

Green Expo 2015 productive and practical

by James Prchal

Although the throes of winter limited attendance, the 2015 MNLA Green Expo in Billings proved to be practical and very productive.

Mick Gainan and Claire Johnson opened the expo with a fun-filled hour on Tuesday evening. They highlighted durable indoor "air conditioning" plants for any light condition, underutilized indoor blooming plants and the trendy "fairy



Expo speakers Judy Sharpton (right) and Julie Moir Messervy (below) offered great information and personal attention to many members at this year's event.





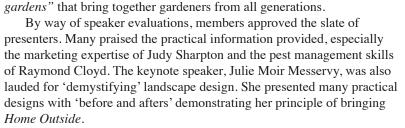
Past Presidents Roundtable

(Below) INLA Past Presidents Carla Carter and Bob Reggear join MNLA Past Presidents Holly Wadsworth, Chris Wagner, Steve Lehenbauer, Jerry Cashman and Brad Brown during the Breakfast of Champions. Their topic of discussion, "The Future of the MNLA."









Because of scheduling miscues, the trade show got off to a slow start. The Board regrets the unfortunate scheduling of seminars during the start of the trade show and assures our allied members that this will not happen again. Membership attendance of our trade show and support of our allied members is essential to keep our association prosperous. We look forward to making good on this promise next year in Missoula.

Skagit Gardens took the honor of Best in Show for their booth display, also winning for Best in Green Goods. Central Landscape Supply was awarded Best in Hard Goods.

The banquet was highlighted by the Member of the Year Award. For his successful organization of the inaugural MNLA Fall Tour Golf Benefit, Steve Lehenbauer - River Ridge Landscape, received the honor. He mentioned the event will continue to be hosted by the Billings Chapter this August.

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Green Expo Awards

(Above) Skagit Gardens won Best in Show at this year's tradeshow. Thanks for another great display, Lucia!!

(Left, top) MNLA Member of the Year Steve Lehenbauer receives his award from Holly Wadsworth.

(Left, bottom) Container Planting Contest winners (l-r) Kia Shimshaw, Ace/Fancy Plants and San Goveia, Wildwood Nursery.

Calendar of Events



APRIL 1, 2, 25

EMERALD ASH BORER ROADSHOW

Missoula April 1 Kalispell April 2 Helena April 25

Free Registration Contact: Laurie Kerzicnik, MSU Extension 406.994.5704 lauren.kerzicnik@montana.edu

SEPTEMBER 17

POLLINATOR PROTECTION SYMPOSIUM

Helena, MT



SEPTEMBER 18

MNLA FALL TOUR Helena, MT

SEPTEMBER 17

CERTIFIED PLANT PROFESSIONAL EXAM

Helena, MT

Eligible applicants will take the plant identification exam and written exam.

Register at www.plantingmontana.com

SEPT. 30 - OCT 2

NORTHERN ROCKIES TREE SCHOOL

Livingston, MT





JAN. 6-7, 2016

2016 MONTANA GREEN EXPO

> Hilton Garden Inn Missoula, MT



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MNLA Mailing Address

PO Box 215 Park City, MT 59063 (406) 755-3079 www.plantingmontana.com

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Green Expo, continued from p. 1



River Ridge also was awarded Best Commercial Landscape for their work at Scheels in Billings.

Big Country Landscapes won Best Residential Landscape for their Lakeview project, demonstrating incredible artistry in their beautiful stone work. In the Container Planting Contest, sponsored by Skagit Gardens, San Goveia of Wildwood Nursery, Big Sky won 1st place. Kia Simshaw of Fancy Plants/ Ace Hardware, Stevensville was runner-up for a beautiful fall composition.

Almost \$2300 was raised for our scholarship fund through the Silent Auction and Poker Hand. This year's scholarships were awarded to two MSU-Bozeman Environmental Horticulture students. Josh Pecukonis - CPP and Scott Samson - CPP each received \$1500 toward their tuition. Also, nine members earned CPP certification in 2014: Doug Adams - Landscape Perfections West, Dave & Cody Connor - Columbia Nursery, Shawn Dye - Glacier Nursery, Scott Samson - MSU, Allison Smith - Blanchford Landscape Group, Samantha Jo Smith - MSU, and Eason Volz - MSU. Congratulations to all recipients and thank you for your commitment to professionalism.



