

C'mon, let's catch up!

... with Mary Richardson

Next month I'll be at Burnett's Landscaping for 35 years — the first as an employee; the last 15 as owner. The time sure flies by. In January, I bought out my partner and am now full owner of SafeLawns of Salem and SLS Irrigation. So much for my retirement plans!

Our crews continue to do good work in and around Southeast Connecticut. We've been doing a lot

of organic sites, native plants, and pollinator projects. I've reconnected with a pool contractor that I've known forever and am helping him with layouts and some landscape installations.

Since we're along the coastline, we're also doing some waterfront mitigation projects, I like those because I have to learn some new things. Old dog, new tricks!

And finally, we have some new family members. They are a source of endless entertainment.

I'm looking forward to an in-person event again — maybe next summer?

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Alumni News — holy cow, has it been a year already? It has indeed. If you're just joining us, or if you're missing past issues, you can visit the ANLA Alumni website at www.anlareunion.org, where you'll find great photos of our reunion event at Dwight Hughes' Nursery, as well as other great information.

And don't forget! Send your news to sallydbenson@gamil.com.

... with Tom Pinney

As a Mason I am involved with our Local Lodge Henry S. Baird #174. Annually we have a Steamboat Dinner. This year we prepared 1,275 meals and delivered 1,009 to persons in Door and Kewaunee Counties. The project involves over 100 persons from the lodge, friends of the lodge, community, and government agencies. Our son Geoff Pinney was in charge of the food preparation and packaging.

Geoff has just had both knees replaced. Some might not recognize him as he has lost over 230 pounds in the last 20 years.

Myra and I are fine, as is our daughter Cheryl. Although retired from teaching high school choir, she still does long-term substitute jobs and is a certified state choir contest judge.

We are fortunate to have three wonderful caregivers for Myra, who is confined to her lift-chair and motorized chair.

We keep in touch with the industry by conversations with our long-time friend Dwight Hughes.



*Above, during installation and after:
A pool project for which Mary provided
the lush landscape, making the project
look like it's always been there.*

*Left: New Richardson kids Bob and
Allen, aka The Knuckleheads.*

Catching up ...

... with Bill Doerler

My wife and I have just received our second COVID shots here in New Jersey, and look forward to resuming our normal life. I personally am looking forward to another AAN/NLA reunion in the near future.

The reunion in Cedar Rapids was great fun, and I hope someone with a large, prosperous nursery will step up to host another event.

And, I do want to thank Dwight Hughes for hosting the first reunion!!

Past President, NLA-1987

... with Dennis Molitor

Not too many exciting things in my personal life, but Home Nursery is celebrating its 100-year anniversary this year [see the Winter 2021 ANLA Alumni News]. I have been blessed to work for the Tosovsky family for the past 39 years and hope to be there at least one or two more before retiring. Home has also purchased an additional 136-acre nursery in McMinnville, Tennessee, and we are currently in the process of acquiring another 29-acre greenhouse nursery in McMinnville. So there are some exciting ventures! Diana and I had planned to tour Europe in 2020, but that was nixed by COVID. Luckily, the virus did not affect anyone in our family severely and we have all been vaccinated, and may I add blessed.

Maybe we can get together again soon as usual in an outside venue and retell more personal stories and share a cocktail or two if Craig is still available as our ACE bartender!

**** Keep catching up on page 3! ****



EAGL Iota class graduates despite challenges

The pandemic was both a perfect time for revisiting strategic planning, and a challenging one! The EAGL Program (Executive Academy for Growth & Leadership), led by Dr. Charlie Hall and former ANLA staffer, Kellee (Magee) O'Reilly, was heading into its eighth program year as COVID began to unfold. In addition to hosting weekly "support sessions" for all the EAGL Alumni as the pandemic pivot began, they were also onboarding a new student group for the '20-21 year: the Iota cohort. That group was forced to meet via Zoom for two of the four sessions, and then the group found host properties that enabled in-person, outdoor sessions for the final two modules of the year. This group of intrepid "students" included business leaders from across the industry: many ANLA family members will certainly recognize Alan Jones (Manor View Farm) from past HRI, legislative and grower events. Despite all the challenges, this

EAGL cohort was able to graduate on schedule in early February outdoors at a property in Dripping Springs, Texas (fortuitously, the sessions concluded just a few days before the deep freeze took hold of the state!).

