

NEBRASKA Nursery News

NEBRASKA NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

Downtown Lincoln Association Wins National Award for Waste Reduction and Recycling

NEWS RELEASE PROVIDED BY DOWNTOWN LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

The Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) is proud to announce that they have been awarded with the first place national award from Keep America Beautiful (KAB) for their efforts in waste reduction and recycling. This award is given to organizations with outstanding programs that promote waste reduction through wise waste handling practices such as reduce, reuse, and recycle.

George Pinkerton, DLA Maintenance Director, is proud of his maintenance team for receiving national recognition. "DLA is a leader in all areas in which Keep America Beautiful has an affiliated focus on litter reduction, recycling and greening/beautification; in addition, we attempt to conserve water and energy, purchase locally manufactured equipment when possible and provide employment for the developmentally disabled."

KAB, an environmental organization that has been cleaning up American communities with the help of thousands of volunteers for nearly 60 years, gives out national awards annually in the categories of beautification/community greening, litter prevention and waste reduction/recycling.

DLA bested organizations in other

prominent cities such as Buffalo (2nd Place) and Oklahoma City (Distinguished Service) to win the esteemed award.




Also deserving of the national recognition are the Community Alternatives of Nebraska (CAN) crew members. This crew includes individuals with developmental disabilities who assist with recycling and waste management efforts in downtown Lincoln alongside DLA's maintenance workers.

Janna Harsch, one of the CAN Crew Leaders and supervisors, was happy to hear about the award as well. "The recognition is great for the crew, people with disabilities aren't always recognized for the work they do, so to be recognized nationally is just amazing."

Harsch's crew workers on O, P and

Q streets while another crew cleanse up M and N streets and the Haymarket area. Crew members are responsible for checking waste and recycling containers, cleaning up debris and spotting damage and graffiti.

Harsch, who has worked with people with disabilities for three decades, says her crew has been cleaning up downtown Lincoln year-round since 1999. "It brings about the idea that everybody can contribute and is invaluable, and I think the long-term relationship we've had speaks for itself, it's just great; there's not a week that goes by that we're not thanked by someone in the downtown community."

Starting March 1, Lincoln and Lancaster County will partake in KAB's Great American Cleanup, a three month, nationwide effort involving an estimated three million volunteers/attendees with the aim of making significant strides in community restoration and beautification. 

NNLA is proud of the accomplishments of our members. If you or your organization win an award, are involved in a community project, or other accomplishment, please let us know.



THE NNLA MISSION: TO SERVE THE GREEN INDUSTRY BY EDUCATING AND SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS TO SUCCESSFULLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR ENVIRONMENT.

**NNLA Calendar of Events
2011-2012**

Spring Affair Plant Sale

April 23, 2011
Lancaster County Event Center, Lincoln, NE
<http://arboretum.unl.edu/>

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Greenhouse-East Campus Open House
April 29 - May 13 & 27 - June 4 & 10
402-472-2971
<http://arboretum.unl.edu/>

NSA Spring Plant Sale

May 7, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
NSA, 38th & Leighton
<http://arboretum.unl.edu/>

NSA Native Plant Sale

May 21, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Omaha, NE
<http://arboretum.unl.edu/>

NNLA/NAA Summer Field Day

August 12, 2011
Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE
www.nnla.org

Farwest Show - Portland, OR

August 25-27, 2011
www.farwestshow.org

**International Master
Gardener Conference**

October 11-14, 2011
Charleston Convention Center, Charleston, WV

Foster's Spring Market 2012

Hardgoods Buying Show
September 8-9, 2011
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN
Call: 800-747-2756

National Green Centre

January 8-9, 2012
Overland Park Convention Center
Kansas City, KS
www.nationalgreencentre.org

Mid-Am Expo

January 18-20, 2012
Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
www.midam.org

Nebraska Green Expo

January 23-25, 2012, www.nnla.org

Shade Tree Short Course/INLA Day

February 21, 2012 - INLA Day
February 22-23, 2012
Iowa State University, Ames, IA
www.ucs.iastate.edu/shadetree

President's Message

BY TOM HAMERNIK, NNLA & NAA



Early spring is always busy, particularly so this year with members of the NNLA Board. The change to Kissel/E&S management, new website development, the Unicameral's proposals to manage the state's budget shortfall, and the ongoing review of Green Expo 2011 are on the short list. In addition to the NNLA's Green Expo Committee, we have the Summer Field Day Committee working with the Arborists, and a Membership Committee developing ideas to increase our numbers.