Big Country Landscapes of Belgrade won the Best Residential Landscape award for their Lakeview Projecti. They are well renowned for their artistic stone work. Great job!

Congratulations to Shane Rogers for five years of distinguished leadership on the board. Also stepping down after fulfilling her two year term as secretary, Karen Chadwick, and Greg Johnson left as 3rd Vice President for personal reasons. The MNLA thanks you all for your generous commitment and service. With three openings to fill, members came forward, Sam Stigman - High Country Growers, Shane Clouse - Pink Grizzly/ AgroVitae and Mike Cashman - Cashman Nursery. So adjourned a very productive Annual Meeting.

The Green Expo would not be successful without the financial support of our generous sponsors. At the Platinum Plus level, thank you to Montana DNRC and Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association for sponsoring ISA certified speaker Dr. Gary Johnson, Univ. of Minnesota. Thanks to Gold level sponsors: Fisher Farms; Marks Lumber; OBC Northwest; Skagit Gardens and Tvetene Turf. Thanks to Silver level sponsors: 2M Company; Gardner Distributing; Good Earth Works; Lundeby Evergreens & Manufacturing; SHS/Griffin; Tilleraas Landscaping & Nursery; Tractor & Equipment Co. and Valley Landscape Supply. Thanks to Bronze level sponsors: Bron & Son's Nursery; Jayker Nurseries; Mountain Supply Co. and The McConkey Company.



(Above) THANK YOU SHANE!!! Holly congratulates Shane Rogers for five years of distinguished service to MNLA.

(Middle, top) Scholarship recipients Josh Pecukonis and Scott Samson gracisouly accept their \$1500 award.

(Middle, bottom) Holly passes the torch to this year's MNLA President Sarah Tilleraas Kleinschmidt.









(Top) Members get their bids in at the silent auction table. Proceeds benefit the MNLA Scholarship Fund.

(Bottom) Members take an interest in the book table at this year's tradeshow. Look for this table again next year in Missoula.

From the President





I would like to thank all the MNLA members who have given me the support to help me learn the role of each position as a board member for the past 3 years. This has been quite an eye opening experience. It is hard to imagine all the intricacies going on behind the scenes that make this organization work. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated Executive Director, Jyl Story. Jyl does her job with great pride and I would like to thank her for all she has done to keep our organization running.

The coming year looks to be exciting. Our phones are already ringing off the hook and I am sure yours are too. I really enjoy that my daughters come to work with me in the summer time. My eldest daughter, Desiree is in her second year of college at the University on Montana and is majoring in Marketing Management and Business Management. Our middle daughter Elizabeth Ann, she goes by" Libby", is a Sophomore in High School. She is already taking college courses towards the medical field and plans on going to Montana State University either in GF or in Bozeman. Now for my Miss Taylar Jane. She is in 4th grade, just finished gymnastics and now is in Club Volleyball then on to Soccer. There is never a dull moment in our house as for this weekend Libby is going to Prom. My eldest ran into another vehicle with my Suburban and my dog somehow tore his Cruciate Ligament (on to surgery). WOW! All you can do is Smile, laugh and pray.

We look forward to the upcoming events; Arbor Day, the Fall Tour, culminating in the 2016 Green Expo in Missoula. I also would like to recognize our 2015 Expo speakers, Scott Rogers with Leavitt Great West Insurance hitting on the topics with Safety-Investments in Business Success. I feel we need to have these topics of OSHA, Work Comp. and understanding safety requirements and regulations directly affecting the landscaping industry reviewed as frequently as possible. We had great reviews on the evaluation of Dr. Raymond A. Cloyd from Kansas State University, with his wealth of knowledge in beneficial insects, mites and diseases. Raymond said he would be happy to come back to Montana for the 2016 Green Expo. Also great reviews were received for Judy Sharpton, Growing Places Marketing, Julie Moir Messervy, Creating the Landscape you Love, and James DeRoussel with Rainwater Harvesting, I would like to thank him for his additional performance on stage with our evening entertainment singing with Tom Bishop. I would also like to thank everyone else that made our 2015 Green Expo a success, The rest of our speakers, our members, sponsors and for our wonderful and understanding Exhibitors.

