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The 2005 Gainesville Florida Meeting of the IPPS Southern Region of North America[®]

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WELCOME TO GAINESVILLE

As Local Site Chair, I want to review the 30th Annual Meeting of the IPPS Southern Region of North America, which will be held 23–26 Oct. 2005 in Gainesville, Florida. Gainesville is a college town in North Central Florida and home of the University of Florida Fighting Gators. It sits 70 miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean and 53 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. We're 2 hours from Tallahassee, Orlando, and Tampa, and 90 min from Jacksonville. Ocala is just 35 miles south of us.

Alachua County is an area of rolling hills, giant moss-draped live oaks, tall loblolly pines, hay fields, lakes, and rivers. We've got cows and horse farms, corn and watermelon fields, and we have students — lots of them — with over 50,000 at the University of Florida alone.

Because we are a young vibrant community, there are many things to do in Gainesville. You can tube the Ichetucknee River, scuba dive in underwater caves at Ginnie Springs, sail or fish on Newnan's Lake, hike or bike the San Felasco Hammock, kayak down the Sante Fe River, see a performance at the Hippodrome State Theater, watch the Gatornationals at the Gainesville Raceway, view an art exhibit at the Harn Museum, or feed the alligators at Lake Alice.

Our host hotel is the University Conference Center. It is a Hilton Hotel right across from campus and is a first rate facility. Parking is free, and the hotel room rate will be \$92 per night. The Environmental Horticulture Greenhouses, Natural History Museum, and Art Museum are all within walking distance.

Like most college towns, we have people here from all over the world. And so, there are many fine restaurants in Gainesville with every type of cuisine imag-

inable. Hundreds of dining places exist within 2 miles of the hotel, especially on nearby Archer and Newberry Roads. And if you want to sample our night life, bars and nightclubs abound in the recently renovated downtown area.

Flying in to town is easier now that we have four carriers with service to the Gainesville Regional Airport. Gainesville is serviced by Delta from Atlanta, Northwest from Memphis, Continental from Miami or Tampa, and USAir from Charlotte, North Carolina. Delta is our official carrier and offers a discounted price for IPPS members. Avis will be our official rent-a-car company.

We hope that you will drive in for this meeting and take extra time to visit Florida and to stop at IPPS member nurseries along the way. With enough interest, it may be possible to organize a pre-pre-conference tour along the Interstate 10 corridor from Quincy to Cairo to Monticello for those driving in from the west on Saturday.

Gainesville is easily accessible by car from any direction. The city is bisected by Interstate 75, Highway 441, and State Road 26, and lies just 45 miles south of Interstate 10. Interstate 95 and Highway 301 run not far to the east.

Another good reason to drive will be to bring lots of plants for our auction, which I'm hoping will be the biggest and best in IPPS history.

HERE'S A BREAKDOWN OF THE TOURS WE HAVE PLANNED FOR 2005

Sunday Pre-Conference Tour — Jacksonville.

Hatchett Creek Nursery. Located just past the Gainesville Airport, Hatchett Creek sits on 100 acres of land. The owner, George Griffith, started the nursery in 1976. He changed focus and began specializing in the propagation of herbaceous and tropical plants in 1989. Hatchett Creek now processes 6 million cuttings per year inside 3 acres of modern state-of-the-art greenhouses. The propagation facility ships rooted liners of 300 different colors and varieties of plants from Hawaii to Bermuda and from Canada to Curacao. The Solar Series of Coleus was one of Hatchett Creek's introductions.

Trail Ridge Nursery. Trail Ridge is a grower of trees in large containers and is located a short distance away in Keystone Heights. Bob Byrnes, one of IPPS's most knowledgeable tree authorities, founded the nursery in 1980, and with the help of Tim Ganley has been expanding ever since. Trail Ridge markets trees in 15-gal up to 65-gal pots, selling regionally within a 100 mile radius. Most of the larger trees are grown using Florida Cool Rings. All the work on their 30-acre nursery is performed by just six employees.

Shadowlawn Nursery. Shadowlawn, a division of the Reinhold Corporation, is located in Penney Farms, just south of Jacksonville. It was established in 1986. Manager Brent Reeves will show us around the 500-acre facility that raises large trees in the ground. Shadowlawn is the "Home of the Cathedral Oak", and we'll see lots of them there. The nursery will be preparing us a barbecue lunch by their lake.

Glen St. Mary Nurseries, Inc. Glen St. Mary Nursery was started in 1882 by George Lynley Taber I. Lyn Taber III and wife Maggie will entertain us at their 900-acre farm. The multi-generational nursery has 60 acres under irrigation and grows woody ornamentals, bamboo, palms, ground covers and trees in pots ranging in size from 1 gal up to 15 gal. Over the last 122 years, the Glen has introduced or popularized many plants including *Pittosporum* 'Glen Special', *Rhododendron* 'Taber', *Elaeagnus* 'Glen Saint Mary Compact', *Ilex* \times *attenuata* 'East Palatka', and

Cornus kousa 'Weaver'. After touring the bamboo collection, we will be enjoying a special feast on the lawn in front of Lyn and Maggie's 1882 house, Lynwood. Wild game and tasty cracker-style food will be on the menu at the Taber's famous Road Kill Soiree, so please make sure to come in early for the Pre-conference Tour.