The NNLA Board is pleased with our transition to Kissel/E&S. They took over management for both NTA and NNLA, just 5 months before the Green Expo's scheduled date, a VERY steep learning curve, to be sure. We have stumbled a little providing complete and timely communications of our expectations, the most obvious being the mistake at the annual meeting, relating to the number of open Director's positions. We were simply not prepared and didn't follow the article published in the fall addition of the Nebraska Nursery News. Christine Karloff of Papio Valley Nursery had offered her name along with Miles Imel of Peaceful Prairie Nursery, as individuals interested in serving on the

Board. When Directors recognized the mistake, a discussion took place about appointing Christine, who is a quality candidate under any circumstances or opening nominations back up. Board Members felt that considering the timing and the current list of projects being undertaken, appointing Christine and getting her up to speed was in NNLA's best interests.

We also failed to get NNLA scholarship information out to the Colleges and the University. This was very unfortunate and will not happen again. With the change to Kissel, we started to maintain a separate account for scholarships and with another successful auction this year, will be able to double the number of scholarships.

The Unicameral has its hands full attempting to manage a nearly billion dollar shortfall. There are several bills that may impact our members directly. LB 560 would broaden the sales tax to include all landscape labor. While none of us support higher taxes, some felt the current law was confusing and are tired of being audited. LR 51CA and LB 229 would remove funds from the Environmental Trust for water resource issues, thereby substantially reducing monies available for Nebraska Statewide Arboretum grant funding. On March 2nd, the Unicameral Appropriations Committee heard testimony on

(continued on page 6)

SAVE THE DATE

2012 Green Expo
January 23-25, 2012

Notes From Nebraska Department of Agriculture

BY JULIE C. VAN METER, ENTOMOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGER/STATE ENTOMOLOGIST

Spring will be on us before we know it. Just like you, the NDA Entomology staff is gearing up another year of inspections and surveys. Here are a few tidbits of information that may make your spring go a little more smoothly.

Shipping out-of-state

If you are shipping any sod or nursery stock out of state, please check with NDA to determine what the certification requirements may be. Nebraska is now partially infested with Japanese beetle (JB), and this does impact shipping requirements. Colorado is just the latest state to enact a JB quarantine, and now additional certification, on top of your nursery license, is required in order to enter that state. This may require trapping, soil survey, and/or chemical treatment, and a state phytosanitary certificate. Fortunately, NDA was able to obtain a Specialty Crop Block Grant to help offset the costs of this special regulatory work. If you will be shipping interstate, please contact NDA by April 1, so that we can work with you to determine if any additional regulatory work and certification will be needed, and assist you with the process.

Seed Potatoes

NDA Inspectors will again be inspecting firms that distribute seed potatoes, to ensure compliance with the Nebraska Columbia Root-knot Nematode (CRKN) Quarantine. Nebraska has a significant potato industry, and this quarantine is necessary to protect our state from the introduction of this potato pest. Infested

states under quarantine include all or parts of California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington. If you sell seed potatoes, please make sure that the suppliers are in compliance with our quarantine. The full copy of Nebraska's CRKN quarantine can be found on-line at <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/ent/crkn.htm>.

Nursery Dealer Inspections

Each spring, as the temporary greenhouses go up and the plants hit the benches, the NDA inspection staff begins conducting Nursery Dealer inspections. Here are some hints to make the dealer inspection process as simple and painless as possible. First, post your license in a public location. This is required by law and is one of the first things that the inspector checks. Second, have all your plant material labeled correctly. Nebraska law requires that all plant material over one gallon in size be labeled with source/place of origin information. If you use a coding system, have a copy of your supplier codes available for the inspector. Inspectors check to see that this labeling requirement is being met. Plus, any time plant material is restricted, the inspector must determine the supplier of that plant. Having the plant material correctly labeled will save both you and the inspector a lot of time. Third, keep all paperwork for the plant shipments you have received. Often this paperwork contains stamps or certificates indicating compliance with state and federal quarantines. An inspector may ask for this paperwork to confirm the plant material is in

compliance with applicable quarantines. If a nursery cannot provide the paperwork, the inspector may have to restrict the plants until the paperwork can be found. Fourth, remember that plant material cannot be set directly on surfaces such as asphalt or concrete. They must be protected with a layer of mulch, or set on pallets or benches, and B&B root balls must be covered with mulch. This is to protect the roots from heat and desiccation. Finally, use reputable suppliers and purchase quality stock from licensed suppliers. This will help limit the problems found by inspectors.

