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## Grower News

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Editor John Esser

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### 34<sup>th</sup> Annual CFGW Field Day

October 18, 2017 is the 34<sup>th</sup> annual CFGW Field Day and your board has an interesting, educational event scheduled with Ball Horticultural's Dr. Marvin Miller and Proven Winners' Jessica DeGraaf as speakers. Both are highly sought speakers who have given presentations at major greenhouse programs throughout the U.S.

Dr. Miller name was suggested by CFGW President Brian Karthaus. Brian has heard Dr. Miller speak at other programs and said he is a good speaker with a great deal of interesting and useful information. He will give us an idea of the future of our industry and what we need to do to prepare for the changes. Those of us who have been in the industry for a few years have seen a great deal of change but we know change is constant and we need to stay on top of the changes that are coming. That is Dr. Miller's job description at Ball and his first topic. He will also

have an open "ask anything" round table discussion. Come with questions and comments about our business, your business and our industry.

I suggested Jessica DeGraaf because her Proven Winners job description with PW is "to work with independent garden centers" which defines most of CFGW's members. Her first presentation will discuss marketing trends and tricks to connect with our next gardening generation. Her second presentation will discuss PW's new varieties for 2018 with many photos.

Dr. Marvin Miller is Market Research Manager at Ball Horticultural Company for 34 years and a frequent speaker and writer on topics involving the future direction of the greenhouse industry. He has served on the America in Bloom board for fifteen years as well as served on many other committees and boards in the greenhouse industry.

Jessica DeGraaf grew up in a small Michigan garden center, has a Master's Degree in Horticulture from Michigan

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**A member of the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation (WGIF).**

State University and now specializes in supporting independent garden centers for the Proven Winners.

**I've enclosed a Fall Conference invitation and registration form. If you've already completed and mailed your registration thank you! If not now is the time to register.**

**It is also time to renew your CFGW membership for 2018 so I've enclosed a renewal form.**

Come on October 18 for the CFGW Fall Greenhouse Conference and listen, learn and don't forget to bring questions.

Your early registration helps speakers prepare hand outs and CFGW to prepare enough meals.

Editor

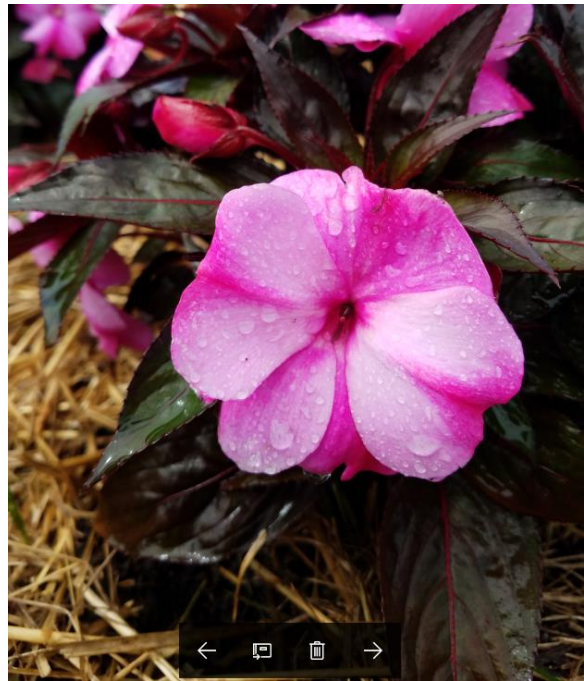
## **I Say**

When I was a child I thought Nap Time was a punishment ... now, as a grown up, it just feels like a small vacation!

## **A Rainy Field Day**

In the eight years, I've organized the Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin's Field Day this year was the first it rained during the Field Day. With a schedule adjustment, we could view Impatiens trial beds and stayed mostly dry. Though as a photographer, I look at rain as a positive. Overcast skies and wet flowers make colors more intense and appealing with drops of water on the foliage and flowers. But, you be the judge of that.

Despite the threat of rain 69 people attended what Ball's Kevin Roethle said is probably the largest New Guinea and "Sun" Impatiens trial in the U.S. with 179 varieties on display in the University of Wisconsin's West Madison Agriculture Research Stations Horticulture Gardens August 3.



*Rain drops accented the flowers*

CFGW's Vice President, Chris Williams from K&W Greenery introduced West Madison Agricultural Field Station's newly promoted Director Janet Hedtcke. Janet said there are 50 acres of Horticulture Gardens on the site which also grows agronomic crops used to feed the animals at the University of Wisconsin as well as crop testing. There are between 100 and 200 researchers visiting the station each day.



*Three of the nine beds of Impatiens trials*

Our first speaker University of Wisconsin's Director of the Insect Diagnostic clinic's PJ Liesch. PJ discussed the insect pests he has been seeing in Wisconsin this summer saying that Japanese Beetles have been out in force this year. He theorized that the last two moderate winters were easy on their larva allowing for more to mature into

the beetles we see eating many of our ornamental plants as well as vegetables and trees. He has also seen more than the usual number of Red and Oleander Aphids which are more of a visual problem than reduction of growth on Horticultural plants. On the other-hand he has also IDed more thrips this summer and they do spread diseases they reduce growth and decimate many of our crops. Four-line plant bugs were a problem in May and early June which can reduce growth by sucking plant sap. Scales have also been a problem with about 50 different species living in Wisconsin. With the wetter conditions, the usual wet weather culprits have been busy this summer: Slugs, Millipedes, Pill bugs, Springtails, Fungus Gnats and Shore Flies, but, on the other hand, Spider mite populations have been lower. Insect pests to watch for in future years are Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs, jumping worms and Spotted Winged Drosophila.

