

IPPS Award of Honor

Petrus Johannes (Hannes) Robbertse International Award of Honor, 2014



Hannes Robbertse was born on the 9th of October 1932 on a farm near Rustenburg in the old Transvaal (South Africa) where he was raised and where he matriculated at the Rustenburg High School in 1951. From 1952-1954 he enrolled as a B.Sc. student, majoring in Botany and Zoology at the University of Pretoria. He also simultaneously enrolled as a student at the Pretoria Teachers' Training College. From 1955-1956 he was appointed as Technical Assistant in the Department of Botany, University of Pretoria, while enrolled as an M.Sc. student. From 1957-1963 he was appointed as Professional Officer in the Department of Agriculture where he was in charge of the seed purity

laboratory, as well as the seed germination laboratory in South Africa.

As for Hannes Robbertse's passion and love for South Africa's indigenous plants, he assisted with the planning, construction and maintenance of the botanical garden of the University of Pretoria (1966-1968 and 1972-1993) and the campus garden of the University of Port Elizabeth (1970-1972). He also consulted and gave physical assistance with the planning and construction of the botanical garden of Sasolburg in 1968.

From 1964-1968 he was appointed as Lecturer in the Botany Dept. at the University of Pretoria, where he simultaneously enrolled as a DSc student. From 1969-1970 he was appointed as Senior Lecturer in the Dept. of Botany at the University of Fort Hare and from 1971-1972 appointed as Senior Lecturer in the Dept. of Botany, University of Port Elizabeth where he obtained a DSc degree in 1971.

From 1972-1993 he was Professor in the Dept. of Botany at the University of Pretoria, occupying the Louis Botha Chair of Botany. He became Director of the Margaretha Mes Institute for Seed Research in 1980, resigned as Director of the Institute in 1987, but stayed on as Deputy Director when he retired in December 1993. From 1994-2003 he stayed on as Professor in the Department of Plant

Production and Soil Science, lecturing undergraduate and post graduate students in Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Production and Plant Propagation.

Hannes Robbertse has been actively involved in teaching students throughout his whole career. Even after retiring, from 2003-2005, Hannes Robbertse lectured tunnel production and open field production of vegetables to disadvantaged students for 17 Shaft Co. close to Soweto, using Agriseta governmental programmes. He was also actively involved in writing modules on plant production for Agriseta and continued with guiding post graduate students in Horticulture.

From 2006 to present, Hannes Robbertse, is an Emeritus Professor, supervising post graduate students and performing research on a contract basis in the Department of Plant Production and Soil Science, University of Pretoria. He has graduated 38 MSc and 16 PhD students successfully and with his inquisitive mind he still has post graduate students under his co- supervision. He is also supervising the Tissue Culture laboratory on a temporary basis. His main fields of research at present are reproductive biology of flowering plants (structure and functioning of reproductive parts, pollination, fruit set and fruit development); general plant structure and function; and "Tissue culture".

Hannes Robbertse was elected as President of the International Plant Propagator's Society, South African Potential Region from 1999-2001. In 1999 he was one of the South African representatives at IPPS tour/conference in USA from 21 September - 6 October 1999. During that year he was a key role player in establishing and creating the awareness of this Society in Southern Africa. He served as Past President from 2000-2002. Hannes Robbertse was also a committee member from 1998-2004, with several papers published in the IPPS Combined Proceedings. He is now an active member, attending conferences and supporting students, where students take part in presenting papers and attending workshops. Previously, he was also President of the Cycad Society of South Africa from 1994-1997.

During his career he has been actively involved in promoting plant propagation, sharing his passion for the reproductive biology of plants. He has given numerous popular talks about trees for the garden' to horticultural clubs, botanical clubs and schools and he lectured part of a special Ecology course for 10 years to students majoring in Landscape Architecture.

During Hannes Robbertse's academic career, he presented 140 papers at conferences, is author or co-author of 116 papers published in subsidised, scientific journals, author or co- author of 56 papers published in scientific periodicals and 29 popular scientific papers. In terms of books, he is co-author of, 'Plantkunde: Anatomie en Fisiologie'; author in 2 chapters in books on "Production of Avocados" and "Production of Mangoes", co-author of one chapter in the book on "Flower Development" and co-author of "Cultivation of Clivias".

