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Grower News

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Editor John Esser

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It's Time to Register...

for this year's CFGW's 31st (+ or -) annual Fall Greenhouse Conference. An exciting change was made in the October 7, 2015 program by asking four broker sales people to invite a speaker of their choice for a 30 presentation. It will be exciting to see if these four speakers can cut a hour presentation in half. The speaker's topics will be **Advanced Greenhouse Fertilization** by Joe Slater, **New Varieties for Spring, 2016 from Ball Horticultural** by Bill Catkins, **Top Ten Grower Actions for pollinator Stewardship** by Tami Van Gaal and **Green Fuse Varieties for 2016** by Randy Uhl. Moderator Brian Karthausser will cut them off if they run long. Having these four speakers allows the presentation of additional pertinent information without lengthening the program.

In addition to these four topics Kansas State's respected Dr. Ray Cloyd will be giving two talks. **Neonicotinoid**

Systemic Insecticides and Pollinators as well as **Managing Insect and Mite Pest Without Pesticides**. Ray is known for his fair approach to the issues of Neonic pesticides and bee populations. This topic is hotly debated among consumers. This spring some wholesale buyers would not order plants from growers spraying with Neonicotinoid pesticides. The discussion over Neonic use has not settled down so listen to Dr. Cloyd cut to the heart of the debate. Then hear him discuss alternatives to "chemical" pesticides. There are effective options!

The meeting will again be held at the Floral Plant Growers greenhouse in Denmark, Wisconsin starting at 9:00 AM. I've included a registration form and schedule with this newsletter.

Register early! Although we do allow "day of" registration, your early registration helps Floral Plant Growers Joe Mikulsky prepare enough food.

Editor

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Matt Miller: My Top New annuals for 2016

Celosia Dragon's Breath: From Sakata Seed. This exciting vegetative introduction has massive blood red flower plumes. It requires short days to induce flowering, but will continue flowering under long days once initiated. Stress will also promote flowering....low fertility requirements. 24" tall.

Petunia Night Sky: From Selecta First Class. Very unusual blue/purple flower with clean white speckles/spots in random patterns on the flowers. 10"-16" tall with mounding habit.

Biden Beedance Painted Red: From Suntory. Striking new yellow and red bicolor flowers with dense branching and short internodes gives this new Bidens a lot of flower power. Color in the flowers varies upon weather conditions. 10" tall, 3'-4' spread.

Alyssum North Face: From Floranova. This tetraploid Alyssum is sterile which means it will continue to flower continuously all spring, summer and fall until frost. Its large white flowers with its well branched cascading habit make it a lower cost alternative to vegetative Lobularia. 5"-6" Height. 16" spread.

Petunia Tidal Wave Red: From Pan American Seed. This AAS award winner has a stunning deep red to red bicolor flower. Tidal Wave petunias are a line of hedgiflora petunias that are up to 22" tall and have up to 5' spread. These petunias cover a lot of ground in the landscape, but require special attention in the greenhouse as they can get out of hand quickly.

Sunpatiens Spreading Tropical Orange: From Sakata. Sunpatiens sales have increased tremendously the past several years due to their flexibility in the landscape and as a replacement for downy mildew prone seed impatiens.

This addition in the Spreading series comes with attractive yellow variegated foliage. 20"-30" height and width.

Coleus Color Blaze AppleBrandy: From Proven Winners. This coleus comes with a serrated red leaves with yellow leaf margins. Very heat and sun tolerant and late to flower. 24" – 34" tall.

Begonia NonStop Joy Yellow: From Benary Seed. This offshoot of the Nonstop series comes with flexible stems and a rounded habit that makes it a perfect choice for Baskets. A standalone variety right now with more colors to come next year. 10' tall, 10" spread.

Dianthus Jolt Pink: From Pan American Seed. This short form of a popular cut flower series (Amazon) is a season-long performer and is highly durable. It can handle hot summer conditions and continues to flower without setting seed providing color all summer. 16"-20" tall.

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John Steinlage's picks for 2016 New Varieties

Every spring breeders and plant producers roll out their new varieties for the coming year. Throughout the summer we have a chance to see these varieties in a number of trials and, in some cases, in our own backyard with breeder samples. Although not all encompassing, I have put together a list of some of the top new varieties that I think will be hits for spring of 2016.

Nonstop Joy Yellow. The Begonia Nonstop Joy Yellow is a new addition to the Nonstop series from Benary. It is



specifically targeted for baskets and has performed very well in outdoor containers this summer.

Celosia Dragons Breath. Sakata introduced the Celosia Dragons Breath at the California Spring Trials. This plant



features beautifully red colored foliage and flower plumes that continue to make a show as they mature. This could be produced as both a spring and fall crop and would do well in the landscape.



Petunia Pitaya. A new addition to Danziger's Cascadia series, this Petunia is large flowered with a nice habit for baskets. This is a good alternative to other pink and green bicolor varieties on the market.

Salvia Grandstands. A new Salvia Splendens series from Green Fuse Botanicals. The Grandstands feature greater landscape



performance and continuous flowering. It has not flushed in and out of flower like alternatives from seed. Five colors are available.

Supercal Light Yellow. Another introduction from Sakata, the Supercal Light Yellow has looked great in all the trials I have seen this summer. This petchoa features large flowers with a cross of Calibrachoa and Petunia genetics.

Petunia Hells Series. Westhoff showcased the Petunia Hells series at the California Spring Trials. These

mounding petunias have uniquely iridescent colors that are very eye catching.

