



ANNUAL MEETING

August 24 - 27, 2025 • Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio



2025 Annual Meeting Schedule

All times are approximate and are subject to change due to weather, traffic, and other unforeseen delays.

Sunday, August 24, 2025

1130 – 1245 | 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

1245 | 12:45 p.m.

Meet in Lobby for Tour

1300 – 1700 | 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Winery and Distillery Networking Tour

Embark on a delightful journey with your fellow perliteers through Geneva, Ohio's renowned Grand River Valley, where the art of winemaking meets the craft of distillation! This exclusive tour will lead you to two exceptional establishments, offering a unique blend of flavors and experiences.



1830 – 2000 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Registration and Reception

Monday, August 25, 2025

Breakfast on Your Own

0830 – 0900 | 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration

0900 – 0915 | 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

0915 – 1000 | 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Improving Screening Efficiency

Jason Bailey, Sales/Service Consultant, Midwestern Industries, Inc.

This session will focus on improving screening efficiency when using round and rectangular units to screen ore and expanded perlite. Jason will discuss anti-blinding options, screen cloth types, causes of carry over, and how to improve current round and rectangular units.

1000 – 1015 | 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

1015 – 1115 | 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Why Perlite Remains CropKing's Media of Choice for Fruiting Crops After 40+ Years

Nathan Donley, Technical Horticulturist, CropKing

In a market flooded with new and "organic" growing media options, why does CropKing Inc.—a leader in controlled environment agriculture for over four decades—still recommend perlite for fruiting crops? This session will explore the agronomic, economic, and operational reasons behind CropKing's long-standing preference for perlite. Attendees will gain insight into the proven performance, consistency, and disease resistance that perlite offers, and how it compares with newer media in commercial greenhouse settings.

1115 – 1145 | 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Specialties and New Applications Committee Workgroup

1145 – 1200 | 11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Break

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1200 – 1245 | 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Technical Inquiry Deep Dive

Chuck Vogelsang, Technical and Operations Consultant, Perlite Institute

Join us for an engaging session where Chuck Vogelsang, Perlite Institute Technical and Operations Consultant, will review the number of technical inquiries received over the last few years, the applications addressed, and the approach taken to answer the inquiries. He will give analytics about the technical brochures and facilitate an interactive discussion concerning topics that could be addressed in future brochures and annual meeting sessions.

1245 – 1345 | 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch

1345 – 1430 | 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Brochure Committee Activities and Presentation of the New PI Test Methods Book

Dr. Panos M. Angelopoulos, Research, Technical and Marketing Consultant, Perlite Institute

This session presents an overview of the Brochure Committee's work during the 2024–2025 term, with a primary focus on the complete revision and modernization of the Perlite Institute Test Methods Manual. The updated 7th edition includes the replacement of outdated procedures, incorporation of simplified and more accurate methods, improved formatting, and the addition of technical illustrations and equipment photos. Also, some videos with instructions on methods implementation will be presented.

1430 – 1445 | 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Break

1445 – 1530 | 2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Hernie Rosado, Vice President of Production, Petitti Family of Farms

1530 – 1615 | 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

The Evolution of Lightweight Concrete: From Ancient Uses to Modern Perlite Innovations

Kostas Mitsios, Technical Director, Gulf Perlite LLC

In this session, Kostas will trace the evolution of lightweight concrete from ancient applications to modern innovations. He will discuss pre-perlite lightweight concrete applications from its earliest uses and explore the first Perlite Institute lightweight concrete brochures and applications from 80 years ago. The presentation will also include a look at landmark perlite concrete projects worldwide across the decades, examining current innovations such as its use in 3D-printed concrete buildings, lightweight precast buildings, and new building systems.

1615 – 1645 | 4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Brochure Workgroup

1800 – 1930 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Reception

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Breakfast on Your Own

0845 | 8:45 a.m.

Meet in the Lobby to Depart for Tour

2025 Annual Meeting Schedule

All times are approximate and are subject to change due to weather, traffic, and other unforeseen delays.

0900 – 1700 | 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Industry Tour

Petitti Family of Farms – Ridge Manor

A shining star in the Petitti Family of Farms, Ridge Manor is nestled in the nursery-rich region of Lake County, Ohio. A leader in modern, innovative equipment and technology keeps them competitive in the nursery industry. Come see their mixing operations, be educated on their choices of premium soils they use throughout their nurseries and enjoy a short tour of their container nursery at Ridge Manor Nursery. Come see how and why The Petitti Family of Farms is renowned as one of the largest, most innovative, and quality-driven growers in Ohio, supplying landscapers and garden centers throughout the United States and Canada.