West Madison interns Molly Meineke and Nichole Truby each explained how they rated the Impatiens and Perennials in the garden trials. Nicole said there are 4,000 Impatiens plants in this year's trials in nine beds. They were planted in early June, mulched and at first irrigated until this summer's rains began.



Viewing Impatiens Trials

Ken Harr, our next speaker is a Product Technical Manager with Sakata Ornamentals of Morgan Hill, CA with over 43 years' experience in the

horticulture industry, specializing in ornamental greenhouse production and cultural growing methods. Ken graduated from the University of Kentucky and lives in Green Bay, WI. and worked for Natural Beauty Growers.

Ken told how the SunPatiens were bred from Impatiens found growing in full sun in Indonesia. They are not only able to grow in full sun but are immune/resistant to Impatiens Downy Mildew, have a vigorous root system and growth habit



Ken Harr

but also, tolerant to high temperatures and humidity making them excellent plants to grow in the landscape as well as containers. They have a variation in foliage from variegated to red and green and flower profusely throughout the growing season. They have been bred to produce a vigorous, compact as well as a spreading series. Sakata's website lists varieties and their growth habits.

Ken also mentioned Dragon's Breath Celosia which he thinks will be important for future sales. It is produced from seed and needs short days to induce flowering but once in flower continues throughout the growing season. It's best grown in pots has a red flower and likes heat, humidity and dry conditions.

At the end of the day Janet thanked her crew of six interns who maintained the gardens through the heat, humidity and rain of the summer. Janet also thank Tom Hartman of Hartman's Town and Country Greenhouse for rooting the impatiens cuttings and delivering them to the U.W. Arlington greenhouse to

grow on in 4 ½” pots. Tom Hartman also thanked Gloeckner’s Matt Miller and Ball’s Greg Bogart for obtaining the unrooted Impatiens cuttings from the many suppliers.

Editor

## State Fair Report 2017

This year’s Wisconsin State Fair was once again decorated with flowers with help from the Commercial Flower Growers of Wisconsin. We had 1 growers who contributed plant material to grow 100 pots distributed throughout the fair grounds. In exchange for our efforts the Commercial Flower Growers receive State Fair tickets along with parking passes.

The pots are placed in a way to attract people to areas so they are drawn to walk through the grounds and see things they might not see. Also, special thanks should go to Groth’s Country Gardens of Cedarburg who go above and beyond the call of duty. Groth’s provides the WE Energy area with planters and baskets. The reason for decorating this area is because Melinda Myers gives gardening talks to help promote our industry. That really is the whole idea of decorating the fair grounds. Getting people to think about flowers which will hopefully make them want to buy more flowers.

The Commercial Flower Growers also helped decorate the “Hort. Building” which is a very popular area of the fair, not just because it is air conditioned, but because people want to see flowers!

Here is a listing of this year’s participants: North Parish Gardens, Brooklyn, Rathjen Greenhouse, Oostburg, Edgewood Greenhouse, Mukwonago, Caan’s Greenhouse, Sheboygan, Hartman’s greenhouse, Manitowoc, K&W greenhouse Janesville Paul’s Petal Pushers, Waterford Yerke’s Frog Alley greenhouse, Mukwonago, Groth’s Country Gardens,

Cedarburg, Haentze Greenhouse, Fond Du Lac, Karthaus & Sons Greenhouse, Germantown. To each participant thank you for planting and growing these containers to promote our industry!

Plans are already being made for next year’s fair. If you would like to help that would be great! Contact: Brian Karthaus, Karthaus & Sons (262) 255 7815 ext. 1205

Brian Karthaus  
Karthaus & Son’s & CFGW President

## Poinsettia Field Trials “Poinsettia Trial Week at Plantpeddler”

Plantpeddler’s Mike and Rachel Gooder invite all to their Poinsettia trials December 4-8, 2017 at their greenhouses at 524 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W., Cresco, Iowa. They estimate there will be 120 varieties from all major breeders including Beekenkamp, Ecke, Red Fox, Rinehart, Selecta, and Syngenta. These are “real world” trials grown under standard commercial cultural protocol. They are expecting visits from breeder representatives during the week along with a featured broker company each day.

Please contact Plantpeddler for more information and to schedule a visit at 563-547-2361 or [mikeg@plantpeddler.com](mailto:mikeg@plantpeddler.com).

Editor

## Schedule of Events

**-October 18:** from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
**CFGW’s Fall Greenhouse Conference**  
to be held at Natural Beauty Growers (DBA Floral Plant Growers, Greiling Farms) in Denmark, Wisconsin.  
**Register now!**

**-November 7:** Membership meeting at Caan Floral, Sheboygan, WI.  
Speaker & topic to be determine.