Please get in touch with any issues you may have and some constructive criticism is always welcomed. Don't forget to encourage New Membership.

Thank you again for your support and I look forward to serving as President of the MNLA for a great 2015.

Thank you, Sarah Tilleraas Kleinschmidt President, MNLA

2015 MNLA Board

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From the Executive Director



by Jyl Story, Executive Director

Happy Spring! With the arrival of Spring the MNLA office is busy gathering together the marketing materials for the Plant Something program. A marketing package will be mailed or delivered to each Montana MNLA member retail business the first part of April. See the related article in this Leaflet for more information.

Thank you to all who braved the weather to attend the 2015 Montana Green Expo in Billings. Great speakers, a wonderful trade show, and good comradery made for a great event. We look forward to returning to Missoula January 6 -7, 2016. Stay tuned for our speaker announcements! You won't be disappointed and will want to be sure to reserve these dates to be in Missoula to hear them.



MNLA welcomes our new board members, Shane Clouse, Mike Cashman, and Sam Stigman. Please see the related article in this Leaflet to learn more about them.

We look forward to partnering with the Kalispell Parks and Recreation Department and the Billings Parks and Recreation Department to celebrate Arbor Day. If you can offer your help at the MNLA booth in either location please contact me at 406-755-3079.

Plans are in the works for the Fall Tour in Helena on September 18 with the CPP exam offered on September 17. The Department of Ag is holding a Pollinator Symposium on September 17 in conjunction with the Fall Tour. Pesticide credits will be offered. More information will follow as the details are finalized. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend.

The Billings MNLA Chapter is making plans to host the second annual MNLA Golf Tournament in August. This was a new addition to the Fall Tour in 2014 and we are pleased the Billings Chapter wishes to continue this fun event for MNLA with a portion of the proceeds benefiting our scholarship program. More information will follow on the tournament and the Fall Tour as plans are finalized.

The Board of Directors would like to revitalize MNLA Chapters throughout the state this summer. A board member in your area will contact you and invite you to the first meeting. They will let you know the date, time, and place. I encourage you to make it a priority to attend and discover if you are leveraging all the benefits of being an MNLA member, help guide the direction of MNLA, and network with your fellow members in your area. By working together, we can create a really awesome association.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming membership events this year!

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Welcome New MNLA Board Members

We are pleased to introduce you to the new MNLA Board members. They were elected to the Board at the January Expo Annual Meeting. Each Board candidate was asked to provide an answer to the four questions below. Enjoy reading and learning about our three new Board members.



Shane Clouse

2ND Vice President - SHANE CLOUSE, AgroVitae LLC

Brief biographical information: Shane Clouse is the owner and manager for AgroVitae LLC which operates Pink Grizzly Greenhouse as well Pink Grizzly Christmas store and MontanaWreaths.com. The nursery specializes in an enormous selection of ornamentals, edibles, trees and shrubs. MontanaWreaths.com ships high quality Christmas wreaths all over the United States.

What is your history with/involvement in the nursery and landscape industry (past experience in the industry, current business/position, volunteer activities related to industry)? I have worked in the nursery and landscape industry for over 32 years. I have completed the IPM and Master Gardener courses through Missoula County MSU Extension service. I also served on the Clark Fork River Farmers Market board for 6 years.

What skills or expertise do you believe will make you a valuable member of the MNLA Board of Directors? I am good at getting people to work together.

What do you believe are likely to be the most important issues facing MNLA in the next one to five years? A decrease in interest in being a part of MNLA due to lack of vendors and members.