He also contributed to the reading of, and suggesting alterations to, manuscripts of the following books: "Bome Struike en Rankplante" by T.J.Kruger (1973);

"Cycads of southern Africa" by Cynthea Giddy (1974); "Trees of the Kruger National Park" by P. van Wyk (1974); "Die Broodboomtuin van Unisa" by B.P.Barkhuizen (1975).

For his longstanding dedication to the field of Botany and Horticultural Science, including plant propagation, for his altruistic mentorship to generations of plant propagationists in South Africa, as well as his leadership and dedicated service to the IPPS Southern Africa Region, we nominate Petrus Johannes (Hannes) Robbertse for the International Award of Honour from the International Plant Propagator's Society.

IPPS Award of Honor

Mike Evans

International Award of Honor, 2013

Mike Evans - Co-Owner and President, Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano, California

Mike Evans was born and raised in southern California and demonstrated an early love for the outdoors. He worked with several nurseries both retail and wholesale, before establishing his own nursery business. Tree of Life Nursery was founded by Mike Evans in San Juan Capistrano, California in 1976. Tree of Life began as a wholesale nursery/landscape contracting firm propagating and growing California native plants and specializing in authentic garden design for southern California, as licensed contractors. In 1981, a partnership was formalized between Mike Evans and Jeff Bohn. At that time the contractor's license status was changed to "inactive" and the company is no longer in the contracting business. In 1986, the nursery moved from a 4-acre leasehold on the Lacouague Ranch in San Juan Capistrano to its current location on Rancho Mission Viejo. In 2001, the company was incorporated in the state of California. The entire focus since 1981 has been propagation, production and wholesale supply of California native plants for landscape and ecological restoration.

Mike has been involved in water conservation during the 1980's as a founding member of the Xeriscape committee through Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He received the Xeriscape Award in 1986. In addition, he has been active in the California Native Plant Society, the California Botanical Society, and The Nature Conservancy. He served on the horticultural committee for The Jepson Manual project, the definitive California flora published in 1993.

Mike is one of the original board members on the Richard and Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy in San Juan Capistrano. He also serves as President of the Board for the Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens in San Clemente, and formerly the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society. Mike is Chairman of the Board for the Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo, a 20,000-acre land conservancy in Orange County, California.

With his experience in native plant production, design, landscaping, and ecological restoration, Mike Evans advocates a present-day California that deserves to look like the true "California." Mike often is called on to write or lecture on the subject. His hobbies include hiking, surfing, photography, music, reading and writing. He serves as pastor of a Spanish language Christian church in San Juan Capistrano.

Mike Evans is a California Certified Nurseryman and Tree of Life has been an active member of the California Association of Nurserymen (C.A.N.) since 1976. He has served on the C.A.N. Research Committee and the Environmental Resource Management Subcommittee. Tree of Life Nursery is a founding

member of the National Wildflower Research Center based in Austin, Texas. Mike is affiliated with numerous conservation, horticultural and botanical organizations.

IPPS Award of Honor

Dr. Yasuaki Takeda International Award of Honor, 2012

Dr. Yasuaki Takeda was selected to receive the 2012 International Award of Honor from the Board of Directors of the International Plant Propagators' Society. He has been a member of the IPPS Japan Region since 1995 when the Region was established.

Professor Takeda is one of the pioneers in the field of shoot tip culture for the virus elimination of carnation and strawberry. He did basic research work in this field and extended the techniques to the practical propagation of horticultural plants. As Professor at the Department of Agriculture, Nihon University, and the Faculty of Agriculture, Kyoto University, he devoted much energy for the education of the young generation. After retirement from the University, he established the private institute, Ohmi Flori-Science Institute, to extend horticultural knowledge and practices to the nurseries and amateur horticulturalists.

