

**2018-2019  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

**Jim Simnitt**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
Simnitt Nursery  
138 NE 22nd Ave.  
Canby, OR 97013  
simnittnsy@canby.com  
503-266-9640  
FAX 503-263-6330

**Josh Robinson**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Robinson Nursery Inc.  
P.O. Box 100  
Amity, OR 97101  
josh@robinsonnursery.com  
877-855-8733  
FAX 503-835-3004

**Kyle Fessler**  
TREASURER  
St. Christopher Nursery LLC  
12936 Portland Rd. N.E.  
Gervais, OR 97026  
kyle@stchristophernursery.com  
503-580-4470  
FAX 503-792-3902

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

**Denece Messenger**  
SECRETARY  
Decorative Bark Products  
P.O. Box 1198  
Tualatin, OR 97062  
denece messenger@comcast.net  
503-510-4029  
FAX 503-859-3764

**Todd Nelson**  
MEMBER AT LARGE  
Bountiful Farms Nursery Inc.  
17280 Boones Ferry Rd. N.E.  
Woodburn, OR 97071  
todd@bountifulfarms.com  
503-981-7494

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Tom Brewer**  
ASSOCIATE MEMBER  
HC Companies Inc. ProCal  
tbrewer@hc-companies.com  
503-686-8448

**Adam Farley**  
CONTAINER GROWER  
Countryside Nursery  
afarley@countrysidenursery.com  
503-678-0511

**Ron Kinney**  
CONTAINER GROWER  
Monrovia  
rkinney@monrovia.com  
503-868-7941

**Amanda Staehely**  
CONTAINER GROWER  
Columbia Nursery  
amandastaehely@gmail.com  
503-810-2598

**Jesse Nelson**  
FIELD / BARE ROOT GROWER  
Hans Nelson & Sons Nursery Inc.  
jnelson@hansnelson.com  
503-663-3348

**Chris Robinson**  
FIELD / BARE ROOT GROWER  
Robinson Nursery Inc.  
chris@robinsonnursery.com  
877-855-8733

**Jay Sanders**  
FIELD / B&B GROWER  
KG Farms Inc.  
jsanders@kgfarmsinc.com  
503-678-3245

**Ben Verhoeven**  
GREENHOUSE  
Peoria Gardens Inc.  
benv@peoriagardens.com  
541-753-8519

**Mark Leichty**  
GREENHOUSE  
Little Prince of Oregon Nursery  
mark@littleprinceoforegon.com  
503-678-5687

**Gary S. English**  
RETAIL  
Landsystems Nursery  
gary@landsystemsnursery.com  
541-382-7646

# Couldn't stand the weather

**Legendary Texas bluesman Stevie Ray Vaughan famously sang that he "Couldn't Stand the Weather."**



**Mike Hiller  
OAN PRESIDENT**

Here in Oregon, enduring the weather is one thing. As I suspect they do in Texas, we're just trying to figure out what's going on from one moment to the next.

While the rest of the United States was suffering under the yoke of a polar vortex, Western Oregon enjoyed the mildest January in recent memory. We had many sunny days and nary a frost to be found. Our plants were waking up from dormancy earlier than normal — even earlier than the mildest winters.

Of course, this was followed by February snowfalls, rain and cold. While not as bad as advertised, they surely sent our plants mixed signals.

As always, it seems like the weather does what it wants, when it wants — here and elsewhere — no matter what anyone might think about it. That's the weather's prerogative, but some consistency and predictability would be nice.

It's difficult to start running irrigation lines in the field, only to look up at the mountains and see very little snow. One starts to wonder: "Will we have enough water to get through this coming season?"

They say that "water is life," and it's doubly true in our line of work. We must do everything we possibly can to manage this resource to our best ability. That begins, but doesn't end, with investing in technologies that reduce our water needs.

We also need the state's assistance. There are many water users, from agriculture to municipalities to the interest groups that urge stewardship over our fisheries and natural resources. All of them have a stake in properly developing and maintaining our water supplies so they don't evaporate into thin air.

**"Will we have enough water to get through this coming season?"**

This is a call out to our membership: please help support the OAN's efforts on this front. We need you to get involved. I don't have to tell you what will happen if our industry's access to water is compromised.

It's important we be heard by the public. We must educate people on how we use water and why it is so critical to what we do. Many people have lost a connection to agriculture. They don't understand what it takes to grow a plant because it's not part of their daily life.

Academia can also help us. We need their continued efforts to study the effective irrigation of plants. We need advanced devices that give us real-time information on crop inputs, and the knowledge of how to use them. I'm a big believer in such systems. I've seen the results. Through the use of advanced sensors, we can better understand how much water a plant needs. We can manage and adjust fertilizer to meet the specific needs of the plant. We can use only the inputs the plant needs, thereby reducing waste.

As you start to plan out this season, keep in mind that the OAN is doing its best to maintain your seat at the table where decisions get made. We can only do this with your help. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so, and while you're at it, please donate to our political or scholarship funds.

Most importantly, we need your voice. Oregon is a great place to grow plants. We need to keep it that way. And to do that, we need you. ☺