

President's Welcoming Remarks®

Jim Johnson

Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 291 Morton Avenue, Millville, New Jersey 08332 U.S.A.

Welcome to the International Plant Propagators' Society's 53rd meeting of seeking and sharing. If members from other regions could please stand, I would also like to recognize those individuals who have made a bit longer of a trip to attend our annual meeting.

There are a number of individuals who have expended a great deal of energy and time to put this meeting together. I would like the Site Committee to please stand and I would like all of us to thank the Co-Chairs: Dale Pierson, Carol Lorenz, and Steve Effner, and their committee members; Roger Coggeshall, Evie King, Steve Jones, Ron Kujawski, Mike Maneri, Brian Maynard, Cathy Neal, and Chris Rogers. Thank you for your efforts. I would also like to thank Alan Jones, our 1st Vice-President and Program Committee Chair, and Tom Intven, our 2nd Vice-President and Poster Chair, for their efforts. We again have Dave Sanford and Scott Clark working the AV system and I thank them as well.

Since we last gathered, we have lost Leonard Stoltz, Professor Emeritus of the University of Kentucky, past President of the Eastern Region from 1983-84, a former editor from 1968-76, and a Fellow Award recipient. I ask a minute of silence in the memory of Leonard and others we have lost.

I would, at this time, like to recognize the Award of Merit recipients and the Fellow Award recipients. These are individuals that have made significant contributions to our Society. As the meeting progresses, please say hello and share in their wealth of knowledge.

A new initiative the Board has decided to start is that of having a mentor for all new members at their first annual meeting. At this time I would like the new members to stand and be recognized, and their mentors to also stand.

I would also like to recognize two individuals who have reminded us of the excitement and commitment that was shared by our Society's founders and continues to this day. College students Vince Hartman and Marcus Stevenson, from Pennsylvania, found out about this meeting on Tuesday of this week from their student advisor. After contacting Margo, and making some quick arrangements and coming without a hotel room reserved, they are here on this Thursday morning for the meeting. We welcome you both.

For the moderators, I request that the speakers please stick to their time slot, and I ask that each of us turn our cell phones and pagers to a silent mode.

I wish each of you a rewarding meeting as we begin "Thinking Beyond the Propagation Bench..."