Since the establishment of the IPPS Japan, Professor Takeda has been a member of the Executive Committee of the region. His role as a historian is very important in maintaining the activities of the region. He was the president of Japan Region for two terms from 1999 to 2001. He organized the 4th annual conference in Kanagawa prefecture and the 16th annual conference in Shiga prefecture. In addition, he was one of the organizing committee members for the International Board Meeting held in Japan in 2004 as well as in 2012. His leadership roles in the Japan Region are very important and useful in promoting activities of IPPS Japan.

Professor Takeda has a wide circle of acquaintance since he has had a rich career as professor at universities, a researcher in the prefectural research institute, and the manager of private nursery companies. He recruited more members through his experience. He was recognized as a talented president, which was critical to the further development of the Region

IPPS Award of Honor

Kevin Handreck International Award of Honor, 2011

Kevin Handreck was selected to receive the 2011 International Award of Honor from the Board of Directors of the International Plant Propagators' Society. He is a member of the Australian Region.

Kevin Handreck is one who fits this category precisely, with his extensive training that led to a long working career as a soil scientist with the Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Organization (CSIRO), he continues his activities as a private consultant following his retirement.

Kevin has a gift of explaining in simple layman's terms complex soil and media related issues that concern growers. His books and published papers have been read by many nursery people, first in Australia and now around the world, so much so that his book, "Growing Media," written in association with Neil Black, has become an essential tool of all plant growers.

Kevin Handreck joined the Society in 1986 serving on the Australian Board from 1990 to 1992 as Editor, 1993 as second Vice President, 1994 as Vice President, 1995 as President and then 1996 as International Director representing the Australian Region, he was convenor of the very successful 1995 Conference in Hahndorf, South Australia. From the mid eighties to his semi retirement in the late nineties, Kevin was presenting a paper or workshop at every conference; he was the recipient of the Australian Award of Honour in 1997.

Kevin's contribution to the Society over his 21 years of membership has been outstanding and he has placed challenges and solutions before us in many practical sessions and papers. His presentations to IPPS meetings have been prolific including:

- 1984. Ensuring an adequate supply of Sulphur to plants in containers.
- 1988. A Standard for Potting mixes.
- 1990. Phosphorus and Iron effects on the early growth of some Australian native plants.
- 1992. Assessment of wetting agents used in Nurseries.
- 1994. How much Potassium do flowering plants growing in soilless media really need?
- 1995. Testing prevents diseases.
- 1996. Co-author for- Effects of saline irrigation water on the production of nursery crops on capillary sand beds.
- 2003. pH and Alkalinity are not the same.
- 2004. Media properties.

In many of the non-presenting years he has staged workshops or demonstrations on such practical aspects as air filled porosity, field capacity, measuring pH and a

range of other topics. He was also a major contributor to our conference question box with answers to many of the perennial media related problems facing modern growers.

His presentation in 1988 was a seminal moment in the progress of the nursery industry in Australia. Kevin was responsible for drafting a full set of guidelines that were adopted by the industry in the form of an Australian Standard for potting mix and for the first time, the industry had a reference point to work from. It did not take too long before all of the major potting media production companies saw the commercial sense of meeting an accepted standard. Kevin's leadership in helping formulate these standards was outstanding and the Australian Nursery Industry has benefited accordingly, it also placed Australia as a world leader in this field.

Kevin is seen as a doyen of the Australian industry but has never been seen as a person that is removed from growers. Many new IPPS members would talk to Kevin with a sense of awe but were surprised that this person would spend time discussing their issues. Yet to Kevin it was simply in his nature and he has spent many conference tea and lunch breaks explaining the finer points of getting the best from a growing medium. His readiness to discuss one on one with a member's specific propagation problems through the conferences he attends, typifies the spirit of our Society's motto "To seek and to Share".

IPPS Award of Honor

Dale Deppe

International Award of Honor, 2010



Dale Deppe was selected to receive the 2010 International Award of Honor from the Board of Directors of the International Plant Propagators' Society. He is a member of the Eastern Region of North America.

Dale's horticultural career began at the age of 14, working for \$0.25 cents an hour planting onions. Always finding a way to maximize his return on investment, he soon moved to ornamental horticulture

when he learned that a local nursery was paying \$1.00 an hour. It was while working for the local nursery that his passion for ornamental plants and the nursery industry was realized.

