

“To Seek and to Share”... Founding a New I.P.P.S. Region

Peter Orum

Midwest Groundcovers, P.O. Box 748, St. Charles, Illinois 60174

The I.P.P.S. continues to seek active members in all areas of the world. One of the newest regions to be established is IPPS-Denmark, the Scandinavian Region.

Sponsored by the Eastern Region, the first step was to organize and find interested people in the new region. There were already some active I.P.P.S. members. An organizing conference was held in 1992.

With the financial and moral support of the International and the Eastern Region membership, brochures were produced in both English and Danish and potential members were contacted throughout Scandinavia.

The first conference was held in Odense, Denmark in September 1992. Attending were Eastern Region organizer Peter Orum and International Secretary John Wott. Later that same month, IPPS-Denmark President Erik Lund-Andersen attended the International Conference in Sacramento, California and obtained acceptance of the new Region.

The second conference was held in Jutland, Denmark, in September 1993. September, 1994 saw the third conference in Odense, Denmark. International President John L. Machen, Sr. attended and presented a paper. Other speakers included Eastern Region Vice President David Beattie and Eastern Region Past President Peter Orum.

The fourth annual conference was held in September 1995 in Zealand, Denmark. International President Ian Gordon visited and spoke.

Highlights of the conference included a visit to a working greenhouse at a Danish Horticultural School. On landscape day, conference attendees saw examples of wildflower sod from Sweden as well as a demonstration of how horses are once again being used for certain forestry work.

Another highlight of the conference was a visit to a leading Danish container nursery that supplies plants to garden centers.

Today IPPS-Denmark is thriving and working hard to recruit new members in Sweden, Norway, and Finland. The Region produces a quarterly newsletter through which members stay in touch and share information. Thanks to the diligent support and spirit of the sponsoring Eastern Region, I.P.P.S. is continuing its educational mission in Scandinavia and gaining in turn from this region's long history of horticultural innovation.