P.V.P. Industries, Inc.

P.V.P. Industries, Inc. is offering an exclusive industry tour of their facility. A leading manufacturer of perlite products, P.V.P. Industries supplies materials primarily to the horticultural, industrial and construction industries. Founded in 1984, P.V.P. operates out of a 41,000 sq. ft. steel building, a 14,500 sq. ft. cold storage warehouse, and a 12,750 sq. ft. raw materials storage building. Their facility holds approximately 3,000 tons of raw material across 20 acres of land. To learn more about them, visit their website: <https://pvpind.com/>.

Bouldin & Lawson, LLC

Monty Rowland, President, Bouldin & Lawson, LLC

Jim Fowler, N.E. Sales, Bouldin & Lawson, LLC

Representatives from Bouldin & Lawson, LLC will discuss types of equipment used in the mixing and packaging of perlite-based products in the horticulture industry.

1700 | 5:00 p.m.

Arrive at Hotel

1900 – 2030 | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Reception

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Breakfast on Your Own

0900 – 0915 | 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome

0915 – 1030 | 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Bulk Bag Education Session

Erin Moeller, Global-Pak

Global-Pak is presenting its Bulk Bag Education Session and sharing an exciting new eco-friendly product launch that is innovating bulk packaging. If you are using bulk bags, this is a great opportunity to learn about all of the technical components from Global-Pak's team of experts. Join Erin Moeller to learn about FIBCs, Bulk Bag Safety and the company's exclusive partnership with Worry Free Plastics bio-accelerator. When added to your packaging, it leaves no microplastics behind in three to five years when disposed of in landfills.

1030 – 1045 | 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

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1045 – 1130 | 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The Power of Flexible Packaging Today for Optimal Performance

Mark DiTomas, Primary Packaging

Sam Williams, Sales Account Representative, Primary Packaging

This session will provide insight on how plastic film and bags benefit your finished product. Mark and Sam will cover the functionality of filling of the bags to sealing, as well as how to enhance the appearance and provide ease of functionality. Primary Packaging will provide insight into various materials used in packaging today, such as what types of materials to reduce gauge and improve the overall use of plastic films. The presentation will provide insight into future trends of automated packaging machinery, along with where sustainability comes into play and how it may affect packaging trends in the future.

1130 – 1215 | 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Horticultural Committee Workgroup

1215 – 1315 | 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

1315 – 1400 | 1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Annual Business Meeting

1400 – 1445 | 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Growing in Perlite

Kelly Snair, Fairview Evergreen Nurseries, Inc.

In this talk, Kelly will share her unique horticultural applications for perlite, highlighting its exceptional properties as a growing medium. She'll describe its use in greenhouse benches for rooting plant cuttings and how spent perlite is effectively recycled into fields to enhance soil quality.

1445 – 1500 | 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

1500 – 1600 | 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Industrial Collector Basics – Operation and Maintenance of Industrial Dust Collection Systems

Mark Countouris, Territory Sales Manager, Camfil APC

This session will discuss the operational theory behind the design and sizing of industrial dust collectors, as well as the operation and maintenance aspects of those systems. It will cover the four main types of dust collectors, how to size a dust collector, system airflow and static pressure, and fan selection. Mark will also discuss gold series sizing and features, convenience and safety options, and the main market focus of where you will find industrial dust collectors.

1600 – 1630 | 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Construction Committee Workgroup

1800 – 2200 | 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Reception and Annual Dinner

Thursday, August 28, 2025

**Add-on Tour to
Niagara Falls, New York**
See next page for more details.



Add-On Tour



Add-on Tour: Explore the Wonder of Niagara Falls, New York, U.S.

Join fellow attendees for a memorable tour to the New York side (United States) of the iconic Niagara Falls. This full-day excursion departs from Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio and offers the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow Perliters and take in one of nature's greatest wonders.

Add-on Tour to Niagara Falls At-a-Glance:

- **Comfortable round-trip coach transportation.**
- Leave the Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake at **9:00 a.m.**
- **Lunch in Buffalo, New York.**
- **Admission to the world-famous Maid of the Mist boat ride**, where you'll get up close to the roaring falls.
- **Leisure time** to enjoy the scenic views, shops, and photo opportunities.
- Return trip to Geneva-on-the-Lake departs at **4:30 p.m. local time.**
Approximate time of arrival at the Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake is **7:30 p.m.**

If you're extending your stay in the Niagara Falls area or continuing your travels, you may **leave your luggage on the motorcoach until 4:15 p.m.**

Add-on Tour Registration Fee:

\$175 USD.

