

**2020-2021  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Kyle Fessler**  
PRESIDENT  
Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas Inc.  
13009 McKee School Road N.E.  
Woodburn, OR 97071  
sales@woodburnnursery.com  
503-634-2231  
FAX 503-634-2238

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

**Todd Nelson**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Bountiful Farms Nursery Inc.  
17280 Boones Ferry Rd. N.E.  
Woodburn, OR 97071  
info@bountifulfarms.com  
503-981-7494

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

**Wes Bailey**  
TREASURER  
Smith Gardens Inc.  
23150 Boones Ferry Road N.E.  
Aurora, OR 97002  
wes.bailey@smithgardens.com  
503-678-5373

**Amanda Staehely**  
SECRETARY  
Columbia Nursery  
29490 S. Jackson Road  
Canby, OR 97013  
amandastaehely@gmail.com  
503-810-2598

**Ben Verhoeven**  
MEMBER AT LARGE  
Peoria Gardens Inc.  
32355 Peoria Rd SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
benv@peoriagardens.com  
541-753-8519

**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

**Joe Dula**  
CONTAINER GROWER  
Moana Nursery  
joed@moananursery.com  
503-266-8170

**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

**Lorne Blackman**  
GREENHOUSE  
Walla Walla Nursery Co. Inc.  
lblackman@wallawallanursery.com  
509-522-9855

**Tyler Meskers**  
GREENHOUSE  
Oregon Flowers Inc.  
tyler@oregonflowers.com  
503-678-2580

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



Kyle Fessler

# Weathering the storm

**August has always been a month I look forward to.**

As summer draws toward an end, it's a big time of transition for our family. Between football practices, trying to squeeze in one more trip to the lake, and scrambling to find last-minute school supplies, there is much to accomplish before Labor Day hits.

On the farm, much of the harvest work is nearing completion. The last of last season's nursery stock has gone down the road. This year's crop has flushed and is ready for sales. When mid-August rolls around in Nursery Country, it can only mean one thing: Farwest Show has arrived!

To me, there is no better kickoff to a new nursery season than the Farwest Show. It's a great opportunity for buyers from all over the country to tour Oregon nurseries, visit with our growers, and really take in all that the Pacific Northwest horticulture industry has to offer.

The cancellation of the 2020 Farwest Show was a big emotional hit for many of us. I can remember going to the show as a kid, tagging along with Dad as he walked the show, visiting with nursery friends, and roaming the halls of the Oregon Convention Center (and collecting more candy than a kid could ever dream of!). It was the last hoorah of the summer, and something we looked forward to each and every year.

**There is much that can be accomplished in the virtual world, but it can't compare to a welcome handshake, cold beer, or a meal amongst friends.**

The 2021 Farwest Show is not just the start of a new sales season. It marks the transition to a whole new world for our industry.

In just the past year here in the Northwest, we have gone through a pandemic, wildfires, ice storms, heat waves, labor and water shortages, and a whole host of other obstacles. Each of these potentially catastrophic events could have meant the end for many of our operations. Thankfully, we were able to lean on our OAN brethren to help us get through these obstacles.

Our Government Relations team worked overtime to keep our markets open last spring. Members shuttled trucks of water to their neighbors when the wildfires shut off power to irrigation sources. When the impact of the Farwest cancellation hit the association, our members showed unwavering support for the OAN, who continues to support us at every turn. Together, we've weathered the storm and come out stronger than ever.

When the committee met to evaluate Farwest 2021, the consensus was abundantly clear: We all wanted to be back in person to see our customers, colleagues, and friends face-to-face. There is much that can be accomplished in the virtual world, but it can't compare to a welcome handshake, cold beer, or a meal amongst friends.

I can't think of a better way to come together and celebrate all we've accomplished, and I can't wait to see you all the Farwest Show!