Japanese Knotweed

NDA recently declared Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), giant knotweed (*F. sachalinensis*) and their cultivars and hybrids, as Nebraska's latest noxious weeds. This means that these plants can no longer be grown or distributed in the state. If you have any of these plants in inventory or on your property, please destroy and dispose of them immediately. Questions about knotweeds or the NDA Noxious Weed Program can be directed to Mitch Coffin, Noxious Weed Program manager, at (402) 471-2394.

Here's hoping for a perfect spring, with no late freezes. And if you have any questions about the NDA Entomology Program, including Nursery and Export Certification, and Survey and Detection Programs, please contact Julie Van Meter, Entomology Program Manager/State Entomologist, at (402) 471-2394. 

Why become a Nebraska Certified Nurserymen?

ALYSSA EYMAN, NCN, GREENLIFE GARDENS, AND JOEL KAYSER, NCN, WELL ROOTED GARDENS

The Nebraska Certified Nurserymen program was established to promote the professionalism of individuals within our industry. A rigorous three part test, which covers plant identification, landscape, and the NCN manual, must be successfully completed. Alyssa Eyman and Joel Kayser became NCNs in 2010 and provided their insight into why they pursued becoming a NCN.

Alyssa Eyman, Greenlife Gardens, Nebraska Certified Nurserymen

Gardening has always been a passion of mine, and has now become a challenging and exciting career. After graduating from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a degree in horticulture, it was time to enter my new career field. Currently I am employed by Greenlife Gardens in Papillion, Nebraska as a landscape designer and landscape maintenance manager.

After entering the work field I found the value and importance of increased involvement within the industry and fellow peers. Pursuing this certification allows me to help guide and educate my clients and coworkers in their decision making process. As nurserymen

we should be proud of our industry, support education and state organizations that represent the landscape industry.

We as nurserymen and nurserywomen, work in an industry where information is constantly changing and continuing education is necessary to keep ahead of these changes. It is important that our industry is held to a high and specific set of standards. Nebraska Certified Nurserymen exemplify these standards, and this is why I chose to pursue my NCN.


Joel Kayser, Well Rooted Gardens, Nebraska Certified Nurserymen

Well Rooted Gardens INC. (WRG) was formed with the desire of being a specialized horticulture business. WRG provides consultation and design services along with the install process. Being that I want my business to be the best it can be in proper plant care, I try to further my education and knowledge of proper plant care as much as I can.







Todd Faller, Joel Kayser, Alyssa Eyman, Harlan Hamernik

Obtaining my NCN was one of those steps. The NCN was important to me because it is not a very common certification in the field and shows that you have a degree of knowledge and ability to provide excellent plant care.

Too many landscaper businesses are willing to install a landscape for a quick buck even if the practices used to install the landscape will eventually damage or kill the plants. Being a Nebraska Certified Nurserymen or having one on your staff, shows that your business is committed to insuring that plants are taken care of before, during and after the installation process is done. 

QUICK PLANT FACTS

-  Landscaping can add between 7% and 15% to a home's value. *Source: The Gallup Organization*
-  Landscaping can bring a recovery value of 100 to 200 percent at selling time. Kitchen remodeling brings a 75 to 125 percent recovery rate, bathroom remodeling a 20 to 120 percent recovery rate, and addition of a swimming pool a 20 to 50 percent recovery rate. *Source: Money Magazine*
-  Landscaping can reduce air conditioning costs by up to 50 percent, by shading the windows and walls of a home. *Source: American Public Power Association*
-  Trees can reduce bothersome noise by up to 50 percent and can mask unwanted noises with pleasant sounds. *Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Provided by the American Nursery and Landscape Association

Spring Affair Plant Sale Celebrates 25th Year

BY KARMA LARSEN, NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE
KIM TODD, UNL DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE

The Midwest's largest plant sale is also the longest-running, as Spring Affair celebrates its 25th anniversary on April 23, 2011. Many of the plants that gardeners find at Spring Affair can't be found anywhere else locally. Many NNLA Members have participated in the event, as volunteers, speakers, vendors, and buyers.

"It's the place to find that unusual plant you've been looking for," according to Spring Affair Coordinator Connie Paxton. Plants are selected for regional suitability, uniqueness and by popular demand. Bluebird Nursery, Inc. of Clarkson, NE has provided the plants, countless hours and expertise for the entire quarter century of the show. More than 900 plant varieties will be available—perennials, herbs, native plants, temperennials, vines and a variety of trees and shrubs—something for everyone.