3RD Vice President – MIKE CASHMAN, Cashman Nursery

Brief biographical information: As a fourth generation nurseryman I grew up in the nursery and landscape business. I was born in Bozeman, Montana and graduated from Bozeman High School in 1997. I attended Colorado State University and graduated with a degree in Horticulture with a business management concentration in the spring of 2001. After graduation I interned with Ellison Design in Vail, Colorado for a summer. I moved back to Bozeman to work with my parents and brother at Cashman Nursery & Landscaping in the fall of 2001. I married my wife Jana in the summer of 2009. We have 2 children Courtney (3) and Patrick (2). I enjoy hunting, snowmobiling, traveling, skiing, and classic cars.

What is your history with/involvement in the nursery and landscape industry (past experience in

the industry, current business/position, volunteer activities related to industry)? I have worked in



Mike Cashman

the nursery and landscape business my whole life. I started out as a laborer on a crew and then worked up to a crew foreman. Currently, I manage our commercial bidding and installation as well as equipment purchasing and maintenance. I work retail on our busy spring weekends. Along with my brother and dad I help manage our Landscape Department.

What skills or expertise do you believe will make you a valuable member of the MNLA Board of Directors? Legacy board member. Native Montanan. Spent my whole life in the industry. I have good pulse on current trends in the residential and commercial landscape industry in our state.

What do you believe are likely to be the most important issues facing MNLA in the next one to five years? Growing industry statewide while growing MNLA membership. Appealing to more businesses in the industry. Increased government regulation in our industry.



- NEW BOARD MEMBERS continued on page 9



New Board Members - Continued from page 6



Sam Stigman

Secretary – SAM STIGMAN, High Country Growers

Brief biographical information: I first stepped into a greenhouse in Perham, MN in 1983 to clean under benches...the humid aroma of flowers hooked me. I have schooling from The University of MN, The Ohio State University, Brown College and Kaplan Financial. I have learned the best education comes from being inside the greenhouse. I was a garden center consultant, G.C. Manager and business developer serving the Midwest for 20 years before joining the High Country team in 2014 as Sales Manager.

What is your history with/involvement in the nursery and landscape industry (past experience in the industry, current business/position, volunteer activities related to industry)?

I have worked in all aspects from Landscape design and build, Garden Center Management and as a Nursery and Greenhouse Grower. I am currently Sales Manager at High Country Growers.

What skills or expertise do you believe will make you a valuable member of the MNLA Board of Directors?

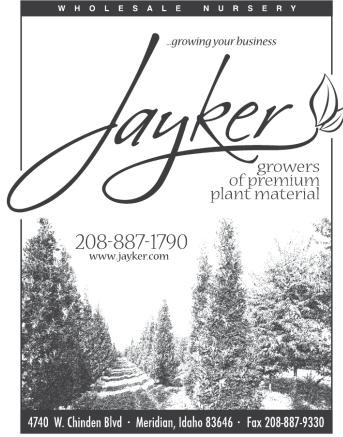
Having seen the trends both good and bad by working directly with them throughout the Midwest as a consultant I have a good feel for the industries future. I am an old school salesman and believe in the handshake-a nearly dead skill but one that I believe can set us apart in business. I still have a sense of humor-something many of us have lost over the years...they are just flowers people; they are supposed to make you smile!

What do you believe are likely to be the most important issues facing MNLA in the next one to five years?

Making sure members understand that the next generation of owners have arrived and they will need to be more on top of their financial and marketing game then they have in the past.







MNLA Member Profile





312 Clifty View Road Bonners Ferry ID 83805 208-267-7129 www.cliftyview.com



Clifty View Nursery, Inc. was founded in 1979 by Lon Merrifield. The farm is located in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, which has a near-perfect climate for the production of cold-hardy trees and shrubs. Lon started

the nursery on a portion of the family farm, producing seedlings for the U.S. Forest Service. Since then, the family owned and operated business has grown to offer wholesale evergreen and deciduous seedlings, transplants, whips and specimens.









Lon and his wife Donna work with family member Kevin in the general operations and management of the business. The family is also assisted by a wonderful sales, growing and management team. The team includes Steve Koppang, nursery manager; Cristina Tuttle, seedling area manager; Derek Blumenschein, HR manager; and Lisa Mendenhall-Pluid, office manager. This fantastic team will help you determine the best tree and shrub choices to offer your retail clients, depending on your location. Clifty View will ship most plant material nationwide.

