Center, 315 Julia Street, New Orleans, LA 70130](#)

October 4, 2015

Plan for an early start! We will begin with breakfast at the hotel before boarding the bus and heading for the French Quarter and Café Du Monde. Café Du Monde is famous for its beignets, a fried dough pastry usually topped with powdered sugar. It will be Dutch treat, but you will understand why Louisianans live to eat instead of eating to live.

- ◆ After indulging ourselves in the French Quarter, we'll head north to visit Transcend Nursery, home of the Encore azalea breeder.
- ◆ After a lunch stop, we will visit renowned plants woman, Ms. Margie Jenkins at Jenkins Farm and Nursery.
- ◆ Our last stop of the day will be Bracy's Nursery where we will see the entire plant production process from propagation to sale. Bracy's was a leader in offering climate appropriate fruit trees as part of their palette. We will enjoy dinner there.

Host Hotel: [Holiday Inn Hammond Northshore - 1819 SW Railroad Ave, Hammond, LA 70403](#)

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- [THE EMBASSY SUITES CONVENTION CENTER](#)
- [CAFÉ DU MONDE](#)
- [TRANSCEND NURSERY](#)
- [JENKINS FARM & NURSERY](#)
- [BRACY'S NURSERY](#)



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October 5, 2015

After breakfast at the hotel, we head to LSU's Hammond Research Station and the Margie Y. Jenkins Azalea Garden. We then leave Louisiana and head for the Crosby Arboretum in Mississippi.

- ♦ Crosby showcases the flora of the Pearl River drainage basin. It includes longleaf pine savannahs, a gum pond, and other associated habitat. We will have time to wander and also enjoy lunch.
- ♦ From Crosby we will head north to the USDA Thad Cochran Horticulture Lab for a brief look tour.
- ♦ Our final nursery of the day will be GreenForest Nursery, owned by long time IPPS member, Dan Batson. GreenForest focuses on large container production and is noted for its magnolias.

The Beau is one of Mississippi's ritziest casinos. Tour participants can choose to arrive on this date for the first board meeting. Airports include New Orleans, Gulfport/Biloxi, or Mobile. Often flights into the smaller airports are cheaper. All are close.

Host Hotel: [Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, MS 39530](#)

October 6, 2015

After breakfast at the Beau, we will head Mississippi State University's Coastal Research and Extension Center for a half day board meeting.

- ♦ Non-board members will head out for some coastal site seeing.
- ♦ After lunch back at the R & E Center, we head for the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve for a short boat tour and information about the coastal ecology.
- ♦ Following Grand Bay, we move into Alabama and dinner on the USS Alabama, a World War II era battleship. We spend the night in Mobile's historic downtown area.

Host Hotel: **(2 Nights)** [Holiday Inn Mobile - Downtown Historic District 301 Government Street, Mobile, AL 36602](#)

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- [CROSBY ARBORETUM](#)
- [USDA THAD COCHRAN LAB](#)
- [GREENFOREST NURSERY](#)
- [BEAU RIVAGE](#)
- [MSU COASTAL R & E CENTER](#)
- [GRAND BAY NERR](#)
- [USS ALABAMA](#)



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October 7, 2015

After breakfast at the hotel, we set off for a brief excursion into Mississippi for a visit to Rocky Creek Nursery.

- ◆ Owned by longtime IPPS member, Jeff Howell, Rocky Creek was founded in 1962.
- ◆ From Rocky Creek, we head back into Alabama and Van der Giessen Nursery, owned by IPPS Southern Region North America President Maarten van der Giessen. Van der Giessen Nursery is a premier liner producer.
- ◆ From Maarten's we will head to Martin's Nursery, known for its immaculate production areas.
- ◆ We will be treated to a meal before a visit to the Mobile Carnival Museum. Mardi Gras was actually born in Mobile.
- ◆ From there, we head across Mobile Bay for a visit to Green's Nursery. Owned by longtime IPPS member Bobby Green, this nursery focuses on camellia production along with some other rare and unusual plants.

From Fairhope, we will enjoy some local seafood before heading back to our hotel.

Host Hotel: [Holiday Inn Mobile - Downtown Historic District](#)
[301 Government Street, Mobile, AL 36602](#)

October 8, 2015

Following breakfast, we head to Flowerwood Nursery's Loxley location. Producing items ranging from 4-inch groundcovers to shrubs to branded plant innovations, Flowerwood has been a progressive industry leader for over 70 years.

- ◆ Leaving Alabama, we will head west into Florida. After stopping for a buffet lunch, we will spend some time relaxing at Chautauqua Winery in DeFuniak Springs, FL.
- ◆ Then we're on to Tallahassee, the state capital of Florida and home of Florida State University. We'll have dinner featuring regional fare before checking in to our hotel.

Host Hotel: [Residence Inn Tallahassee Universities at the Capitol, 600 W](#)
[Gaines St, Tallahassee, FL 32304-4308](#)

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- [VAN DER GIESSEN NURSERY](#)
- [MARTIN'S NURSERY](#)
- [MOBILE CARNIVAL MUSEUM](#)
- [GREEN'S NURSERY](#)
- [FLOWERWOOD NURSERY-LOXLEY](#)
- [CHAUTAQUA WINERY](#)



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October 9, 2015

The Tallahassee area is home to a number of IPPS members and nurseries.

- ♦ We begin the day at Clinton Nurseries in Havana, FL.
- ♦ We'll then head over to Hackney Nursery between the cities of Quincy and Greensboro. Covering nearly 600 acres, Hackney specializes in container-grown shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers in containers ranging from 1 quart to 15 gallons.
- ♦ After a lunch stop, we are off to May Nursery. In 1971, Fount H. May, Sr. and Don F. May, Sr., completely converted the family's tobacco farm to a nursery that concentrated on azaleas, ilxes and junipers. What they began has been nurtured and increased by their sons, Fount, Jr. Don Jr., Fred and Brad, who have assumed operation of the nursery. Now, third generation and IPPS members, Ashley and Richard May are continuing the tradition.
- ♦ Next we head to Monticello to visit Simpson Nurseries. The business was started in 1902 as the Simpson Nursery Company, a family partnership. By the early 1960's Simpson Nursery Company had become the nation's leading producer of pecan trees and watermelon seed. Simpson Nurseries is now a leading source of pecan trees, deciduous nursery stock and evergreens, building its sales primarily around retail nurseries, landscapers, mass merchandisers and pecan plantations.

After departing Simpson's we will head south toward Clearwater for an overnight stay. **For attendees staying late in Florida, we'll be happy to provide information on local attractions. Just let us know!**

Host hotel: [Hilton Clearwater Beach, 400 Mandalay Ave, Clearwater, FL 33767](#)

October 10, 2015

Full day board meeting with optional activities for spouses and non-board members. Cost for optional activities will be available soon.

October 11-14, 2015

Welcome to IPPS-Southern Region! Meals not outlined in the regional brochure are Dutch treat. Meeting registration and hotel are covered in International Tour registration.

October 15, 2015

Departure

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- [HACKNEY NURSERY](#)
- [MAY NURSERY](#)
- [SIMPSON NURSERIES](#)



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