

Time flies

Mike Coleman
PRESIDENT
mctreegrower@gmail.com
Arrowhead Ornamentals Inc.
P.O. Box 157
Hubbard, OR 97032
503-651-2040
FAX 503-651-2042

Leigh Geschwill
PRESIDENT-ELECT
farmerswife@fandbfarms.com
F & B Farms & Nursery
10498 Geschwill Lane N.E.
Woodburn, OR 97071-9149
503-830-1388
FAX 866-608-3709

Josh Zielinski
VICE PRESIDENT
josh@alphannursery.com
Alpha Nursery
5050 Hazelgreen Rd. N.E.
Salem, OR 97305-3519
503-390-1286
FAX 503-390-2639

Mark Bigej
TREASURER
mbigej@als-gardencenter.com
Al's Garden Centers
1220 N. Pacific Hwy.
Woodburn, OR 97071-3616
503-981-1245
FAX 503-982-4608

Matt Gold
PAST PRESIDENT
matt.gold@goldhillnursery.com
Gold Hill Nursery /
Midas Nursery Solutions
11715 S.W. Hillsboro Hwy.
Hillsboro, OR 97123
503-628-1118
FAX 503-628-2257

Mike Hiller
SECRETARY
mike.hiller@kraemersnursery.com
Kraemer's Nursery Inc.
P.O. Box 930
Mt. Angel, OR 97362
503-845-2283
FAX 503-845-6557

Jim Gilbert
MEMBER AT LARGE
sales@northwoodsnursery.com
Northwoods Nursery
28696 S. Cramer Rd.
Molalla, OR 97038-8576
503-651-3737
FAX 503-651-3882

STATE BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

CENTRAL OREGON CHAPTER
Gary S. English
gary@landsystemsnursery.com
Landsystems Nursery
541-382-7646

CHRISTMAS TREE CHAPTER
vacant

CLACKAMAS CHAPTER
Tom Brewer
tbrewer@myerslawnandgarden.com
Myers Industries
Lawn & Garden Group
503-686-8448
Jim Simnitt
simnittnsy@canby.com
503-266-9640

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER
Tamara Clift
tamaragreg@msn.com
McKenzie River Nursery
541-747-2767

GREENHOUSE CHAPTER
Dan English
danenglish@q.com
503-363-5227
Dawn Hummel
beedazzledgardens@yahoo.com
503-784-0691
BeeDazzled Gardens & Design

MT. HOOD CHAPTER
Anthony Kinen
akinen5@gmail.com
503-866-3627
Scott Ekstrom
ekstrom.nsy@frontier.com
503-663-4035
Ekstrom Nursery Inc.

RETAIL CHAPTER
Sara Ori
sarao@portlandnursery.com
503-231-5050
Lisa Barnett
lbcountrychick@yahoo.com
503-509-8755
Sebright Gardens

SUNSET CHAPTER
Ron Kinney
rkinney@monrovia.com
503-868-7941
Clayton Moore Jr.
orders@naplants.com
503-474-1852
North American Plants Inc.

WILLAMETTE CHAPTER
Kyle Fessler
kyle@stchristophernursery.com
503-580-4470
Val Tancredi
valtjan@gmail.com
503-585-1765
St. Christopher Nursery LLC

While trying to figure out a topic for the final President's column of my tenure, I reflected on how quickly the last year has passed by. As a matter of fact, my four-year volunteer stint on the Executive Committee seems like it just got underway.

It has been an incredible experience that gave me an inside look at the value the OAN provides to our member nurseries. I certainly encourage anyone interested in learning more about that value to sign up for a committee — even the Executive Committee. There are many opportunities available to help.

The OAN, as an organization, got smaller as our industry did. Oregon's nursery industry peaked in 2007, with close to \$1 billion in gross sales. That dropped more than 30 percent by 2010, as grower revenue went down by \$312 million.

The OAN's budget today is roughly one half of what it was in 2008. Despite this challenge, our OAN staff has done a remarkable job staying relevant to our industry and serving our membership well. Our industry has rebounded strongly, and the OAN continues to serve us well, in large part due to our efficient and professional staff. They have made my term as OAN President extremely rewarding, and I thank all of them for making my job easy.

What has this remarkable team of staff and volunteers accomplished? We have an outstanding record of legislative accomplishments that have benefited all our members — large and small, young and old.

Going back to 2007, these achievements include estate tax reform, metal theft legislation, funding for pest and disease, funding for water feasibility projects, funding to secure and keep markets open, creating the *Safe Procurement and Production Manual*, fighting and

changing the pre-notification law regarding shipment of nursery products, and many other battles too numerous to mention in this column.

This list of accomplishments does not include the many challenges to the nursery industry that the OAN stopped before they could become harmful to all our operations.

What's more, the OAN continues to provide many services to our membership, including the nationally recognized Farwest Show, the online and print Nursery Guide, the OAN Member Update, member training, insurance, and many other benefits (including *Digger*, the magazine you are reading right now). You can obtain the complete listing of member benefits from the OAN website or by calling the OAN office.

The website even has a member savings calculator to show how much you can save by joining. Just place your cursor over "Join OAN" on the menu, then click the "Calculate Your Savings" option.

Along with the exceptional OAN staff, our membership can look to future guidance from a dynamic group of young volunteer leaders. I am one of the "old guys" at 48, and this remarkable group of young leaders has the knowledge and skills to keep the OAN growing towards a bright future.

But the OAN needs all members to participate to make it successful. There are many opportunities to make your voice heard on the various committees and governing boards, both at the chapter and state levels. The OAN is what the members want it to be — so be the change you desire. ☺



By Mike Coleman
OAN PRESIDENT