Clifty View Nursery offers specimen trees in bare-root, hand dug and machine dug form. They offer a vast selection of cold-hardy conifers as well as deciduous trees and shrubs. Quaking Aspen and Colorado Blue Spruce are the most in demand plants that they grow. Another popular way to receive plant material is by ordering seedlings, transplants and whips. Again, a wide variety is offered, guaranteed to suit you and your nursery's needs.

Customer satisfaction is of the utmost importance to the folks at Clifty View. For over thirty years the Merrifield's have tried and tested many varieties of trees and shrubs, and will only offer the best performing choices. They are happy to

pass along recommendations for growing the plant material to their customers, because "your success is a must and we value your nursery trade, your trust, and your friendship with us".

For an appointment to visit the nursery, please give them a call, as they are out in the field working during the busy times of the season. The nursery is located in a beautiful part of the country, and would be worth the visit! The Merrifield's and their team of growers and managers welcome clients to take a look at the wonderful trees and shrubs they offer, and look forward to helping you in choosing the best plant material to offer your clients.

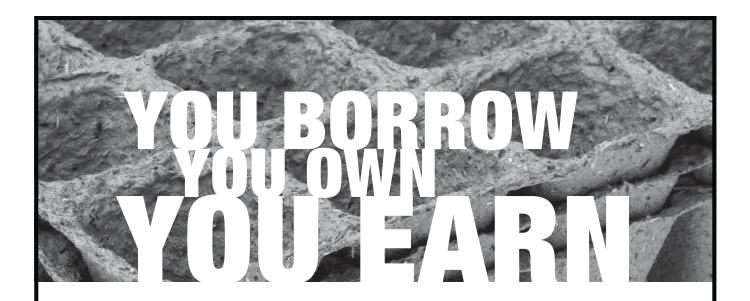
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Northwest FCS customer Jeff Schilter and nephew Nicholas

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Quantity	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
1-4 Cartons	\$1735	ı ι Γ \$231	\$158	\$215	\$74	\$104	\$54	\$84
5-49 Cartons	\$160	TT \$200	\$147	\$200	\$68	\$96	\$48	\$76
50+ Cartons	\$146	\$185	\$134	\$173	\$62	\$82	\$42	\$62

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Company Name:			ORDER DETAILS				
				Price/			
Street Address:			# Cartons	Carton	Total \$		
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Plant Something Program



Don't Just Stand There — Plant Something!

MNLA is excited to be part of this nationwide marketing program to encourage the production, sale and use of Montana-grown, regionally adapted, landscape plant material. It is a very simple message to everyone that they "don't just stand there, but Plant Something!"

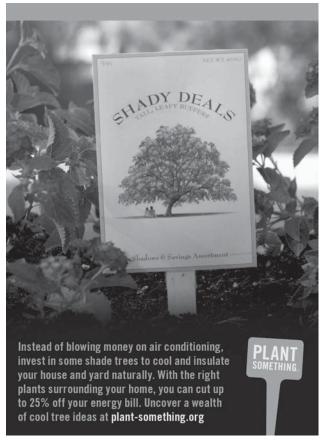
The need addressed by the project is to educate Montana homeowners on the value and benefits of purchasing and planting Montana-grown hardy plant material along with the benefit of a Certified Plant Professional in the nursery to guide the homeowner to the best plant material for their location.

A special emphasis is also being placed on our Certified Plant Professional Program. If you have been thinking about taking the exam – now is the time to do so. We have some dollars available to help pay mileage cost to take the exam if you live further away than 25 miles from the exam site. We would like to see at least 10 exam students at both the Fall Tour and the 2016 Expo!

You can expect to receive marketing materials in early April to utilize during the upcoming season. You will receive educational brochures, a blade banner to put outside your business, plant stakes to put around your nursery and posters to hang in your business encouraging planting. All items clearly state "Plant Something".