In 2011, a new partnership between Nebraska Stateside Arboretum, the Nebraska Forest Service, and the UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture will result in a recommitment to the importance of the NDA's programs and a renewed emphasis on the great learning opportunities possible when plants are the subject matter. The proceeds from the event will be recommitted to supporting the NSA's affiliate sites and

enhancing the education.

The 25th annual Spring Affair plant sale is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 23 at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th and Havelock in Lincoln. Admission to the sale is free. The plant sale, plant talks and vendors of garden art, sculptures, furniture and other items are all under one roof in Pavilion I, on the northeast edge of the Lancaster Event Center. NNLA members who want an intense, well-attended event at which to display and sell their products or provide educational materials might take advantage of the affordable exhibitor booths.

Plant talks will be held throughout the day. Presenters include Mark Canney on "Shades of Silver"; Luann Finke on "Sunny Silver Solutions"; and Stacy Adams on caring for plants—"I Got It ... Now What?"


Informational "Talk-about's," 20-minute presentations on various plant groups, will be offered throughout the day. These talks will be held among the plant tables and focus on herbs, plants for sun, temperennials, grasses and woody plants.

Articles in the 2011 Spring Affair News, to be mailed to over 10,000 households in late March, will focus on silver plants to coincide with the event's silver anniversary, plant highlights and



landscape design. It is an inexpensive way for NNLA members to advertise to a plant-oriented target audience.

The Spring Affair Preview Party will be held Friday night, April 22. To register for the dinner or for more information, call Kit Keller at 402/489-2238.

The deadline to be an exhibitor and/or a sponsor is April 8. For more information or to get a copy of the newsletter, call 402/472-2971, or visit springaffair.unl.edu. 

Visit the new NNLA Website
www.nnla.org — launching soon!

President's Message

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2


the NE Forest Service's budget. For right now, they appear to be penciled in at the same level of funding as their 2010-11 budget. PLEASE make the time to review the proposed legislation and make your opinions known to NNLA Board and your state senator. I have limited experience with the Unicam, but honestly feel that individuals DO impact the process. We have unequalled access to the process and our Senators consider their constituents' viewpoints in crafting a solution.

On February 24th, Kim Davidson, Heather Byers and I attended the Iowa Shade Tree Shortcourse and INLA Tradeshow in Ames. We started the morning with 700 other attendees

listening to Dr. Michael Dirr and Rick Darke speaking about "Noble Trees" and "Balancing Natives and Exotics in the Garden" respectively. We attended the INLA business meeting at lunch and spent the better part of an hour with their President and Vice President discussing common issues. The afternoon quickly passed between breakout sessions and visiting with exhibitors. We brought home a bunch of ideas we can incorporate right away and others that will spur conversations for future years. It was time very well spent.

On February 23rd, the Joint Green Expo Committee met to review the 2011 event. NNLA's representatives are Kim Todd, Kim Davidson, Todd Faller, and I.

The group spent nearly 3 hours evaluating attendee surveys, voicing their own observations, relating comments from their respective Boards, and making suggestions for the future. Committee members recognized that communication was one of our short comings and Kim Todd took it upon herself to serve as our recorder. Both the NTA and NNLA Boards will be reviewing the Committee's information and reaching a decision on plans for 2012.

The NNLA Board is working hard to keep our organization relevant and build value to current and potential members. We need and truly value your input. Have a GREAT SPRING SEASON! 



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New NNLA Website Launching in Early April!

BY JAKE SITTNER, TAILORED LANDSCAPES AND ANDREW MILHOUSE, NNLA

The NNLA's new website is about to launch in early April. It's our job to tell you what's going to be better about it. First things first, the aesthetics are going to be much cleaner. The new website is going to have a look that doesn't age and more importantly doesn't look like it is 15 years old. Simplification and navigation is our goal. We'll be able to upload member content through the year as it comes along. We want to showcase our members. We will have scrolling pictures on the front page and a member showcase section. We need our members to submit pictures to the NNLA office so they can be placed on the website. We envision having our pictures on the site correspond with the seasons. We want to display

a variety of pictures so we can keep the site looking fresh. There will be a page dedicated to legislative topics that are important to our industry. Tax law, employment issues, new plant diseases, even DOT law could be on there as it comes up.

We're also going to make the website an asset to consumers across the state. A person will be able to find a nursery or landscape installer based on the area of the state in which they live. With some marketing the NNLA will hopefully be seen as a credible source to find contractors and also emphasizing that 'buy local' idea should apply to nursery stock as well. Most importantly, we want feedback from our members. This new website is a benefit for members of the NNLA.