Monday Tour — Gainesville and the University of Florida.

Grandiflora. Formerly San Felasco Nurseries, Grandiflora is a 106-acre grower and re-wholesaler of a wide variety of different plants including annuals, herbs, perennials, ground covers, vines, shrubs, trees, topiaries, aquatics, ornamental grasses, and palms. The catalogue has 60 pages of listings, and the computer inventory program contains over 6000 separate product varieties, colors, and sizes. Grandiflora sells to landscapers and independent garden centers in seven southeastern states, as well as to government entities, developers, golf courses, and theme parks like Disney World, Busch Gardens, and Universal Studios. Perennial color is our specialty, and we will be branding our flowering plants in the future as "Grandiflora Grown".

Chestnut Hill Nursery. Just down the road on the way to Alachua, Chestnut Hill started as a fruit tree producer in 1983, specializing in persimmons and chestnuts. In recent years, owners Bob Wallace, Debbie Gaw, and Carl Sherman have added ornamental flowering trees grown from 3- to 30-gal containers to their product mix of low-chill fruit trees for the southeast. Now Magnolias, flowering cherries, and cathedral oaks grow side-by-side with peaches, pears, nectarines, plums, and apples on the 100+ acres of orchards and production space. Propagator Christine McCoy and 34 other employees keep the nursery well stocked, and are kept busy grafting and budding each spring.

University of Florida Fifield Hall Complex. At the Environmental Horticulture Department's greenhouses, we will view their current research in both Floriculture and outdoor crops. Some of the latest studies will include: (1) genetic manipulation to increase flower longevity; (2) poinsettia trials; (3) coleus evaluation; and (4) run-off studies. We will also tour the herbaceous plant trial gardens of Dr. Rick Schoellhorn.

University of Florida Tree Unit. Just a mile away, we will visit the University of Florida's Tree Unit, site of the Great Southern Tree Conference, an annual educational event that attracts over 300 of the South's leading arborists, landscapers, nurserymen, and teachers. Ed Gilman, the FNGLA (Florida Nursery, Grower and Landscape Association), and a group of industry sponsors have partnered to develop the Tree Unit into a permanent demonstration and test site for best management practices involving trees.

Reception: Butterfly Rainforest. Across the street from the Hilton Hotel, a new multi-million dollar addition to the Florida State Museum (Powell Hall) has recently been completed. The Maguire Butterfly Center, developed by Dr. Tom Emmell, houses a huge collection of mounted butterflies, laboratories, meeting rooms, and the Butterfly Rainforest. This large screened enclosure contains exotic plants and living butterflies from all over the world in a beautifully landscaped setting, complete with waterfalls and flowing streams.

Tuesday Tour to Williston, Ocala, and Leesburg

Marshall Tree Farm. In 1984, James Marshall bought land and established a tree farm near Williston. Since then, both Marshall sons, Mike and Jim, have joined the business and helped expand the in-ground tree operation to 300 acres. Marshall Tree Farms is a proud member of the Roots Plus Field Growers Association and strives to produce and sell the highest quality trees in the industry. The Marshalls were very active in developing the Great Southern Tree Conference, and for his hard work, Mike was named SNA's Young Nurseryman of the Year this past August. Marshall Tree Farm is a major grower of the High Rise Live Oak and you will see many of them there.

Salmon's Wholesale Nursery. Salmon's Nursery, a grower of shrubs, groundcovers, trees, perennials, palms, and tropical color, was started in Ocala in 1982 by Jim Salmon. With the help of John and Joe Darley, the nursery has grown to 100 acres. Fifty workers raise, sell, and deliver Salmon's products to customers throughout the lower south. An active participant in IPPS, Jim is known for his innovativeness, unique solutions to common nursery problems, and for his outspoken opinions.

Bent Oak Tree Farm. Bent Oak Tree Farm, owned by Dr. Robert Feldman, is a 150-acre tree-growing operation with 20 in-ground production and 80 large containers, mostly Accelerators. They are members of the Roots Plus Growers Association, following a regimen of root-pruning in-ground trees during the growing season to encourage a fibrous root system. During peak periods, Bent Oak employs 32 workers. Their new propagation greenhouse has humidity controls, Chroma-net and Alumi-net to improve rooting. They specialize in large multi-trunk tree-form ligustrum and clonal magnolias.

Robrick Nursery. Dick and Mary Kearley own Robrick Nursery (named after their children, Robyn and Rick). The nursery sits on 25 acres and has 120,000 square feet under cover. Their state-of-the-art greenhouses have ingenious Dutch-engineered rolling benches that are fertigated using an ebb-and-flow system. All irrigation water recycles into cisterns in which the fertilizer levels are checked and adjusted and then gets pumped back onto other benches. Robrick also uses under-bench heating with oil-fired hot air blowing beneath the tightly packed benches. The Kearleys produce and ship about 8 million herbaceous liners per year and also have a side business, Florida Sun Farms that sells finished 4-inch, 1-gal, 2-gal, and 10-inch hanging basket material. About 45 employees work at Robrick during the peak season.