This marketing venture was made possible by obtaining a Specialty Crop Block Grant from USDA. We look forward to adding a designated website in the future. In the interim you can find additional information on our **www.plantingmontana.com** website.







Have you considered this member benefit?

MNLA has endorsed the Small Business Growth Alliance (SBGA) in providing members with their total back-office needs. With considerable association experience, SBGA has provided electronic payments, payroll services, and web management programs to members of the green industry for years. SBGA has helped members manage their entire business from a single platform, save \$1,900 a year, on average, on payroll services, and obtain a web presence to bring more customers through their door with ease using SBGA's array of simple, effective business solutions. It is with confidence that the MNLA endorses SBGA's services to help your business in these key operating areas as well.

Industry changes have ensured that SBGA will have a busy year in 2015. With a 47% increase in card fraud in the past year alone, the U.S. has become home to an estimated \$8.6 billion dollars of annual fraudulent card transactions. EMV – more commonly known as Smart Chip Cards – has finally arrived to the United States to help mitigate these losses. With new technology and greater security, however, comes new rules and greater uncertainty for businesses and processors alike.

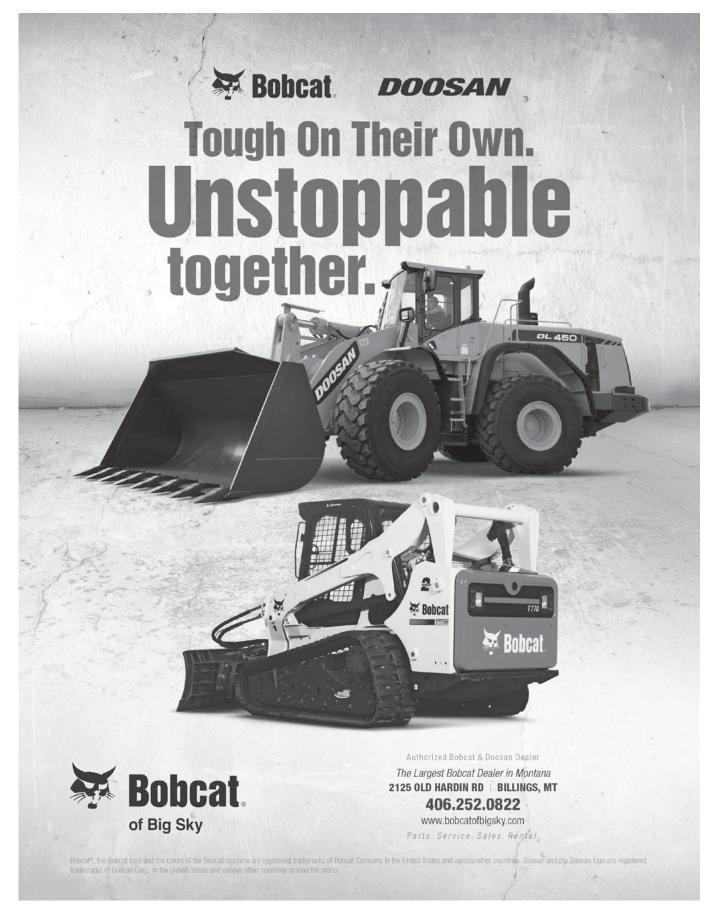
While smart chip cards have made card payments safer for customers and card issuers, merchants face carrying full liability for any fraudulent card used in their store if they are not equipped to properly handle smart card transactions. Legislation such as the President's Buy Secure Initiative, large data breaches at Target and Home Depot, and new ways for customers to pay, such as Apple PayTM, have pushed forward EMV Smart Chip Card adoption in the United States. In anticipation for this transition, SBGA has become one of the few companies to be EMV Smart Chip Card certified, offering your business secure transactions through all of their payment system options.

Upgrading your point of sale system to Smart Chip Card standards will open your business to safer transactions, new methods of payment, and the latest technology solutions to help you manage everything in your business from payments to inventory. Don't be left liable for fraudulent transactions — the deadline for Smart Chip Card compliance is this year! Let SBGA go to work for you.