We want to know what you think. If you have any comments or suggestions for the new site after it launches, or would like to submit a picture for the website, please contact the NNLA office at (402) 475-8873 or amilhouse@kisseles.com.

Creating Visibility for your Business and the NNLA

KATHLEEN DOLEZAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION, KDOLEZAL@KISSELES.COM

Creating visibility for your business and/or the NNLA can be simple or elaborate. It can be as simple as making sure you know who the reporter is for your home town paper that reports on related topics. Let them know you exist and what expertise you have if they ever have questions. Consider calling your local reporter and offering them some article ideas, such as how to prepare yards or gardens for the upcoming season. You have expertise to share that can be helpful for them when they are looking for articles or following up on national stories or trends. Of course, we would appreciate you mentioning that you are a member of the NNLA.

Also, consider adding the NNLA logo to your promotional items. If a

charity or business organization is having a meeting, picnic or fundraising event, wear a shirt with your logo on it, volunteer to work, donate a plant or gift certificate for the silent auction, or offer to provide live plants as centerpieces for each table. All of these items should have your logo and business name on them. Does your church bulletin have ads in it? How about the programs provided at your local school's sporting events? Often advertising costs for these types of publications is often very reasonable. People are more likely to support a business that supports common interests.

Of course, I have to get a plug in for promoting NNLA membership. Consider displaying that you are an NNLA

Member. The NNLA office would be happy to send you a poster that you can display at your business. Displaying that you are part of a professional organization shows that you are involved with other professionals in your industry.

If you know of a business in your area that is not a member of the NNLA, please ask them to join. It can be as simple as forwarding them a copy of this newsletter and a link to the NNLA website along with an invitation to join. Your invite might be the personal touch from a colleague that inspires them to join.

2010 Nebraska Green Expo

The Nebraska Green Expo was held this year at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs from January 10-12. As is tradition, the weather did not cooperate for the start of the conference, but many braved the weather to attend on Monday. More members were able to attend on Tuesday and Wednesday as the weather improved.

This year's expo offered many educational opportunities. The nursery and landscape course track had national speakers such as Paul Pilon of Perennial Solutions presenting on greenhouse plant production. There were also seminars on business issues ranging from "Passing on the Business" to "Child Labor Laws and Workers Compensation Issues." Members were able to learn about the latest research and updates regarding small and large fruits from Vaughn Hammond of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. Of course, the expo also had Nebraska favorites such as Todd Faller discussing specialty conifers for your windbreaks, foundation plantings and specimen plants and the Great Plants Panel that included Addie Kinghorn, Harlan Hamernik and Bob Hendrickson. The lively discussion that began at Eric Berg's Healthy Trees/Healthy Roots round table discussion will be built upon at the summer field day.

The trade show was filled completely with a wide variety of exhibitors that overflowed into the ballroom. NNLA members were able to learn more about new plants and products at the trade show between and after classes. Whether you took the opportunity to explore the variety of Elms and Oaks available at Plains Tree Farm or check out the newest types of landscape lighting at Ream, the expo allowed you to talk to the experts. The NNLA booth provided information to members and raised awareness of the mission of the NNLA for those that are not members. This was the first year for "Hunt the Hall," sponsored by the Nebraska Certified Nurserymen, that incited attendees to hunt for the answer to clues that led them on an adventure through the exhibitor's booths. Plan to join in the fun by participating in "Hunt the Hall" next year. You would win a \$50 Visa card and learn while having fun.

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Terry Hughes, Hughes Mulch Products



Silent Auction Table



Great Plains Nursery Booth

Last, but by no means the least benefit, is the opportunity to network, meet new friends and reconnect with long-time colleagues. During the day and at the receptions on Monday and Tuesday nights, there was time to learn from each other.

The Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association would like to thank all the exhibitors that had booths and that donated items for the live and silent auctions. The auctions raised over \$3,500 for the NNLA Scholarships. Also, a special thanks to our advertisers and sponsors. Their participation in the Nebraska Green Expo allows the NNLA to offer a great educational opportunity, both in the classroom and on the trade and show floor, and supports the NNLA mission. Please remember to patronize our exhibitors and member firms during the upcoming spring season..

Advertisers

- Bluebird Nursery, Inc.
- Ditch Witch
- Great Plains Nursery
- Michael Johnson Construction, Ltd
- Papio Valley Nursery, Inc.



