

## Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show, Inc. A History and Overview

The Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show, Inc. (MANTS<sup>®</sup>) was established in 1970 by the Maryland and Virginia Nurserymen's Associations. The West Virginia Nurserymen's Association became the third partner in 1972. All three State Nursery and Landscape Associations are equal sponsors of the show.

MANTS is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of three directors from each member state. They meet three times annually, including the day preceding the show. The Board elects its officers - president, vice president, secretary and treasurer at its first board meeting following MANTS, usually in February.

Carville M. Akehurst was MANTS' first Executive Vice President, a position he held until his death in 2001. Nancy Akehurst, a force behind MANTS from the beginning, was appointed by the Board to succeed her husband, which she did until her retirement in 2005. Vanessa Akehurst Finney follows in her family's footsteps as MANTS' third Executive Vice President.

The first trade show was held in Williamsburg, Virginia in January, 1971 with 64 exhibitors and the second in 1972 at the Hunt Valley Inn in Cockeysville, Maryland with 79 exhibitors. During the ensuing years the show continued to grow with several more in Hunt Valley and three at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The January 1980 show was held in Norfolk, Virginia and all subsequent winter shows have been held at the Baltimore Convention Center in Maryland.

In June 1987, MANTS held its first summer trade show in Virginia Beach, Virginia where it remained until 1990 when it also moved to the Baltimore Convention Center. The summer show was discontinued following the 1996 show.

MANTS is widely known as *The Masterpiece of Trade Shows*<sup>™</sup> and the place where industry members come every January because *MANTS means business*. The show covers over 300,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space, the maximum amount available on one level at the Baltimore Convention Center. Today the show has a waiting list and we strive to accommodate as many space requests from current and prospective exhibitors alike. MANTS draws exhibiting companies and attendees from throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Japan and Asia.

On this web site, you can plan your visit to MANTS using our interactive floor plan. You can register and take advantage of our business friendly hotel rates and discounts to many Baltimore area restaurants. We recognize that when it comes to Industry Trade Shows, our exhibitors and attendees have a choice as to where they do business and as always, *we thank you for choosing MANTS*. Enjoy the show!