Bicolor Bidens. This year we saw a couple of introductions of bicolor bidens. Suntory introduced the new Beedance series with two colors, Painted Red (left) and Red



Stripe (right). We also saw an introduction from Proven Winners of the bidens Campfire Fireburst. Although quite vigorous, both series are more controlled than previous bicolor bidens and would make good additions to mixed combos

Diascia My Darling. Dümme Orange introduced this new series of fragrant and floriferous Diascia this spring. The My Darling series was introduced with three colors; Berry, Peach, and Clementine. All three appear to have a well matched habit and are great for early spring production.

Of the many new varieties introduced this year, these are just a few that have caught my eye. I look forward to seeing them growing in your greenhouses this spring. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at jsteinlage@michells.com.

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I Say

Men never grow up they just learn how to act in public.

Editor

Wood Fuels for Greenhouses

Energy is a major cost in greenhouse production, typically about 15% of

production costs. The markets set energy prices and it is not necessarily controllable over the long term even with contracting. Although energy prices have come down over the last 18 months, propane and heating oil costs are predicted to rise again back to 2013 levels over the next several years depending on world economic activity and energy consumption. For greenhouses that use propane or heating oil, there is another choice less expensive that is locally sourced, renewable and energy efficient – wood energy. This can be in the form of wood pellets, wood chips or cord wood and could result in an energy cost savings of up to 40% based on current energy costs. Modern wood burning systems are highly efficient and can be very automated and reliable so personnel do not have to attend them continuously.

The graph below shows energy prices for electric, propane, heating oil, natural gas and wood pellets in dollars per million Btu for 1995 to 2012. When fossil fuel prices have spiked, wood pellet costs have remained fairly stable. The other advantage is that wood energy is locally sourced so the expenditures on energy will stay in Wisconsin providing economic development instead of going out of state. High efficiency wood boilers or furnaces are available. Wood boilers are an excellent addition if using under-bench or in-floor heating and can be added to an existing conventional system. The wood boiler can be set as the primary boiler and the conventional system used as the backup if the wood system can't maintain the desired set-point. The Wisconsin Statewide Wood Energy Team, a public/private partnership with the US Forest Service, is looking for greenhouse owners that would be interested in doing a feasibility study to assess if wood energy could reduce their energy costs. The feasibility studies are offered at no cost. There is no obligation to do anything further than a feasibility study however it will provide information on a potential energy cost

savings that you may want to consider in the future. Information on wood energy can be found at the [wisconsinwoodenergy.org](http://www.wisconsinwoodenergy.org) website.

Information on heating your greenhouse can be found at <http://www.wisconsinwoodenergy.org/learn-about-using-wood-to-heat-your-greenhouse.html> and there are some case studies at <http://www.wisconsinwoodenergy.org/small-commercialindustrial.html>.

If you are interested in pursuing a feasibility study or discussing how you can make your greenhouse more energy efficient, contact Scott Sanford at 608-262-5062, email at sasanford@wisc.edu or visit him at the CFGW Fall Greenhouse Conference.

Who are we?

This program is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service to establish a Statewide Wood Energy Team (SWET). The SWET aims to expand markets that convert woody biomass into energy, advance installation of commercially viable wood energy systems in public and private facilities, and support wildfire mitigation, forest restoration, urban wood utilization and other forest management goals that utilize Wisconsin woody biomass. The Core SWET Extension, Sustainability Resources Institute, Renewable Resources Solutions, Marth Companies, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and Heating the Midwest. **To learn more, please visit:** www.wisconsinwoodenergy.org

For heating fuels comparison cost chart see the last page of this newsletter.

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Board Notes

Your CFGW board met September 8 via a teleconference call.

Treasurer Paul Ruskiewicz reported the balance in the treasury is currently \$15,251.01.

Brian Karthaus reported that 14 growers donated a total of 125 planters for the state fair grounds. Other growers also donated a number of 4" pots.

John Lewandowski will print CFGW membership certificates. They will be passed out at the end of the Fall Greenhouse Conference to those members attending. The remainder will be mailed.

The Wisconsin Green Industry Federation (WGIF) is raising their dues by \$15.00 per member per year in an effort to replace part of the income lost with the cancellation of winter show in Chicago. The CFGW board voted to increase dues by \$15.00 per year to cover the WGIF increase to CFGW.

John Esser reported that planning for the Fall Greenhouse Conference is going well. The speakers will be Kansas State University's Dr. Ray Cloyd, Plant Marvel's Joe Slater, Ball Horticultural's Bill Calkins, GGS Pro's Tami Van Gaal and Green Fuse Botanical's Randy Uhl.

John Esser said that 39 people attended the CFGW August 6th field day at the West Madison Ag. Research Station. Also, four Pan American plant breeders visited the gardens the weekend before the Field Day. Crops suggested for a 2016 trial were Geraniums, Petunias, Zinnias, Celosia, Ipomea and Angelonia. The board discussed if CFGW should do another field day in 2016 because of the low attendance. Are CFGW members interested? The decision to hold one again in 2016 was put off until the next board meeting.

Editor

Program for 2015

-September 22, 5:00 PM at Schroeder's Greenhouse (at their in town location on 1530 S. Webster Avenue) Green Bay, WI. Attendees will be able to see Schroeder's wood heating system and listen to our speaker from the University of Wisconsin Scott Sanford discussing the advantages of heating with wood for greenhouses and enjoy a free meal.

-October 7 Fall Greenhouse Conference at Floral Plant Growers, Denmark, WI. (See registration form included)

-November 10 K&W Greenhouse, Topic a demonstration presented by Chris Williams on Painting Poinsettias. demonstration Janesville, WI.



Viewing Petunia trials at the 2015 CFGW Field Day



Pan American plant breeder viewing the 2015 Coleus trials