

Questions and Answers for General Session VII

Kristin Yanker-Hansen: What do we do about collectors taking plant materials out of countries from around the world and making them commercially available in the U.S.A.?

David Hannings: The situation with orchids right now is that you can't even bring back seed from plants in the wild. Many believe that it is better to collect a small number of plants to protect them from being destroyed in the wild. This is particularly important in countries that are currently undergoing tremendous development. There are still many plants that can be collected and most plant seeds can be collected from the wild.

Douglas Justice: I think it's a question, frankly, of responsibility. Collecting is probably best left to public institutions that have the scientific support in botany and/or conservation biology.

Kerry Strope: From an industry perspective, we attempt to work within the rules and with established botanic gardens. Problems arise when institutions have unrealistic expectations of what we can do for them in terms of monetary recompense.

Peter Clements: Why shouldn't countries from where a plant originated realize some of the profits if their plant is collected, developed, and made commercially available?

Kerry Strope: Much of this comes back to how much investment goes into developing a plant for sale and what the market is willing to pay. If we have to breed a plant for 10 years how much of that money needs to go back to the place where we originally got the plant? That's a huge investment on our part to make that plant available not to mention all the costs of producing it. The big question for us is how do you structure it so it is fair.

Meeting in Seattle 2001[©]

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I would like to extend a special invitation to join us in Seattle for the 42nd annual meeting of the Western Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society. The meeting will be held at the University of Washington campus on September 5-8, 2001. Most of the program activities will take place in the Student Union Building (the HUB). This will be before classes start on campus and the earlier date provides the best chance of good weather for tours and other activities. Rooms have been blocked in one of the dormitories on campus, which have a quad configuration with shared general use area and shower facilities. This will provide a bargain for members with a limited budget, and includes breakfast in the cafeteria and full use of the campus recreational facilities. Alternative housing is available at the Silver Cloud Inn adjacent to campus, that provides a continental breakfast, a pool and spa, fitness

facility, and guest laundry. Limited shuttle service will be provided to campus. Pre-conference tours of the campus (excellent landscape plantings) and the Washington arboretum are planned for those who arrive early on Wednesday. Board meetings will be held in the HUB on Wednesday afternoon and evening. An open house is planned for the Urban Horticulture Center with demonstrations, informal round-table discussions, and tours on Wednesday evening. On Thursday we will have an all-day tour north of Seattle, primarily in the Mt. Vernon area. Tour stops confirmed to date are: Etera Nursery, Washington Bulb Co., and Skagit Gardens with a catered lunch. Two to three other stops will be scheduled and we will return to campus in time for a Western Barbecue in the lawn area behind the dormitory with a view of Mt. Rainier and Lake Washington. The program will be held on Friday and Saturday with specific speakers yet to be determined:

Session I.

Friday, Sept. 7

Introduction

Welcome to Seattle and the Pacific Northwest

Session II

Niche propagators and growers

Topics may include mushrooms, ferns, bamboo, lilies, etc.

Annual business meeting

Lunch

Session III

Propagation tools and tips

Fast paced session involving several speakers, for sharing new ideas or techniques.

Session IV

Research roundup

Update on current research in the Pacific Northwest of interest to propagators and growers.

Banquet

Session V. Establishment and aftercare of tissue-cultured plants

Saturday, Sept. 8

Session VI

New or worthy plants

Lunch

Session VII

Plant exploration and introduction

Tentative plans are underway for a post-conference tour to the Mt. Rainier area on Sunday. Discussion of possible Saturday afternoon/evening activities included Mariners baseball game, Pike market shopping, Seattle underground and dinner cruise.