

A few subtle differences between New England and the rest of the Eastern Region of IPPS

By Dale Pierson, A True New Englander

IPPS ER First Vice President & 2016 Program Chair



As I am sure you are aware from various newsletter articles, hoopla in the green media and chatter among your friends and colleagues, the 2016 IPPS Eastern Region (New England) meeting is rapidly approaching. Perhaps you have already checked out flights, made your hotel reservations and spoken to your relatives in New England about extending your trip.

Here are a few reminders why this September 21-24 THE place to be is in Hartford, CT (a.k.a. New England). September, in my narrow mind, is the best time to visit. Most of the visitors have headed home, taking with them the last of the mosquitoes and fog and leaving behind near perfect temperatures, sunny days and cool dry nights. They leave behind some gifts for we New Englanders including quiet highways and byways and time for the residents to enjoy living and working in New England, before that *\$% winter returns.

New England is the true home of horticulture in North America. We have some of the great horticultural institutions including the Arnold Arboretum and Mt. Auburn Cemetery and Arboretum – both of which are Hartford pre-conference tour stops. New England is also home to some of oldest and most prestigious higher education institutions including Harvard, Bowdoin and UMass Lowell that are great places to visit featuring centuries old landscapes.

A Rebuttal to A True New Englander

By Brian Decker, A True Midwesterner

IPPS ER President & 2015 Program Chair



As current IPPS Eastern Region President and 2015 Program Committee Chairman, I felt it necessary to respond to comments made both during the recent IPPS Board Meeting and to comments in this issue of the newsletter that promotes the 2016 Annual conference in Hartford, CT. It would appear that there seems to be a little bit of “attitude” on the part of the East Coast members about how they stack up against last year’s incredible meeting in Cincinnati.

I would concede that the Hartford meeting is shaping up to be a great event. However, truth be told, as I was a conference call participant member of the most recent Conference Program Committee meeting, the progress towards a memorable annual conference is proceeding in spite of the “New England Members.” Rather than sling some of our “flat land mud” at the arrogance of the New England Nursery industry, I thought I might just expose some of the recording I made of the Committee meeting.

“Come to order please,” Chairman Dale Pierson commanded. “We have a lot of important IPPS work to do to plan the Program for the Hartford Meeting. Everybody grab a piece of paper and your favorite color of crayon and write down some topics, ideas and speakers.”

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to visit varied, unique and successful horticultural businesses including robust Prides Corner Farm, smaller but equally vibrant Summer Hill Nursery, Canterbury Horticulture, Broken Arrow Nursery, The Plant Group and Casertano's Greenhouses and Farms

Gone will be the endless rows of *Buxus* and weird little conifers being attached to perfectly good plants that are mutilated by seemingly respectable business owners who enjoy such torture instead of answering the phone. No visits to an old zoo, some place that has a lot of germs and big flat areas covered in corn and soy beans, I think they use for soy sauce and such. One more thing to be grateful for: no more accents to confuse you, just straight talk from people who know what they think and know what other people should think too.

All kidding aside, come to Hartford and enjoy the best the Northeast has to offer: New England in September. We guarantee you will have the opportunity to network with the best in the business, pick up a money or time-saving tip on a tour stop, ask your questions of the great speaker line-up and kick back with friends old and new and just maybe root for the Red Sox if they're not being bums in 2016.

See you in Hartford!

"Oh! I have an idea!" shouted Sebby Ruffino of Prides Corner Farms. "I saw on HGTV where you put a cutting of English Ivy in a glass of water and it will get roots!"

"Does that really work, Sebby?" asked Dale.

"I don't know," replied Sebby. "I always get thirsty, drink all the water, and the cuttings die."

"How about any other ideas folks? Come on, we have to come up with something to compare with the incredible program last year in Cincinnati."

"We could use a game of *Connecticut Keep Away* to demonstrate the concept of *gravity* to New England Horticulturalists," interjected Mike Emmons.

"Great idea Mike.....um, what is that game?" asked Dale.

"You give a Horticulturalist from New England a ball on the top of a mountain in Connecticut and watch them chase it all the way to the bottom. After a couple of rounds of the game the concept of gravity becomes clear."

"Just so we don't come up with anything too complex for the local members to handle. After all, these folks are not from the Midwest," Dale wisely interjected.

As you can see, it took a lot of not-so-subtle input from the Midwesterner on the phone to bring some sanity, purpose, and member value to the Annual Conference Program this September in Hartford. Please rest assured that the program and local tours will be almost as good as last year in Cincinnati. Perhaps some of us from one of the "flyover" states will bring a grafting knife and demonstrate how we attach "weird little plants" to other perfectly good plants. I know.....it is difficult for any group of people that would like the New England Patriots to grasp the concept of real plant propagation.

See You in Hartford!