After graduating from Michigan State University, he worked as the Propagation Manager for Zelenka Nursery for 12 years. In 1981, he and his wife, Liz, started their own nursery with 20 acres of land, two young kids and a lot of enthusiasm. It started with one homemade Quonset house, and within the first few years of operation he was able to double the size of the operation.

Spring Meadow Nursery is now a world market leader in new and exciting flowering potted liner shrubs. The nursery has state-of-the-art propagation facilities including retractable roof greenhouses, flood floor irrigation, high pressure fog systems, traveling booms, bottom heat floors and computerized controls. Over 35 acres of established stock plants serve as the source of true to name cultivars from around the world and a trialing area for potential introductions. Their best new varieties are introduced and marketed under the Proven Winners® "ColorChoice®" brand.

A consistent leader in the nursery industry in both state and national nursery associations, leadership positions have included his service as President of the Horticultural Research Institute in 2006. He has shared his knowledge with his peers as a speaker at trade shows, workshops, area and annual IPPS Eastern Region meetings as well as writing for trade journals and magazines. His diligent work resulted in recognition as 2003 Nursery Grower of the Year by Nursery Manager Pro Magazine. Dale's method of identifying and marketing new plant material has made his nursery one of the largest providers of proprietary plant materials in the country.

Dale joined the IPPS Eastern Region in 1971. He is a Past President of the Eastern Region (2000) and served at the International level as Alternate International Director (2003-2004) and International Director (2005-2006). His service to the Eastern Region of IPPS has been extraordinary having served on the Membership Committee during 1986 and 1987, the Award of Merit Committee from 1993 to 1995, the Fellow Recognition Committee from 1996 through 1998, and the Evaluation Committee from 1994 to 1995 and again from 1997 through 2001. He was also active on Local Site Committees in 1993 and 2006, on Program Committees in 1995, as chairman in 1999 and again in 2001. He served on the Nominating Committee from 1999 through 2001, and Long Range Planning Committees in 1991, 1992, in 1995 and 1996 and also in 2001. Dale also served on the Executive Committee as Eastern Region 1st Vice President in 1999, as Eastern Region 2nd Vice President in 1998 and as a member of the Eastern Region Board of Directors from 1993 through 1995. He was also heavily involved in the establishment of the IPPS Eastern Region Foundation. He served as its first Executive Director and continues to serve as a Director on the Foundation's Board. He was named a Fellow of the Eastern Region in 1999 and in 2008 received the highest honor the region bestows on its members, the Award of Merit.

Dale has had outstanding accomplishments in the field of plant propagation and promotion. He has also provided exceptional and distinguished service to the International Plant Propagators' Society's Eastern Region of North America and has served with distinction on the International Board of Directors. Dale's professional life has been a living example of the IPPS motto "To Seek and to Share".

IPPS Award of Honor

David Hutchinson

International Award of Honor, 2009



International President, Regional President, Conference and Tour organizer, Expansion coordinator and regional committee member.

Many years ago David Hutchinson attended his first IPPS conference in Cannington, Somerset. He immediately recognized the openness of members, the potential this had for the advancement of plant production

knowledge, and how well the motto “Seek and Share” matched his personal philosophy. He has been a very active member ever since, as a committee member, Regional President, International President, tour organizer and expansion coordinator. As he travels throughout Europe his standard attire is an IPPS sweatshirt. When application forms are received at the GB&I office they have a space asking potential members how they became aware of IPPS, - the name Dave Hutchinson occurs regularly. He will encourage them to attend area meetings and conferences, introduce them to like minded people and get them involved. He has been a genuine friend and valued mentor to generations of propagators and growers. His knowledge and advice has contributed greatly to the success of many nurseries, both large and small.

He joined the GB&I committee in 1988 and continued on it until 2001, by which time he had held a number of important positions, as detailed above. He organized the first IPPS conference in mainland Europe at Angers, France in 1992 with speakers from ten countries and delegates from even more. Two coaches of delegates travelled from England with nursery visits en route. Typical of Dave and his meticulous planning was the way that he drove the route in advance, by car but travelling at coach speed to ensure the busy schedule he proposed was actually achievable. The ten-course banquet in an ancient chateau is still talked about by those that were there. He worked hard for several years as IPPS European Expansion coordinator, building many contacts by writing to and visiting prominent growers and academics, presenting papers and inviting them to our conferences. Exchange rates and language difficulties presented large obstacles but Dave’s efforts were rewarded with pockets of membership initiated in several countries.