The Small Business Growth Alliance began as a collaboration of nearly two decades of experience in serving business leaders just like you, people who have dedicated their lives to pursuing their passions. As an organization committed to providing complete back-office business management solutions for the small business owner, SBGA has done the legwork to identify reliable, trustworthy partners to deliver essential products and services to small businesses at discounted prices typically reserved for large corporations. SBGA is a long-standing member of many professional business organizations, helping hundreds of thousands of members find ways to improve and grow their business every day.

We invite you to become a member of SBGA and secure access to the incredible services and partnership that is focused on the needs of your business. Scott Norris, National Association Director of SBGA, is readily available to walk you through the best programs for your business needs. To schedule a consultation with Scott, call 800-889-7242 ext. 7865 or email member.benefits@sbga.com.







Neonicotinoids — Cutting through the Clutter

The following article is a synopsis of a presentation by Joseph Bischoff, PhD. He serves as the Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Director for AmericanHort. At last year's Cultivate conference, he addressed issues with potential neonicotinoid regulation. For a more thorough review of the subject visit americanhort.org in the Knowledge Center tab. The Montana Department of Agriculture is also sponsoring a seminar on proper application of neonicotinoids at this year's Fall Tour in Helena.

Pollinator bee decline has become an increasingly important issue in Agriculture. Pollinating bees are important to sustaining life on our planet as they support our food chain. When focusing on the cause, pesticide use is commonly the target. Unfortunately, as the issue receives more media attention, too much of what is written is based on hearsay, innuendo and fear. Now local and some state agencies are considering restricting the use of certain pesticides, namely neonicotinoides.

But neonicotinoids (neonics) play a critical role in the Green Industry, especially in the control of invasive species such as Asian Longhorn Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer and Japanese Beetle. They are an important tool the industry can't afford to lose.

Neonics offer extremely low toxicity to mammals, fish and birds. They are a very effective systemic with a long residual that leads to fewer applications, while being very effective on target insects. However, that same 'effectiveness' as a systemic warrants some caution in how and when they are applied. Misuse of application can lead to a greater chance of contact with off-target insects. Such is the case with 'Bee Kills'. In 2013 an incident in Oregon resulted in a massive bee kill when Imidicloprid was applied midday to Linden trees while in full bloom.

These instances of misuse attract media attention and have lead to the focus on neonics regarding pollinator health. While many of these reports offer important facts for the Green Industry to consider and act upon, others lead to overstated perspectives with the intention of driving a zero-pesticide-use agenda.

In October 2012, the USDA published a report addressing Colony Collapse Disorder of pollinators. Similar reports were conducted in the UK (2013) and Australia (2014). These peer-reviewed publications agreed that multiple issues are impacting pollinator health.

- The stress of seasonal migration of bees for yearround pollination, such as the case of many of the Montana bees shipped to the California almond growers in the fall
- Breeding of bees leads to less pest resistance, making the colony susceptible to the parasitic mites, Varroa and tracheal that also vector virus

-Continued on page 16







MNLA Board Summaries



November, 2014:

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the upcoming Montana Green Expo. The speaker list is getting completed, we will brainstorm more ideas for additional vendors in the trade show, the book order is being finalized for the book table – a new feature at the show this year, and awards and contests were reviewed. Concern was noted in the report from the Department of Ag with Idaho petitioning the National Plant Board to change Montana's status from category 1 to a category 2 state. This information is preliminary and the Board will keep updated and follow through with whatever action is necessary. A Board working group along with Professor Bill Hoch from MSU will meet to review the Certified Plant Professional manual and exams for any necessary updates.

December, 2014:

Donna Rise from the Montana Department of Agriculture reported the Nursery Fee Legislation was resurfacing. More details will follow once a bill sponsor has been secured. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the Expo. Ryan reported 66 booths secured for the Expo with a potential of 3-5 more. Gainan's will provide an interesting seminar on Tuesday evening which will also be free to the public. Marketing was discussed. We feel we have a very good slate of speakers this year. Jyl noted good sponsor participation in the Expo. Holly requested each board member secure two auction items for the Scholarship Silent Auction. Jennifer noted we have six people signed up to take the CPP Exam at Expo. Shane Clouse has offered to have his name considered for the 3rd Vice President position on the MNLA Board. We are still searching for a nominee for the Secretary position. A job posting board will be available during Expo for members to post job opportunities. Sarah will add some games to the Trade Show reception festivities.

