

Longwood Gardens IPPS Area Meeting Speakers

Alan Petravich is the Senior Gardener in research at Longwood Gardens. His work deals with a large variety of plants both under glass and in the nursery. He received a B.S. in biology from Penn State University with an emphasis on botany and a minor in theater. Alan completed a M.S. in ornamental horticulture at Penn State. He was a grower for Trail Gardens inc. Pottsville, Pa. before joining the staff at Longwood. Alan's talk is: ***Clivia Breeding at Longwood.***

Matt Taylor is the Research Horticulturist at Longwood Gardens. He obtained a B.S. in Horticulture from Penn State University, a M.S. degree in Horticulture Science from The University of Florida and a PhD in Horticulture Science from North Carolina State University. The focus of Matt's graduate degrees was plant nutrition and soil science. In addition to academics, Matt has participated in two international internships. The first was at a tomato production greenhouse in The Netherlands and in the second, he conducted plant nutrition research at Weihenstephan University in Germany. He has also been a grower for Dan Schantz Farm and Greenhouses in Zionsville, PA and was the head grower for Woodring's Greenhouses in Bellefonte, PA. Matt's talk will be: ***Compost Production & Use at Longwood Gardens.***

Tony Aiello is the curator and director of horticulture at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. Previously, he was the Curator of Woody Plants for Chicago Botanic Garden. He graduated from Cornell University and earned a Master of Science degree in Horticulture from Purdue University. Tony has participated in four plant exploration trips. Tony will discuss: ***Plant Collecting with a Purpose – Exploration in the 21st Century.***

Dr. James Harbage is Research and Production Leader at Longwood Gardens. He received BS and MSc degrees in horticulture from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D in horticulture, with a minor in botany, from the University of Wisconsin. He was Associate Professor of Horticulture at South Dakota State University for six years before coming to Longwood in 2000. He currently oversees plant: production, research, and information management efforts at Longwood Gardens. Jim's research efforts have focused on plant propagation and tissue culture, plant response to cold stress, and new plant development. Jim's presentation is: ***Dealing with Virused Cannas – How Propagation Can Help.***

Rick J. Lewandowski is director of Mt. Cuba Center, where he oversees institutional planning, garden development, conservation, educational, and research program development for the 650 acre property in Greenville Delaware. He actively explores and studies plant habitats throughout the eastern and southeastern United States in order to enrich the gardens of Mt. Cuba Center with documented, wild collected, seed-propagated plants and to conserve plant genetic diversity for future generation. This field work also supports Mt. Cuba center's mission to promote and develop better native plants for landscape use. During his professional career Rick has participated in several international plant exploration trips, collaborative research efforts and conducted medicinal plant research with pharmaceutical industry. He frequently speaks regionally and nationally to amateur and professional audiences about plants, garden design, plant exploration, plant conservation, and other environmental topics. He has edited books, authored numerous articles and currently writes a monthly column for the Wilmington News Journal entitled "Nature's Landscapes". Rick's talk is titled: ***In Search of Winners: Tapping Native Plant Diversity for the Garden.***

Bill Barnes has a BA in Biology from the University of South Florida in 1977. He has been an IPPS member for 29 years. Bill has been in the nursery business for 33 years and has been the owner of Barnes Horticultural Services for 14 years. Barnes Horticultural Services is a wholesale tree, shrub, and perennial producer. He is currently the IPPS Eastern Region, North American Past President. In addition, he is an industry consultant and wholesale seed dealer. Bill's talk is titled: ***Fast Forward 25-50 Years: Great Expectations***