Dave represented GB&I on the International Board and went on to serve with distinction as International President in 2002. Together with Dennis Fordham he organized an intensive tour of Southern England for the International Board, taking in nurseries, gardens and sights of interest from London to Plymouth.

They had also organized the International Board pre-conference tour in 1995, travelling from London to Harrogate with equal success.

It is difficult to categorize David Hutchinson's contributions to successful plant propagation. As one of the leading Horticultural Consultants in the U.K., advising leading growers over a wide area, his professional services are in great demand, but he is always willing to share his knowledge without reward at IPPS area meetings, conferences or workshops. To Dave, seeking and sharing is just a way of life, the only one he knows.

Biography and CV

David Hutchinson was born in Holbeach St. Matthew, a small village in South Lincolnshire, England, a traditional centre for intensive horticultural production. He attended Sir John Gleed Boys School in Spalding until 1956 when he began work on the local nursery of F.B.Hanson. From 1957 to 1959 he studied at the Isle of Ely College, Wisbech. One of his placements at this time was on the nursery of J. Arthur Bowers, the compost pioneer, which has led to David's lifetime interest in growing media and current development work with compost tea.

After college he worked for a year for J. T. White and Co., a major bulb and flower nursery, before moving south to work at Fernhurst, the ICI Plant Protection research station. He was there from 1960 to 1965, working with the new products and methods of the period. Chemicals under trial included paraquat and Ambush C. Six-foot vegetable beds were a new idea as were polythene tunnels. From 1965 to 1966 he worked for Parigo Horticultural Co. before joining NAAS as a Horticultural Assistant. NAAS was the government-run National Agricultural Advisory Service. He was based at their office in Winchester, Hampshire where he met Marion, later to become Mrs. Hutchinson. During this time he continued his studies and passed his National Diploma in Horticulture, which allowed him to progress to become an advisor 1969.

NAAS became ADAS, (Agriculture Development and Advisory Service) whilst he was working as an advisor in the Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire area. Dave has seen many changes as he progressed to become Senior Nursery Stock Consultant. ADAS was privatized several years ago, and a service that was previously free to growers became chargeable. Despite this Dave is still in great demand as his advice is highly valued and respected.

He has presented papers at IPPS conferences in three different regions and has made a big impact by his presence on various International tours. Though a modest person he is very outgoing and generates discussion and knowledge sharing wherever he goes. He takes copious notes and photographs, his questions are always respectful but often incisive and he is a great plantsman.

He has organized grower discussion groups, and was active in the formation of the British Heather Growers Association in 1986. He has helped install quality assurance regimes with several growers, helping them gain BOPP, Eurepgap and

ISO 9000 qualifications but what has probably been his most outstanding contribution to horticultural development has been carried on in a much less formal manner. "Hutchtours" are renowned throughout the GB&I region. The first ones were probably when Dave took members of Hampshire Growers discussion group to see other sites in neighboring counties. This developed with visits in all directions and participants from all parts. Some trips take in nurseries and gardens; others have been to trade shows in various European cities, with nursery visits en route. Hotels are chosen by how early they serve breakfast, daylight hours are dedicated to horticulture, as many hours as possible, and darkness hours may offer socializing time for those with stamina. There are several key ingredients to the success of these tours. One is the number of hosts that hold David Hutchinson in such high regard that any friend of his is a friend of theirs and will be made welcome. Another is the thorough preparation that ensures that despite driver regulations and traffic issues everything always goes to plan. Dave's own energy and enthusiasm is infectious and keeps everyone in a positive mood. Long before networking became fashionable Hutchtours were the catalyst that brought people together, knowledge was shared; lasting friendships were made along with valuable business contacts. Participants finish a tour exhausted but stimulated. They will have identified opportunities to improve their own nurseries and will be looking forward to the next trip.