Space is limited!

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Speakers



Dr. Panos M. Angelopoulos

Panos Angelopoulos holds a diploma in Mining and Metallurgical Engineering and a Ph.D. in *“Production of Expanded Perlite Microspheres: Process Development and Mathematical Modeling”* from National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece under fellowship of the National Scholarships Foundation (2013). In 2016, he was a postdoctoral fellow of IKY-SIEMENS fellowship program for the investigation of *“The use of low-grade volcanic glass as raw material in the production of lightweight microspheres”*, while in 2015, he received the Academy of Athens Research Publication Excellence Prize, in recognition of his paper entitled *“Model-Based Sensitivity Analysis and Experimental Investigation of Perlite Grain Expansion in a Vertical Electric Furnace.”*

He has published more than 45 research articles on international journals and conference proceedings. His research interest includes perlite expansion thermodynamics, characterization, expanded microspheres production, process modeling and simulation, and development of new uses and products from perlite. He is co-inventor of an international patent entitled *“Expanded and expandable granular materials.”*

During the last 15 years, he has been involved in the proposal preparation and managing of research projects, most related to the development of new uses of conventional and novel perlite products tailored for use in construction, plastics and fillers, 3D printing, environmental rehabilitation and waste depollution. Since 2023, he has held a position as Teaching and Laboratory Staff at the Laboratory of Metallurgy of the NTUA (Greece). Panos has also been working as a Research, Technical and Marketing Consultant for the Perlite Institute since 2020.



Jason Bailey

Jason Bailey is a Sales & Service Consultant with Midwestern Industries. His sales territory includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ontario, Canada and parts of Ohio. Jason began his career with Midwestern 20 years ago after graduating from Kent State University. Throughout his time at Midwestern, Jason has helped small upstart companies as well as global leaders in various industries that have all required some level of screening. Jason became knowledgeable in the perlite industry by visiting countless plants and worksites to do hands-on adjustments of both Midwestern screening equipment and screening equipment from other screening manufacturers. During his travels, Jason has met with numerous customers in the perlite expanded and ore industries and helped them to improve upon their existing screening applications as well as new applications. Most of these perlite manufacturers have achieved improved screening efficiency while working with Jason Bailey and the Midwestern Industries sales/service team.



Mark Countouris

Mark Countouris is an engineer with many years of design, maintenance, commissioning, upgrading, and sales experience. He worked as an engineer with Metso in their bulk material handling division, and has been employed as a territory manager at Camfil Air Pollution Division since 2018.

Speakers



Mark DiTomas

Mark DiTomas has been with Primary Packaging as a sales representative for over 21 years and recently took on the role of Sales Manager as the company continues to grow in the industrial packaging market. He has led a team of sales professionals and has been part of the growth of Primary Packaging over the past two decades. Starting out in the insulation industry and soil and mulch markets has led Primary Packing to a wide of diverse markets they currently serve today.

Mark has been an integral part of the continued growth at Primary Packaging as the company has expanded its operations to be fully integrated, including six state-of-the-art multilayer extrusion lines, four state-of-the-art state printing presses, and over ten various styles of converting lines. The company currently manufactures over 23 million pounds of material out of its Bolivar, Ohio manufacturing plant.

Mark was born in Cleveland, Ohio and still lives in the area. He graduated from Ohio University and has coached high school baseball. He is an avid sports fan and a Cleveland Browns season ticket holder.



Nathan Donley

Nathan's passion for Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) started in high school in Ms. Kendra Carnegie's Ag100 class, bringing a small aquaponics unit back online after years of neglect. In 2007, after taking Mr. Larry Kauffman's Intro to Horticulture class, Nathan had the realization that a career in CEA was a viable and perfect option for him. After graduation, Nathan attended The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute, where he earned his degree in Greenhouse Production and Management in 2010. A grower since, Nathan has held positions in a variety of operations, including Head Grower for an 8-acre facility. Prior to joining CropKing, Nathan worked as the Greenhouse Manager for The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute, where his graduates worked in hydroponic food crops, in ornamental greenhouses, as high school educators, and in licensed cannabis facilities.

At home, Nathan has four children ages 2-11, his wife of 13 years Kristin, five cats, a Great Dane Banner, a turtle, and who knows how many chickens.