Program graduates receive a Certificate in Applied Horticultural Management from Texas A&M University. This year's grads are:
Alan Jones, Manor View Farms
Andy Aiken, Grower Direct Farms
Becky Thomas, Spring Grove Nursery
Bob Blew, Centerton Nursery
Farai Madziva, Kitayama Bros Farms
Karin Walters, Walters Gardens
Ryan Hop, Walters Gardens

The ninth year of the EAGL certificate program will kick off in June, and there are two seats available. Many of the EAGL alumni are also "ANLA Family" members, for example, Tom Demaline, Dan Batson, Sam Barkley, Dan Nelson ... and many more! You can download a current program and learn more about the program: www.eaglnetwork.com.

Still catching up ...

... with Gilbert Resendez



March 31 was my last day with Monrovia. I actually retired 10 years ago, but stayed on working part time in an advisory role with the management team. I was fortunate to have been hired by Monrovia in 1962. I enjoyed all my years with Monrovia, working with so many dedicated Craftsmen. Working with Monrovia allowed me to get involved in many industry activities, which allowed me to meet and become friends with so many folks in the nursery industry. Those are all friendships that will not be forgotten!

Southern Nursery Association closes its doors

Most of us have already heard, but in case you missed the news, yet another industry association has ceased operations. The SNA Conference in February was canceled, and because the event was the group's main source of income, and because membership had been declining, board members of the Southern Nursery Association announced that the 121-year-old organization could no longer be sustained. SNA's two existing HRI funds have been combined and renamed the Southern Nursery Association Legacy Fund. You can still visit the association's website at www.sna.org.

... with Steve Wills

Last February 2020, after 30 years providing executive leadership for the members of Midwest Landscape Network and the members of LANCO, I have retired and helped transition the leadership of these two organizations of horticulture businesses. Over the years we have celebrated the changes in each of the members businesses and families. Nancy and I have enjoyed the opportunities to visit with and learn from many of the members of ANLA at your business or at ANLA events. Thank you for your fellowship and support as we enter a new phase of our lives.

We have been fortunate during the past year to survive COVID and all of the issues. We now hope to start traveling again as well as spending time with our extended family.



A note from Bosh Bruening

In the fall edition of ANLA Alumni News I submitted a little piece, "The Western, no more." As I read again the newsletter I think I should have added a couple of additional sentences. Toward the end of my submission I wrote, "My bias (in favor of The Western) may be that after finishing The Western my next show was Mid-Am in Chicago. No comparison."

