



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the ANLA Alumni News! Coming to you each quarter, it'll provide news about your fellow alumni—and more.

Do you have news to share? Moves, retirements, changes in your business? Please send information—tips, stories, photos—to Sally Benson at sallydbenson@gmail.com. Know someone who'd like to receive this? Send us their email address. Want to opt out? Just respond to this email with the message: "Unsubscribe."

Bob and Susie Dolibois Explore Southeast Asia

A four-week trip through Southeast Asia proved to be eye-opening—and a study in contrasts—for Bob and Susie Dolibois, who traveled this winter into a region few of us have seen, or ever will. They left the U.S. on January 22 and returned on February 17, with startling new impressions, fascinating photos, and an encyclopedia worth of stories.

Venturing from their home in Austin, Texas, to Singapore, then to Cambodia, where they visited Angkor Wat, then on board a boat on the Upper Mekong River through Laos ... to Thailand ... and a layover in Doha, Qatar, on the way home ...

"This trip was most meaningful in the contrast of culture and wealth, newness of wealth, dying out of old traditions," Bob says. They saw cooperative tribal cultures whose subsistence traditions are 1,000+ years old, alongside construction of ultramodern infrastructure that facilitates access to rich natural resources.

"Laos is an absolutely beautiful country without a lot of international resources—it's landlocked—in a world where the movement of international resources is essential," Bob explains. The tribes are being relocated, primarily for the

sake of access to their much-in-demand native and natural wealth. "The Chinese are really dominant, building dams and rapid rail systems with lots of tunneling."

The contrast between Laos and modern Singapore was dramatic, but so is the contrast between Southeast Asia and the U.S. in terms of modernization, Bob says.

Photo, above: Bob and Susie Dolibois in Vientiane, Laos.

Ernest Wertheim celebrates his 100th birthday!

Ernest Wertheim, landscape architect and garden center consultant *extraordinaire*, observed his 100th birthday in July 2019 at the Grandlibakken Tahoe resort in California. Family and friends (including Ruth and Dale Bachman, right) feted Ernest with a grand luncheon. Ernest was born in Germany in December 1919, and he's still going strong. His accomplishments are legion, including honors from ANLA—and if you haven't read his autobiography, "Chasing Spring," you're in for a treat. It's the fascinating account of a life of true adventure.



Passings



Irma Orum, co-founder of The Midwest Companies, died September 22, 2019. She was 88. Peter and Irma established Midwest Groundcovers in 1969 in the backyard of friend and mentor John Wilde; working side-by-side with Peter, Irma fostered the growth of the company through her hands-on work potting plants and sticking cuttings, at the same time caring for family and handling business operations.



Peter Scarff, president of Scarff's Nursery in New Carlisle, Ohio, died August 25, 2019. He was 59. Peter served the industry—and ANLA—in many capacities, including membership on the Grower Division Board, the Boxwood Blight Working Group, the Horticultural Standards Committee for the revision of the American Standard for Nursery Stock, and the HRI Board of Trustees, among others.



American Nurseryman archive moves to Hughes Nursery Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of Dwight Hughes, the complete archive of the long-lived—and now shuttered—horticulture trade journal *American Nurseryman* has been preserved in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Dwight provided space in his nursery museum at Hughes Nursery and Landscaping, the site of the ANLA Reunion in August 2018. Ken Doty and his son, Ryan, delivered the collection, which had been taking up a lot of space in former editor Sally Benson's home office.

The bound volumes (as well as more recent unbound issues) date back to the late 1800s, when the publication was known as "National Nurseryman." The collection joins complete proceedings of the IPPS, as well as those of the Iowa State Horticultural Society, providing visitors to the Hughes Museum with an astonishing wealth of horticulture industry information.

Just for fun: On separate trips last year, Kellee O'Reilly and Craig Regelbrugge visited Bob Lyons at his home in Florida.