Tom Hamernik, NNLA President, encouraging bids at the Live Auction at the 2011 Green Expo

Auction Donors

- Alta Falls & Pond Supplies
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- Barcel Landscape Products
- Bluebird Nursery
- Great Plains Nursery
- Greenleaf Nursery Company
- JR Johnson Supply
- Gordon Kissel
- Peaceful Prairie Nursery, Inc.
- REAMS

- Prairie Gold Nursery
- Tri-County Sand & Gravel, Inc.
- Turf Supply Co., Inc.

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- Bayer Environmental Science
- Bluebird Nursery
- BFG Supply Co.
- Great Plains Nursery
- Papio Valley Nursery 

SAVE THE DATE

2011 Summer Field Day

Friday, August 12 ~ Camp Carol Joy Holling ~ Ashland, Nebraska

The NNLA along with the Nebraska Arborists Association are planning a fun and exciting summer field day. We hope to bring everyone together in a community project as was discussed at the annual membership meeting at the Nebraska Green Expo. We will also be expanding the discussion from the Expo regarding is it the production, grower, or installer that determines how well a tree will perform...or all three! The camp is a beautiful setting for the Field Day and offers a lot of hands on opportunities to learn. More details and registration materials will be provided in the June newsletter and on the NNLA website at www.nnla.org

New Board Member Spotlight: Miles Imel

DIRECTOR 2011-14, PEACEFUL PRAIRIE NURSERY, INC., MITCHELL, NE

Hi Everyone! I volunteered to run for the board of directors, because I believe strongly in the nursery and landscape industry and want to help it continue to grow here in Nebraska. The people in our industry are second to none and working with plants is awesome! One of my goals, while on the board, is to help initiate regional networking events, workshops, etc in the western part of the state for members and potential members. Living in Mitchell (only 15 miles from Wyoming and 400 miles from Lincoln), it can be challenging to make it to events in the

eastern part of the state. By networking with others regionally, we can learn from, share with and team up to make our businesses even stronger. Your input and participation is very important. At the present time, we are trying to put together a BBQ in the western part of the state for late summer...will keep you posted.

For those that don't know me... I have been married to Janis, the love of my life, for almost 21 years and have two daughters, Courtney 17 and Bailey 14. I have been in the nursery industry for 28 years, primarily on the production


side, propagating ornamental shrubs. I received horticulture degrees from Kishwaukee Community College in Malta, Illinois and from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. I do believe in a strong relationship between the nursery industry, the community college and university systems.

Janis and I established Peaceful Prairie Nursery, Inc., located near Mitchell, in 1998 as a wholesale propagation nursery. We have specialized in shrub and ornamental grass potted liners that our customers in the Midwest and Rocky Mountain regions have used to shift up into #1, #2, and #5 containers to grow on. Our nursery facility includes over 18,000 sq ft of greenhouse production space equipped with traveling irrigation



booms and 10 acres of land for expansion. Due to the economic downturn, we, like many other businesses, have re-evaluated our product mix, and how and what we do. NEW to our product mix are #2 container shrubs, #1 container grasses, 4.5" and #1 container perennials, all to help fill the needs of garden centers and landscapers in our region.

In addition to running Peaceful Prairie Nursery with Janis, I have been the nursery production manager at Aulick's TLC in Scottsbluff, for the past two and a half years. "The Lifestyle Center", TLC, is a very unique retail destination which includes the garden center, Spa, home décor and gifts all within one store. Yes, I did say Spa...The Spa by TLC is a full-service Spa within the garden center!

I look forward to the next three years on the board and helping the NNLA and the nursery and landscape industry grow here in Nebraska!! Have a GREAT and PROSPEROUS 2011! 

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Meet the 2011 Board of Directors

Tom Hamernik, President

Bluebird Nursery, Clarkson, NE

Tom started at Bluebird Nursery after graduating from DuPage Horticultural School in West Chicago, IL in the summer of 1978. Tom says, "he started before pots were plastic and soil wasn't dirt". Over the past 27 years he has been involved in most aspects of the nursery/greenhouse business, primarily with operation-supplies, construction, maintenance, staffing and delivery issues. He is very involved with the Clarkson community, being a firefighter/EMT for 26 years and a local school board member for 13. In 1998, Tom was elected a regional director of the Nebraska Association of School Board and served as President in 2004. He passed his NCN exam in 1985 and proudly holds Certificate #22. Tom and his wife, Paula have 3 adult daughters, Melissa, Samantha, Mallory and a granddaughter Gracie.

