

## Saturday Session I: Questions and Answers<sup>©</sup>

**Germaine Boivin:** *Ceanothus* has a reputation for being short-lived. What do you think about this?

**Sven Svenson:** The life-span of this plant is a function of where you site them. Some will be durable under any conditions while others are going to be very sensitive to site conditions.

**Neil Bell:** Some are definitely short-lived. I grew 'Centennial' and it was very short-lived. We grow them in a well-drained soil and we don't water them or prune them.

**Eric Hammond:** Can you elaborate on the use of calcium on the *Pieris*?

**Sven Svenson:** *Pieris*, like many plants in the Ericaceae, don't like high soil pH as a general rule. To get good rooting on ericaceous crops calcium is one of the elements you need for cell function (cell wall development).

**Jim Conner:** What does a one-month expedition cost?

**Steve Hootman:** It depends on where you're going. You have to know the right people in order to get to some locations. Vietnam is a great spot and very inexpensive. The range would be six to ten thousand dollars.

**Kristin Yanker-Hansen:** How do you make your material available?

**Steve Hootman:** We put out a catalog twice a year. We also put information on our website.

**Anonymous:** What are the rules for collecting?

**Steve Hootman:** The rules are getting more difficult. Basically, they don't want you to collect so they make it as difficult as possible. There are lots of permits and paperwork required. In many countries, like India, they are against what they call "bio-prospecting". If you have the right contacts you can still collect although, technically, it's illegal.

**Allan Elliott:** How do you get material back into the country? Are you concerned about bringing back plants that could become invasive?

**Steve Hootman:** I collect seed, primarily and they have to go through inspection. Most of my material is difficult to keep alive so I don't worry about it escaping.

**Douglas Justice:** Is *Ephedra* being propagated vegetatively?

**Mike Bone:** No, that one's done by seed. It can be difficult since more than half the seed can be hollow.

**Douglas Justice:** Is it aphid-prone?

**Mike Bone:** We've seen no signs of aphids on plants in the landscape although occasionally a few on plants in the greenhouse.

**Scott Barnes:** Do you take a zoologist along on any of your expeditions?

**Steve Hootman:** Generally, you hire multiple scientists as your guides and/or interpreters. They are the ones who make all the arrangements ahead of time. They also prepare the permits and travel routes.