

## Greetings and Introductions

### Timothy Brotzman

Brotzman's Nursery, Inc., 6899 chapel Road, East Madison, Ohio 44057 U.S.A.

I will begin by introducing the Local Site Committee consisting of Rod Bailey, Vern Black, Don Cross, John Daniels, Bert Swanson, Dean Engelmann, and Cameron Smith. When you see them thank them for all they have done because you would not have what you have today without their help.

The silent auction will close this evening so you will have plenty of time to make your bids.

Our program chair, Dale Deppe, spent the last year bringing this program together. When you see him, also thank him for a job well done.

This is the fourth year for the poster session and I believe that we are the only region that has one. We have had over 100 posters present and this has allowed members to make presentations who did not have the time to do regular papers or did not wish to present a paper. There are many good ideas presented so take advantage of the posters. It is certainly one of the most positive things this Society has done the past 4 years. It will be available the entire conference. This year's session was chaired by Dan Studeabaker, our Second Vice President.

All of this is glued together by Margot Bridgen who can usually be found at the registration desk.

At this time it is sad to announce that several members of our Society have passed away; they include John Wilde, a Fellow, and Gus Mehlquist, a Fellow and Award of Merit member. May we have a moment of silence for these deceased members.

John Daniels will introduce our first speaker, Dr. Mark Yudof, President, University of Minnesota, who will present the welcoming address.