Kim Todd, Past President

Associate Professor and Extension Horticulture Specialist – University of Nebraska-Lincoln

In any profession, spending time and exchanging ideas with others is essential to feeling connected, remaining current, and maintaining enthusiasm and creativity. The word 'association' says it well: the reason to join and to be an active member on a board or on a committee, is to associate with other people. It is through these associations that we all benefit, sharing our talents, learning from our combined experiences, helping the next generation become our successors. The structure of the NNLA Board, with staggered terms and the opportunity to assume leadership roles, provides for both continuity and innovative input. Its diversity allows a broad perspective, and a wider understanding of the essential relationships between large and small private businesses, retail and wholesale

markets, governmental and educational institutions, young professionals and those looking forward to slowing down but not stepping down. I chose to run for the NNLA Board to learn more about a significant aspect of the Green Industry, and to optimistically help forge stronger relationships between landscape architecture, education, and the nursery industry in all its complicated variability. I stayed because there was work to be done. There is still work to be done; as a 'past,' I look forward to passing the spade without relinquishing what is still a service to which I am committed.

Kim Davidson, Vice President

Estate Gardeners, Elkhorn, NE

Kim Davidson is a landscape designer who has served on the NNLA board the last three years, she is currently serving her second term as Vice President. She recently joined Estate Gardeners, Inc. after spending the last few years operating and managing her own company Garden Creations. With more than 20 years of experience, Kim holds a degree in Landscape Design from Kansas State University and is one of the few in the state of Nebraska to be a Certified Landscape Designer. She was awarded the prestigious Nebraska Certified Nurseryman's Professional of the Year in 2009 and recently became a member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, an international organization which recognizes only Landscape Designers. "I was very intimidated at first to run for a board position, as over the years it has always held those individuals I considered my peers and I looked to them for all the answers!! It was, after all, the "old boys club" as that was who was on the board all those years. In the last three years, though it has become

an evenly divided Board of men and women. I hope to challenge others that may feel "intimidated" to join a committee or the Board, as it has helped me gain new perspective on the industry in Nebraska and all that we have to offer in our state. Not only meeting more members of the organization, but developing those relationships and building on them for mutual benefits. Making the Board a voice that all members can feel comfortable to contact with questions or comments. "

Andy Campbell, Treasurer

Campbell's Nurseries, Lincoln, NE

Andy serves as the manager of our Landscape department at Campbell's Nurseries. Campbell's Nurseries are a thriving Lincoln green business established in 1912. The team at Campbell's operates two full service Garden Centers; field, bedding, and container production; and a full service landscape division offering both design build installation and landscape maintenance. "I chose to participate in the NNLA and the Board as a way to help give back. Through the years the NNLA has been a great support for our business and now I believe it is important to do my part to pass on what I and our company have received from the NNLA."

George Pinkerton, Director

Downtown Lincoln Association, Lincoln, NE

Board member of NNLA for past two years, Past President and Board member of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and a Certified Nebraska Arborist. Presently employed as Director of Maintenance for Downtown Lincoln Association. Previous employed as the Superintendent of Parks/ City Arborist for the City of Beatrice and the State of

(continued on page 12)

Meet the 2011 Board of Directors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Nebraska as a Horticultural Supervisor. I also have worked with Southeast Community College as a Horticultural Instructor. I have enjoyed my time on the NNLA Board and meeting the many interesting NNLA members throughout the State. I would like to see our organization grow by ambitiously recruiting new members and working to retain our present membership. I think some of the proposals of the NNLA Membership Committee will set a good working model to achieve this goal.

Heather Byers, Director

Great Plains Nursery, Weston, NE

Heather Byers was elected to the NNLA board in 2010. She and her husband own Great Plains Nursery near Weston, NE. Their wholesale nursery focuses on native trees and shrubs, growing liners to finish material. She is passionate about the education and promotion of horticulture. Heather joined NNLA in 2005 as a student at UNL. "Being a member means being a part of something bigger than yourself, working with like-minded people to promote our industry in the state. Giving opportunities for education, networking and friendship." She brings a small business-owner viewpoint to the board and understands the importance of businesses in rural Nebraska. "My goals while on the board include promoting opportunities to grow and strengthen our Association across the state."

