



December 2014 Feature Story:

Poland looks to lead the world to a new respect for the ‘King of berries’: the Blackcurrant.

Following the very successful IBA Conference in Poland the Polish industry, represented by the Polish Blackcurrant Growers Association, the KSPCP, held a special event at Sieradz with the Sieradz Fruit Producers Union (SZPO).



Polish blackcurrant pioneers and champions recognised at a special event in Sieradz, Poland.



President of the SZPO, Marion Gasior, is well-known to all IBA members: he has been a regular and positive delegate at IBA Conferences. President Gasior (right) was presented with a Bison Statuette by Dr Peter Baryla to acknowledge his foresight and leadership in the creation of the SFPA. “An organisation that was critically needed at the time and now”, said Dr Baryla.



President Marion Gasior, Dr Piotr and Mrs Baryla



President Marion Gasior and Dr Stanislaus Pluta

SZPO President, Marion Gasior, presented specially-created statuettes engraved with the catch-phrase “We Share Currants” (“Unites Us Currant “) to leading visionaries and pioneers of the Polish blackcurrant industry. Shown here, President Gasior’s presentations to Dr Piotr and Mrs Baryla, and world-renowned Polish researcher Dr Stanislaus Pluta, the event’s Guest of Honour.



Gregory and Iona Ośródek (right)

Also especially honoured were Gregory and Iona Ośródek who were the first to plant blackcurrants commercially in the Sieradz region.

It’s good to end the 2014 year with a story about the passion and pride being shown by the Polish blackcurrant family for the ‘King of Berries’. Next year the global blackcurrant family meets in June in Lithuania for our Annual Conference. We hope you can join us. Full details on the 2015 Conference will be published on our website in January.

Meantime: from the IBA Executive (Dirk/Anthony/Piotr and myself), we hope you, your family, colleagues and friends, have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

(All photos from Sieradz supplied courtesy of Tomasz Werner, Jagodnik magazine. For further photos of the presentations visit: <http://www.jagodnik.pl/galeria/fotografie/categorv/265-10-lecie-sieradzkiego-zrzeszenia-producentow-owocow>)