

New Jersey News

Ernie Christ Memorial Lecture, 2018

Win Cowgill

Emeritus Professor, Rutgers University

The Ernie Christ Memorial Lecture, is presented at the Mid Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in January each year, held in Hershey, PA. The lecture was established in memory of Ernie Christ, the long-time New Jersey Tree-fruit Specialist at Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Ernie passed on September 12, 2000. He was loved and respected by fruit growers across North America. Ernie's passion was the furthering of knowledge of each culture and science.

Ernie was a great friend and mentor to dozens of young scientists, extension workers, and farmers including Rich Marini, Sue Brown, Jerry Frecon, Mark Robson, Robert Best, Peter Melick, Ken Wightman, and Win Cowgill to name only a very few!

We referred to him as Mr. Peach. The fruit industry thought so much of Ernie they named a NJAES breeding program selection after him, 'Ernie's Choice' which is still grown today.

A speaker fund was established by the NJ State Horticultural Society with an initial gift by Adams County Nursery and with continued funding from grower donations. The fund supports an invited speaker each year at the Mid Atlantic Conference. The first Ernie Christ Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr. Rich Marini, Horticulture Department, Penn State University, in January of 2002.

Dr. Ted DeJong, Professor Emeritus, University of California -Davis, presented the

2018 Ernie Christ Memorial Lecture at the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Conference.



Dale Davis, IV, President of the NJ State Horticultural Society, presented a certificate recognizing Dr. Ted DeJong, Professor Emeritus, UC-Davis, for presenting the Ernie Christ Memorial Lecture at the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Conference: "The Effect of Early Season Temperatures on Peach Fruit Size "

New Jersey State Horticultural Society's 2018 Outstanding Fruit Grower Award Goes to Mark Phillips

Marc Phillips, owner of Phillips farms, was presented with the 2018 Outstanding Fruit Grower Award from the New Jersey State Horticultural Society, at the seventy-third North Jersey Fruit Growers Meeting, Flemington, NJ. The award was presented by Jamie Bourgeois, President of the New Jersey State Horticultural Society and Dr. Megan Muelhbauer, Area Fruit Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, NJAES for Outstanding Service to the Fruit Industry.

Marc owns and operates one of the largest fruit and vegetable farms in Northern New Jersey with his spouse Holly. Phillips Farms is located in Holland Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Over 300 acres of tree fruit, small fruit and vegetables are produced. Apple production is state of the art tall spindle system. Ex-

tensive plantings of small fruit including all brambles, and blueberries are marketed Pick your Own. The Phillip's have an extensive marketing program in New York City via the Green Market System. Operating daily markets in NYC is both a challenge and an opportunity.





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