Jim Fowler

Jim Fowler has over 30 years of experience working in the horticultural industry. He currently works at Bouldin & Lawson as the North East Regional Manager, working to automate the industry with custom automated systems. He was featured in Ball Publishing's *RedBook*, where he discussed soil mixing and the types of automation used. On a personal note, Jim has been married to Lisa for 15 wonderful years.

Speakers



Kostas Mitsios

For the last 12 years, Kostas Mitsios has been the Technical Director of Gulf Perlite LLC, a prominent Dubai-based perlite manufacturer and provider of perlite-based solutions for the construction, oil and gas, and horticultural sectors. Kostas holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering/structural engineering and a M.Sc. degree in mining engineering from the esteemed National Technical University of Athens. Over the course of his 25-year career, he has garnered invaluable expertise in project management, serving as a Project Director at numerous residential and commercial high-end projects in Europe, with a particular focus on innovative building materials and methods, sustainability, cost, time and quality control; and fostering efficient and creative thinking. In his current role, Kostas devotes his efforts to advancing perlite and perlite lightweight concrete applications, delivering sustainable thermal insulation to the GCC buildings; and to providing innovative building solutions tailored to each project technical requirements and to the extreme local climate conditions.



Erin Moeller

Erin Moeller is the Sales Manager at Global-Pak, a leading provider of industrial and retail packaging solutions. With over 20 years of experience in sales, business development, and strategic planning, Erin brings a results-driven approach honed through a successful career in both the consumer electronics and retail supply sectors. Her expertise lies in building high-performing sales teams, driving revenue growth, and developing go-to market strategies that align with evolving customer needs. At Global-Pak, Erin leads national sales initiatives and plays a pivotal role in shaping the company's long-term commercial strategy.



Monty Rowland

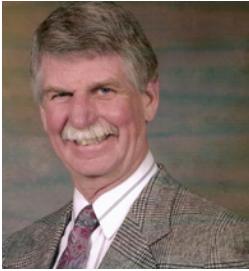
Monty Rowland has worked at Bouldin & Lawson for over 22 years. Having started out in the electrical department, tasked with building control panels, and later working in departments like customer service and electrical engineering, Monty is now the President of Bouldin & Lawson. He is happily married to his wife, Amanda, with whom he shares four wonderful children and one incredible grandson.



Kelly Snair

Kelly Snair is the Propagation Manager and Greenhouse Foreman at Fairview Evergreen Nurseries Inc. She has worked full-time for the company since 2013 but spent 10 years prior to that working part-time. Fairview Evergreen Nurseries Inc. is a family owned and run business; of which Kelly is part of the 5th generation. Growing trees and shrubs is part of the family's DNA. She did not go to college for horticulture but has since completed the AmericanHort Greenhouse Technician Certification. She is an active member of AmericanHort and the International Plant Propagation Society.

Speakers



Chuck Vogelsang

Chuck Vogelsang has over 40 years of operational and technical background working with a variety of plants throughout the world to make improvements in both processes and costs. From a perlite industry standpoint, he has been in more than 100 perlite expansion plants and 10 ore mills and mines. He has been extensively involved with systems that make horticulture, construction, insulation, filter aid and filler type expanded grades.

Chuck has been involved with many products that were devoted to the needs of the customers and how to change or make a product for a specific application. He believes that the ultimate judge is the customer who votes on the acceptability and value of material with their money. Chuck serves as a technical consultant for the Perlite Institute.



Sam Williams

Sam Williams joined Primary Packaging in 2024 as a sales representative, focusing on developing new business and new markets that better utilize Primary Packaging with the added capacity in the industrial packaging industry. Current markets consist of insulation, cellulose, perlite, vermiculite, flame retardant, lawn and garden, minerals, fertilizers, wood and BBQ pellets, wood shavings, and more. Sam also looks for new markets pertaining to heavy-duty plastic bags with print graphics that require up to 10 colors.

Sam is a graduate from Northern Kentucky University with a degree in finance. He went on to play three seasons of professional baseball in the San Diego Padres organization. Prior to joining Primary Packaging, he worked in a business development role at a family member's industrial distribution company.

Hotel

The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake

4888 North Broadway (SR 534)
Geneva-on-the-Lake, OH 44041

The Perlite Institute has secured a block of rooms at a discounted room rate during the annual meeting. There are limited rooms in the group block, and reservations are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The negotiated room rate is only available until our block is full or the deadline date is reached. Booking within the official hotel block ensures convenience and supports the event. **The reservation deadline is July 21.**

Room Rate:

Premium King or Premium Double – \$239.00
plus taxes and fees.

