Nurserymen meet in Seattle

The American Association of Nurserymen held its 102nd annual meeting, July 16-20, in Seattle, Washington. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the association serves over 2,700 member nursery firms representing garden center operators, wholesale growers, landscape firms, mail order nurserymen and allied suppliers.

Avery H. Steinmetz, president of Stark Street Properties, was inducted into the AAN’s Nurserymen’s Hall of Fame, the highest honor the nursery industry may bestow. The Hall of Fame Award was conceived to recognize truly outstanding nursery businessmen whose acts and deeds in business, home, community, and country serve as a guide and challenge for all other members of the nursery industry.

The Norman Jay Colman Award, the nursery industry’s highest award for horticulture research, was presented to Dr. Haruyuki Kamemoto, renowned orchid cytologist and professor at the University of Hawaii.

The award, named after the first Secretary of Agriculture of the U.S. and a two-term president of the AAN, is granted each year to stimulate research work in the land grant universities, colleges and other research institutions.

Dr. Howard C. Brown, Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Cal Poly University, received the second L. C. Chadwick Award from the AAN. The award was established last year by the Education Committee of the AAN to honor those classroom horticulture teachers who have made their mark where it counts most — among their students. Dr. L. C. Chadwick was the first recipient.

Ed Hume received the Garden Communicator’s Award. In presenting the award, immediate past president Hilscher praised Hume for his outstanding contributions towards increasing public awareness of environmental plants and landscape beautification. Hume writes regular garden columns for the “Seattle Times” and “Vancouver Columbian.” He broadcasts on Seattle’s KBIQ-FM and conducts the “Gardening with Ed Hume” show, aired on KING-TV in Seattle and KGW-TV in Portland each Sunday.

A Crimson King Maple, donated by the Julius Rosso Wholesale Nursery, Seattle, was presented as a gift to the people of Seattle for their gracious hospitality to the AAN. It was planted in a downtown park to be enjoyed by all citizens.

Itsuo Uenaka, president of Cupertino Nursery in Cupertino, California, was elected president of the AAN. He succeeds L. J. Hilscher.
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Hilscher, Hilscher Nursery & Garden Center in Texas, who remains as current Director-at-Large. Uenaka, along with other officers, will direct the national efforts of the AAN in all areas including legislation and environmental improvement.

Ernest A. Tosovsky, Jr., vice president of Home Nursery Greenhouses, Edwardsville, Ill., was elected vice president. Tosovsky also serves as treasurer and director of Region III of the AAN.

John B. Wight, Jr., president and chairman of the board of Wight Nurseries, Cairo, Ga., has been reelected to the board of directors. He serves as director of Region II, which represents over 650 member nursery firms in southern states.

Hugh Steavenson, president and owner of Forrest Keeling Nursery, Elsberry, Mo., was reelected director of Region IV, representing over 350 member nursery firms.

R. Jerry Rosso, secretary and treasurer of Julius Rosso Wholesale Nursery Company, Seattle, Wash., succeeds Itsuo Uenaka as director of Region VI, also representing over 350 member nursery firms. Rosso served as convention chairman for this year’s meeting.

Kent Langlinais, Kent’s Nursery, La., is director of Region VII, and Henry A. Weller is the director of Region I.

New AAN officers: bottom l-r, Ernest A. Tosovsky, L. J. Hilscher, Itsuo Uenaka, Hugh Steavenson; top l-r, Kent Langlinais, Jerry Rosso, John Wight, Jr., and Henry Weller.