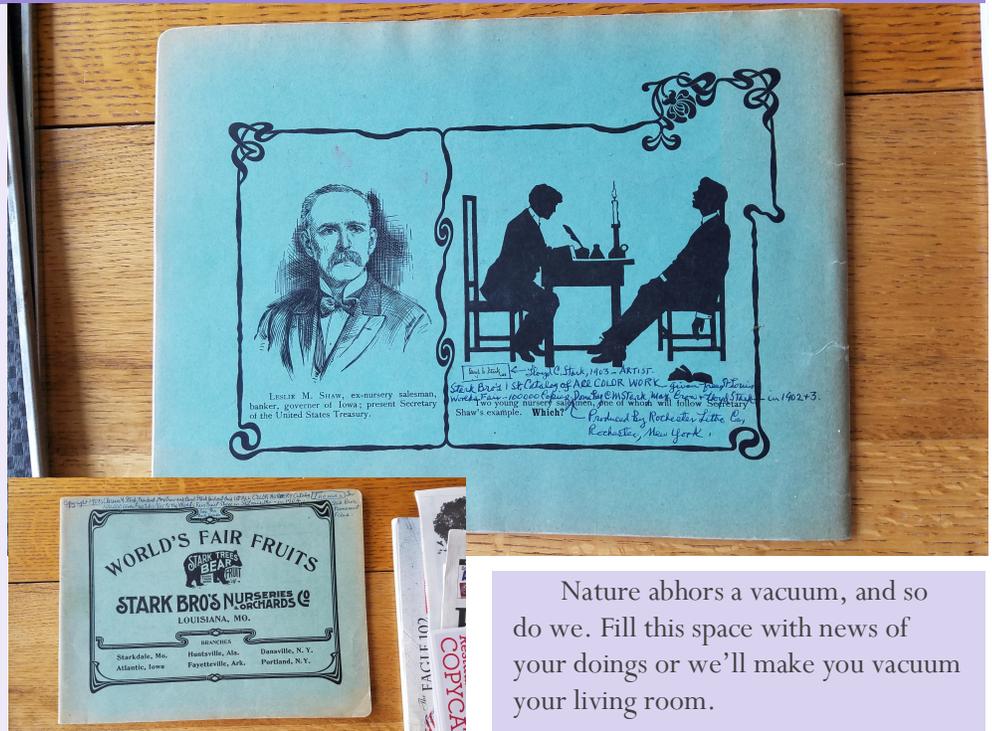
In hindsight, I wish I had divided the article into two parts – exhibitor and attendee. As an exhibitor, dealing with Chicago unions was a hassle that, as nursery industry folks, we are not at ease with. Not that we are anti-union, but just that we are used to doing small tasks ourselves – like plugging in fixtures, etc. I wish I had included that disclaimer. Having been involved in associations and trade shows, I can attest that there are seemingly thousands of moving parts that need to come together seamlessly for a great experience for attendees. And the Mid-Am must have been one of the most difficult to stage. I think we all considered the Mid-Am as the ANLA winter meeting for committee meetings, etc. To blend that along with the Illinois and Wisconsin associations programs had to be a herculean task. So, hats off and apologies to those who have worked on the Mid-Am and other industry shows across the country. As an attendee I loved every show I attended over the years, and I hope for a revival of these great get-togethers in the years to come.

It's Quiz Time!

What ex-nursery salesman became the Governor of Iowa and Secretary of the U.S. Treasury?

Clay Logan knows. He's shared some memorabilia with us, including Stark Bro's first color catalog, printed in 1904 and handed out at the World's Fair in St. Louis. The back is shown here, and it features a silhouette of two gentlemen, drawn by Lloyd C. Stark, who served as Missouri's 39th governor from 1937 to 1941.

The portrait on the left reveals the answer to the quiz. What was your guess?



Nature abhors a vacuum, and so do we. Fill this space with news of your doings or we'll make you vacuum your living room.



The Big Freeze

Bob Dolibois reports that during this winter's epic freeze, his Austin, Texas, property lost 16 Japanese blueberry trees, a dozen viburnum, and countless variegated ginger plants. "We went from cold hardiness zone 8b to 6a overnight," he says. "I was reminded daily of ANLA's battle with USDA over the extreme proposed revisions to the cold hardiness zone map due to global warming. HA!"

HRI fund to benefit from sales of Ernest Wertheim's book

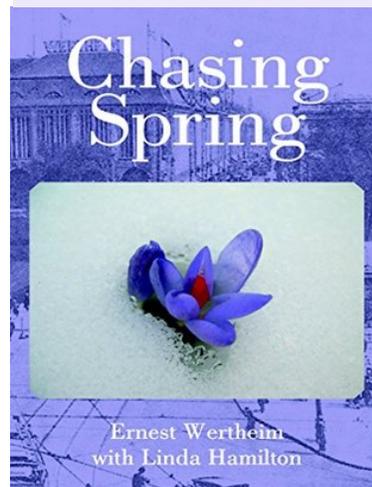
Have you read Ernest Wertheim's memoir, "Chasing Spring"? If you have, you know that it's an amazing read.

If you haven't, though, you can still buy a copy from the final inventory. Thanks to Jacquie Williams-Courtright, the book is still available from Alden Lane Nursery for \$24.99 (+ shipping).

It makes a welcome gift, too, so consider sharing Ernest's story with a friend or colleague. They'll love it!

We're told that anonymous ANLA Alumni donors will match the cost of each book sold, up to 75 books, to donate to HRI's Wertheim, Van Der Ploeg & Kleymeyer Fund.

To order, contact Jacquie at Jacquie@AldenLane.com.



Great news!

Jacquie tells us that business has been fabulous, with weekday sales equaling weekend figures. Lots of first-time gardeners, even young kids getting into the habit! So, tell us: How has your business fared?

Send your information to sallydbenson@gmail.com.