Personal qualities

Whether he is working as an Adviser with the Managing Director of a large firm or tackling grass roots problems with the propagation squad he has a talent for gathering information, identifying possible causes and suggesting solutions. His genuinely friendly manner and polite, tactful way of offering constructive advice makes him a valuable team member on many nurseries. Because he regularly visits so many nurseries he is well aware of current industry problems and is able to make growers aware in time to nip problems in the bud. He is a regular contributor to ADAS monthly notes, which warn subscribers of seasonal tasks and current pest and disease issues. He works with the Horticultural Development Council (the UK's grower-levy-funded R&D provider) on some of their projects and because he has good grower contacts he is able to keep the focus on achievable trials that will have genuine benefits. Over the years he has written many leaflets on disease control and crop production; and spoken at countless seminars, open days and workshops.

He is renowned for his enthusiasm and energy. Now in his sixties he still works long days, travels long distances and keeps up communication with contacts worldwide. His dedication to IPPS is still as strong, with a tour to Denmark in the pipeline for summer 2008.

He is a keen photographer and interested in wildlife, but his focus on horticulture leaves little time for hobbies. He has considerably extended his home over the years, undertaking most of the building tasks himself, but progress is slow sometimes because his horticultural commitments always take priority.

David Hutchinson was awarded the G.B. and I. Rosebowl Award in 1995 to recognize his contributions to IPPS and horticulture in our Region. He has continued to give exceptional and distinguished service to our society and our industry worldwide, and is a worthy recipient of the International Award of Honor.

Eddie Welsh, 2008 IPPS Award of Honor

Thomas Edward “Eddie” Welsh International Award of Honor, 2008



Thomas Edward Welsh, best known in IPPS as Eddie Welsh, received the 2009 International Award of Honor at the May 2008 meeting of the New Zealand Region in Auckland, New Zealand. The award recognizes individuals who have given exceptional and distinguished service to IPPS and who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in the field of plant propagation.

Eddie is the owner/operator of a nursery just outside Palmerston North, known as Starter Plants. He and his wife, Jan, have focused on growing open ground plants for the New Zealand market and for export. The business allowed him to propagate and sell a variety of specimen plants known best in Japan for introduction to New Zealand as well as for export to the United States and Japan. Eddie was also a pioneer in bringing exotic crops back to New Zealand, and he has become a world leader in propagation of the exciting tropical plant, *Eucomis*. His nursery also produces eco-sourced natives for revegetation projects.

Eddie came to New Zealand in the mid-1970s, enrolling in Massey University and marrying his wife, Jan, with help from his mentor, Murray Richards, a well-known leader in the New Zealand nursery industry. In 1980 he was appointed to a faculty position at Massey University, and quickly became well-known for his knowledge, practical nature, and friendly personality, gaining respect and fond memories from his students over the next 18 years.

While at Massey, Eddie's interest in bedding plants and his need to engage his students in practical application of their horticultural knowledge led him to develop the Massey University bedding plant trials. These trials became an annual event, drawing growers from all over the country to see new varieties and how they performed in in-ground trials, and the trial grounds were an important tool for the industry.

Eddie was exposed to IPPS and attended his first conference in New Zealand in 1980. He assisted in his first IPPS field trip in Palmerston North in 1981, organizing not only the visits but the evening meal, indulging a favorite interest

of his and Jan's – the preparation of wholesome foods from the bounty of the land. In 1981, Eddie was elected to the New Zealand Executive Committee and gave service through many positions, including two years as President in 1986/87 and 1987/88. He was named to represent New Zealand on the International Board of Directors, serving as Alternate Director, Director, and eventually International President of the Society in 1994. The New Zealand Region honored Eddie with its Award of Merit in 1995.

During the late 1980s, the IPPS Japan Region was forming and Eddie traveled often to Japan, making many friends, hosting many students and horticultural tour groups back in New Zealand. He arranged a number of international exchanges for his students with Japanese, Thai, and Philippine nursery people. His contact with those countries later opened doors for his business ventures.

