

The Horticultural Cream of the Crop in Columbus

A hard working and enthusiastic site committee put together a preconference tour that took us to the horticultural cream of the crop in Columbus, Ohio on September 25, 2015.



The first stop was Decker's Nursery which has predominantly shrubs in production. Ron Amos commented that "Decker's is on the leading edge of nifty innovation in mechanization." We saw container handling for spacing out that is faster than a robot and not so back breaking, among many other simple and cost effective ideas.

Next we went to Acorn Nursery, an impressive container nursery. Ben French said, "If I were a landscape contractor, I'd shop there!" Acorn generously had a free plant for us all and there were soft peat bales instead of the usual straw for the wagon tour. Much appreciated by the members who have been on bumpy wagon tours for three or four decades.



At Franklin Park Conservatory we donned white hard hats to enter the construction site of their new reception center. Beams from the former barn, which was a local landmark, have been incorporated into the new building. A young propagator was overheard to say, "It's hard to keep myself from putting seeds into my pockets!" Good to know this long-standing tradition continues at the IPPS conference!

The Ohio State University Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center conserves genetically-diverse herbaceous plant germplasm. Their goals are to acquire, document, maintain, characterize and distribute herbaceous ornamental genetic resources and associated information for conservation, and to enhance scientific research as well as the floriculture and nursery industry. Several members recognized the importance of their work to our industry and research.