Jake Sittner, Director

Tailored Landscapes, Lincoln, NE

Throughout Jake's childhood his early experiences working outside with his parents must have cultivated an ongoing desire and passion for working in landscaping recreationally and later professionally. As his knowledge base grew, Jake learned to appreciate conservation practices and the importance of how landscapes function. This is the foundation of Tailored Landscapes, LLC, the company Jake launched in 2003 while he attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 2006, he graduated from UNL with a degree in Horticulture, emphasizing on Landscape Design. Since then, he has worked to expand his company and expertise, the latter advanced by shadowing a high-end landscape architecture firm in Chicago and becoming a Certified Nurseryman. In December 2008, Jake married his wife, Kristi, whom he met at UNL in Kim Todd's plant identification class. As a board member Jake would like to get the NNLA into a position where home & business owners use it as a resource to find local nursery stock or qualified landscape contractors. This will be done through marketing our logo, new technology (Facebook & website), and getting in front of news cameras. This will build our association's place in Nebraska's green industry and attract new members.

Miles Imel

Peaceful Prairie Nursery, Inc., Mitchell, NE

Featured Board Member on page 10.

Christine Karloff, Director

Papio Valley Nursery, Inc., Papillion, NE

Christine Karloff is a plant physiologist residing in Omaha, Nebraska. She spent a year with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum before taking a position with the Nebraska Forest Service and the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). During her career with the Nebraska Forest Service, she studied with the current state forester, with whom she published Woody Floral Production, a complete guide to growing and marketing woody floral products in the Midwest. She earned her master's degree in horticulture from UNL with an emphasis in plant physiology. She also earned her Bachelor's degree in horticulture from UNL with an emphasis in both landscape design and plant science at which time she became a Nebraska Certified Nurseryman (NCN). She has since done consulting positions for the University of Nebraska forest ecology department, The National Arbor Day Foundation, and Nature Hills Nursery. Christine's philosophies promote sustainability, conservation, and stewardship in the landscape. Christine is a manager at Papio Valley Nursery, Inc. in Papillion, NE. "Foremost among my ambitions is to help nursery professionals and the green industry to better understand the importance of native ornamentals and 'reconciliation ecology'." 

NOTE: The City of Bellevue is now requiring individuals and/or companies that plan to do any tree related work, including stump removal to first get a license prior to performing work in the City of Bellevue. In order to get a license you must provide a copy of your NAA or ISA certification.



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Legislative Update

LB 229

We are writing to request that NNLA members contact their senator and the senators on the Appropriation Committee to ask them to not assume the passage of LB 229 when they develop their budget package. LB 229 transfers \$7 million from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) to the Water Resources Cash Fund for the next ten years. The transfers authorized in LB 229 would reduce the amount of new funding available for expenditure by the NETF by approximately 50%.

The NETF is the primary source of funding for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. If the funding shift is included in the Appropriations package, it is very difficult to remove it. The NETF was established by the vote of the people and the distribution should reflect that vote. Our senators need to know the importance of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Your voice does count and will make a difference.

Appropriation Committee

Members are:

Senator Lavon Heidemann
Senator Danielle Conrad
Senator Tony Fulton
Senator Thomas Hansen
Senator John Harms
Senator Heath Mello
Senator Jeremy Nordquist
Senator John Wightman

Also consider contacting the members of the Natural Resources committee that voted to advance LB 229 from the committee to let them know that you are disappointed in their vote and hope they will reconsider their support of LB 229.

Natural Resources committee are:

Senator Tom Carlson
Senator Mark Christensen
Senator Annette Dubas
Senator Chris Langemeier
Senator Beau McCoy
Senator Ken Schilz

Send a Thank You to Senator Ken Haar (khaar@leg.ne.gov) for being the only Natural Resources Committee member to vote against advancing LB 229.

LB 560

The Revenue Committee heard testimony on LB 560, which broadens the state sales tax base to many services, including "landscaping, yard maintenance, seed planting, and snow removal". Opponents testifying included; NE Car and Truck Dealers Assn., Comm. Property Owners, Funeral Directors, and the Catholic Bishops Conference. Sen. Cornett, who is the sponsor of LB 560, has stated that she wouldn't pursue passage, unless the additional \$60-84,000,000 revenue is needed to balance the state's budget, later in the legislative session. If we get to that point, we will need NNLA members to make our case on maintaining the current sales tax exemption.

Contact information for senators can be found on the below website.
<http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/>

Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association
2011 Board of Directors

President, 2009-2011

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Vice President 2008 – 2011

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Past President, 2009-2011

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Treasurer 2010-2012

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Director 2009 – 2012

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Director 2010 – 2013

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Director 2011 – 2013

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Director 2011 – 2013

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