January, 2015:

The meeting was called to order at the Holiday Inn in Billings during the Expo. The Minutes of the previous meeting and financials were reviewed and approved. 233 people are registered to attend Expo. The Board reviewed their duties and responsibilities for Expo. The 3rd Vice President Position nominee is Shane Clouse – Agro Vitae d/b/a Pink Grizzly Greenhouse, Missoula, MT. The Secretary Position is also available since Karen Chadwick has fulfilled her term. Greg Johnson, the acting 3rd Vice President announced he would have to step down from his position due to personal circumstances leaving a 2nd Vice President Position

open. The board voted to accept Shane Clouse into the 2nd Vice President Position if acceptable at the annual membership meeting. The Plant Something grant was discussed and its value as a member benefit. James Prchal and Jyl Story will attend the Idaho Exposition January 21-23 in Boise, ID. James Prchal and Sarah Kleinschmidt will attend the ATMOPP Conference January 25-27 at Fairmont. The Fall Tour location was selected in Helena in September.

February, 2015:

The MNLA Board of Directors met at the Holiday Inn in Helena with Sarah Kleinschmidt calling the meeting to order. The board reviewed and passed the previous meeting minutes. The board reviewed and tabled the budget for 2015 until the next meeting. Details of the 2015 fall tour in Helena are starting to take shape with a date of Friday September 18th. Shane Clouse reported on The Montana Dept. of Agriculture rules hearing and Donna Rise gave update to changes occurring with staff and regulations. The 2016 Expo was discussed with Missoula a strong choice and ideas for speakers and seminars presented. Expo 2017 city was discussed with the possibility of Bozeman brought to light. Jennifer Weiss updated the board on CPP test results. James Prchal discussed the status of the spring newsletter. New board members were welcomed and agreed to the duties given. The board discussed the future of MNLA and the need to find new members. The Board agreed that the benefits of joining the MNLA are not being presented to new member candidates well enough. The MNLA board feels that the strong camaraderie, the valuable knowledge network of its members, and the connections with the MDA to be able to help shape future legislation are key.



AmericanHort, continued



Neonicotinoids, continued from page 14

- 3) Habitat and forage loss
- 4) Pesticides collateral damage caused by misuse

Our industry is pressured, not by federal legislation or EPA regulation, but by Public Perception. This is where we are losing the battle. Changing that requires a broad conversation focusing on bee health. Many of the people most passionate about the issue are our customers, so we have the opportunity to be part of the solution to help encourage healthier pollinator communities. We can be smarter in how, when, and where we apply pesticides. We are well positioned to help increase habitat and forage opportunities for pollinators. By responding proactively, we can help preserve the insecticide tools that are critical to plant production and pest management, while providing consumers with healthier plants and the satisfaction of being part of the process.

Our industry is taking a leadership position to move the issue of bee health forward. AmericanHort has sponsored a healthy pollinator initiative with three primary components:

- 1) Developing a bee and pollinator stewardship program that improves the circumstances surrounding pollinator health concerns.
- 2) Funding research that will help us answer key science questions that support the stewardship program.
- 3) Spreading the word to our horticulture industry communities and our customers how the program has a positive impact on pollinators and still allows us to mitigate the spread of invasive pests that threaten our natural environment.

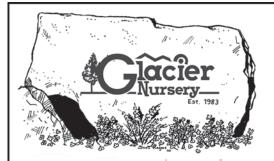




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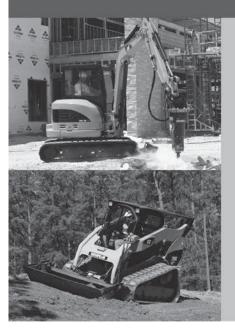
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