In 2005, Eddie was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, a shock to him, his family, and the New Zealand industry. However, despite poor health, Eddie remained positive and persistent in his treatments, and has made a remarkable recovery. He continues to serve as a guiding light for young people, as well as for his colleagues in IPPS and the nursery industry. His genuine caring for plants and people, and undaunted passion to learn, help, and inspire led to his nomination for the 2008 International Award of Honor.

IPPS Award of Honor

Richard E. Bir

International Award of Honor, 2007



Richard E. 'Dick' Bir, of Brevard, North Carolina, received the International Plant Propagators' Society (I.P.P.S.) Award of Honour from the International Board of Directors. The award was presented in Denver, Colorado during the joint annual meeting of the Eastern and Western Regions of IPPS in September. The award recognizes individuals who have given exceptional and distinguished service to I.P.P.S. and achieved outstanding accomplishments in the field of

plant propagation. Bir stated he was "honored beyond my capacity to express in words" by the award.

Bir was nominated for his accomplishments in the field of horticulture and his willingness and desire to share his knowledge with others. His thousands of presentations, workshops, and articles have been a valuable resource to all in the horticultural community, from homeowners, to nurserymen to landscapers to academics.

Bir has presented papers and posters at regional IPPS meetings and served tirelessly on numerous different committees over the years since joining the Society in 1985. He served on the Eastern Region Board of Directors from 1996-98 and as an officer from 2000-2003. He was named a Fellow of the IPPS Eastern Region in 1995 and was given the region's highest award, the Award of Merit, in 2000.

For twenty-five years Dick Bir was Extension Nursery Specialist with the Department of Horticultural Science at NC State University. For seven years before moving to the mountains and NC State, he worked as a Horticultural Extension Agent for the University of Florida despite having been born, raised and formally educated in the northeastern U.S. In both jobs he devoted himself to helping the nursery and landscape industries find better ways to grow plants as well as promoting conservation interests.

Bir published hundreds of articles, many of which discussed his often practical research. He published in areas of plant propagation, soils and media, plant nutrition, winter protection, plant pathology, climate response, and cultivar/species trials in publications such as HortTechnology, American

Nurserymen, NMPRO, Fine Gardening, American Gardener, Horticulture, and Carolina Gardener. He presented hundreds of invited lectures across the United States and beyond as well as served as a leader in the horticultural world. Dick's research was frequently conducted in collaboration with those in diverse disciplines, bringing their expertise to assist the nursery industry.

Bir was instrumental in the development of the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference which started in 1984, held annually in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Another major contribution to the promotion of native plants was Bir's book, *Growing and Propagating Showy Native Woody Plants* (UNC Press, 1992). This publication addressed the pressing need for native plant production information.

Bir's awards are numerous. Among the most meaningful awards to him are those from IPPS, the North Carolina Association of Nurserymen, Southern Nursery Association, American Nursery and Landscape Association, and the Scott Award from Swarthmore College. Since his retirement from North Carolina State University in 2004 he has continued to lecture, write and consult. He is a regular attendee at the Eastern Region annual meetings. Dick Bir's career has exemplified the IPPS motto of "to seek and to share", earning him a place of respect among fellow IPPS members and his industry peers.

IPPS Award of Honor

Jørgen H. Selchau International Award of Honor, 2006

Jørgen H. Selchau with the IPPS Award of HonorJørgen H. Selchau has been the director of licensing and patent advocate for the firm of GPL International in Denmark, specializing in helping growers and breeders of horticultural plants obtain and manage the patents and licenses on their plant material.

Jørgen has also played a very significant role in international breeding organizations, where he has been a member of the leadership and served as secretary of the Scandinavian branch of the International Plant Propagator's Society.

In connection with IPPS meetings, Jørgen has given several lectures and authored papers for the proceedings about the very complicated patent laws and regulations. He has also been active in preparing two international board meetings and concomitant excursions.

Jørgen has been a member of the Scandinavian Region since its establishment and has served in all possible offices of the regional board. Furthermore, he has served as regional president for at least two terms. He has done this to the best of his ability, which is overwhelming. He has also served as international director for IPPS and was instrumental in establishing the South African region, and helping them attain full status as an independent region.