Instructions for Making Online Reservations:

1. Go to www.TheLodgeAtGeneva.com
2. Click the orange "Book Now" button on the homepage.
3. Enter your Arrival and Departure Dates.
4. Click on the "Code Type" drop-down arrow.
5. Choose "Group Code" from the drop-down and type in your code:
OGQ82225PERLITE
6. Click the "Check Availability" button and pick the room type you wish to book.
7. To see additional room types, click the "VIEW MORE ROOMS" text link under the room that appears.
8. Fill in your information. (At this time, the card you enter will be charged for the first night's stay plus applicable taxes and fees.)
9. Click Submit and look for your confirmation email.
10. **CODE EXPIRES: July 21, 2025.**

Group Code: OGQ82225PERLITE



CLICK HERE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

Please note:

Group Block Reservations are available online via the hotel website. Call-in reservations will not be accepted.

If you are travelling outside of the contracted blocked dates, make a reservation online with this code for the dates available. Then call your sales manager direct at 440-415-1505 to extend your stay.

Travel

Visa Information

Visa entry requirements vary by country. Please verify the specific visa requirements for the destination country. [Click here](#) for more information about visa requirements to visit the United States. If you require a visa invitation letter from the Perlite Institute to attend the Annual Meeting, please email your request with ample time and the necessary information to events@perlite.org with the subject line: “PI Visa Invitation Request”

Airports

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE)

5300 Riverside Dr, Cleveland, OH 44135

Approximately 65 miles from the Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake

<https://www.clevelandairport.com/>

Erie International Airport (ERI)

4411 W 12th St, Erie, PA 16505

Approximately 57 miles from the Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake

<https://www.erieairport.org/>

Car Services

A Star Transportation

A Star Transportation is offering a discount to the Perlite Institute for private transportation to the Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake from the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE).

The all-inclusive price for a large black SUV is \$239.92 which includes all fees and gratuity for up to 5 passengers and 6 pieces of luggage. <https://astaroh.mylimobiz.com/m/portal/?k=IQe7CTsKLQXl4T1nh3Js>

GoGeneva

Private black vehicle service starting at \$200.

<https://go-geneva.com/transportations/>

contact@gogenevaohio.com

440-207-0809

Sunset Transportation & Rentals LLC

<https://sunsettaxis.com/services/airport-transportation/>

info@sunsettaxis.com

440-855-5314

Hotel Airport Shuttle

The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake

Lucas Lundgren, Front Desk Manager

llundgren@delawarenorth.com

- \$175+tax & 20% gratuity per trip.
- Shuttles can hold a maximum of 14 passengers at one time per shuttle.



Perlite Institute 2025 Annual Meeting

August 24 – 27, 2025 • Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio

Registration Deadline is August 11 • Cancellation Deadline is August 11

Cancellations must be received in writing on or before the cancellation deadline to receive a full refund less a \$25 service fee plus any processing fees.

Please complete one form per attendee (duplicate as needed).

Attendee Information

Attendee Name (as it should appear on badge): _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Registration Rate:

☐ Member: \$1800 ☐ Non-Member: \$1800 plus dues*

☐ Add-on Tour (Aug. 28) – Niagara Falls: \$175

☐ Spouse/Companion: \$900 (Applies to only those not in the industry and includes all meals, receptions, and city tour.)

Children under the age of 12 who are attending the meeting will be free of charge. Children 12 and older will be charged the companion rate and are able to attend all meal functions and tours. If a child or spouse is attending the annual meeting and wants to attend all presentations, they must pay as a full registrant.

**Dues must be remitted only for the first registrant from a company and are based on your category of membership.*

Please contact the Perlite Institute to obtain a membership application or visit perlite.org.

Meal Preference: ☐ Standard ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten-free ☐ Pescatarian

Please check the events you plan to attend:

☐ Sunday, August 24 – Tour

☐ Monday, August 25 – Reception

☐ Tuesday, August 26 – Reception

☐ Sunday, August 24 – Reception

☐ Tuesday, August 26 – Industry
Tour (includes lunch)

☐ Wednesday, August 27 – Lunch

☐ Monday, August 25 – Lunch

☐ Wednesday, August 27 – Reception
and Annual Dinner

Emergency Contact and Special Needs

Name of non-attending contact: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

If you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact the Perlite Institute office.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

AMOUNT DUE: US\$ _____

☐ Check (made payable to "The Perlite Institute" in USD) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx ☐ Wire Transfer

**Please contact finance@perlite.org for wire transfer details.*

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Cardholder Name (please print): _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Return to: Perlite Institute, 2207 Forest Hills Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 238-9985 (fax) or admin@perlite.org