



Delaware  August 2000

RE: 74TH ANNUAL MEETING - NATIONAL PLANT BOARD

The Delaware Department of Agriculture and the National Plant Board invite you to attend the “*First*” National Plant Board meeting of the new millennium! Delaware, “*The First State*”, may be a “*Small Wonder*”, but we hope you will discover that many good things can come in small packages! Plan to bring the family! We have many fun things planned for you (oh yeah, we have a meeting to attend too!) The Plant Industries’ staff is busy preparing for your arrival, and our goal is to see to it that everyone enjoys their visit to Delaware!

Please read over the enclosed information. The meeting will be at the **Wyndham Hotel** in downtown **Wilmington, Delaware**. The dates are **August 13 - 16, 2000**. Please make your hotel reservations and send in your meeting registration forms and money by **July 7th**. Call the Wyndham Hotel at (302)655-0400 to reserve your room. The **hotel rate is \$93** for a single or double room. **Registration is \$210 for attendees and \$125 for spouses/companions**. Kids under 18 are free. Special gifts for the kids! On-site registration will be \$235 for attendees and \$150 for spouses/companions. **Make your check payable to the National Plant Board (U.S. funds only)**. Be sure to enter the number of people attending each event on the registration form. Please return your registration form, fee, and Door Prize Certificate in the enclosed envelope. You may fax your registration form to (302)697-4468 by July 7 and pay your registration fee upon arrival. It is very important that we get an accurate “head-count” for the many events we have planned, so return your registration form as soon as possible.

The **Philadelphia International Airport** is 25 minutes north of Wilmington. We have enclosed airport/hotel transportation information from **Delaware Express Shuttle**. **Amtrak** also provides service to Wilmington, with the train station only five minutes from the hotel. For those of you wishing to take advantage of nearby attractions in Philadelphia, Gettysburg, Baltimore, Washington DC, and the Jersey Shore (all within 100 miles of Wilmington), please make your plans to see these sites after the NPB meeting. The **Republican National Convention** will be in Philadelphia the week before our meeting and hotel rooms will be scarce prior to August 12. Please read the **special pink notice** in your packet of information about the closing of northbound I-95. This will only slightly affect your return trip to the airport from the hotel on August 17.

We have a **Family BBQ Picnic** planned for Sunday afternoon, August 13, so try and get here on Saturday or by Sunday morning. We are going to the Brandywine Picnic Park along the famous

Brandywine River in Pocopson, PA! For those of you so inclined, we have the first “official” **NPB golf tournament** scheduled for early Sunday morning at the **Ed Oliver Golf Club at Greenhill**. Contact Charlie Coffman (WV) or Terry Van Horn (DE) for details. The Tour on Tuesday is to the **Winterthur Museum & Gardens**. During the week your family can take advantage of trips to **Longwood Gardens**, the **Hagley Museum**, and **Rehoboth Beach**.

We plan to continue the “**Door Prize Certificates**” this year, so be sure to complete the donor portion of the certificate and return it with your registration form. Please indicate what your unique gift is, and who the lucky winner should send the certificate to. The donor will be responsible for shipping the prize to the winner upon receipt of the certificate. Everyone attending the meeting is invited to participate in the event! Winners will be selected at random throughout the meeting, but you have to enter to be eligible.

Tuesday is **Hawaiian Shirt Day!** You **MUST** wear a Hawaiian shirt! “Special” prizes awarded to the more unusual, authentic, or unique Hawaiian shirts. No criteria ... we’ll decide who wins! Several NPB members have been hard at work finding that “appropriate” shirt. Suitable props are encouraged! So, don’t delay, get that H-shirt! For your information, it is **HOT and HUMID** in Delaware in August, so dress comfortably.

Note that **the meeting on Wednesday lasts the whole day**. We are trying to keep you in Delaware longer so that you will spend more money... Actually, the NPB Executive Committee decided that they needed more time to get through everything on the agenda, so, please arrange your travel plans to check out on Thursday, August 17.

We look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

 

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