

Wisconsin Meeting's a Hit!

An Eastern Region Area Meeting was hosted by McKay Nursery in Waterloo Wisconsin on July 16th. Thirty six people enjoyed the day including a number of growers from Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan nurseries.

The program was well balanced with Brent McCown speaking on plant juvenility and its effects on propagation. Mike Yanny spoke on Oak propagation and how seed plant selection and soil types effect success in the nursery and landscape. Liz Dunham presented a talk on production micropropagation at Knight Hollow Nursery and what it takes to be a successful lab. Entomology Professor Chris Williamson informed the group about insects in the nursery. Liesl Thomas from W & E Radtke discussed branding and how it works at her nursery. Mike Yanny commented that having 2 McCowns on the program (Liz Dunham is Brent & Deb's daughter) and Deb in the audience was great – "definitely some good genetics in that family!"



Brent McCown and Liz Dunham

Deb McCown

During lunch, Tom Bergen, Tom Buechel and Mike Gates presented an overview of McKay Nursery. Following lunch the group toured McKay, highlighting their production and propagation practices. They saw in action the cheese cloth softwood propagation method Mike Gates presented at the 2013 IPPS annual meeting. McKay is trialing a lot of things from direct sticking into #2 containers to cover cropping with a combination of radishes and clover. One attendee thought that the fiberglass tree stakes used by McKay looked like an improvement over the electrical conduits used in his nursery. The rooted cutting (*below right*) is a direct stick into a root maker pot, which is a type of root pruning pot. The picture shows the pruning that is done by the pot.





Tom Buechel, *in hat, left*, leads tour of McKay Nursery.

Thanks to the meeting organizers: Liz Dunham and Deb McCown of Knight Hollow Nursery and to McKay Nursery for generously hosting the meeting. Other sponsors included: Knight Hollow Nursery, Evergreen Nursery, Midwest Groundcovers, W & E Radtke, Johnson's Nursery and Chalet! Overall, a great day and a great meeting!