

### Ernest Wertheim 1991 – 2020

*The industry lost a legend this year with the passing of Ernest Wertheim. Here, in part, is a tribute from his son, Andy.*

It was just after midnight early Tuesday morning on August 4, 2020, at 100 years, seven months and four days after his birth that my father, Ernest Wertheim, left his family and so very many friends.

Our father was intelligent, patient, loving, hardworking, giving, and creative. Until the very end of his life he remained in search of opportunities to learn as much as he could to keep up with our rapidly changing world. He loved his work as a landscape architect and especially enjoyed the expertise he found designing garden centers for clients in many parts of the world. He loved a challenge and always attempted to think outside of the box.

His ashes will now be placed along with the ashes of my mother on an



alpine slope among a field of primroses that return to bloom each year in July and August. His sons, Rick and Andy, and his grandson Brian will miss him with all their hearts.

To all his friends: Thank you for all the support you have given to our father and our entire family for all these many years.

### Historic derecho slams Hughes Nursery

A wall of wind equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane hit Cedar Rapids in August, leveling nearly everything in its path. Hughes Nursery sustained significant damage, but people, animals, and structures were safe. Here's the word from Tom Hughes:

“We were able to salvage almost all of our stock, but the majority of the crops all needed some kind of staking or tying up to correct them.

“Cedar Rapids metro area estimates that we lost between 55% to 65% of our total tree canopy at this point — knowing that some may succumb to disease over the next couple years and have to be removed later, as well.

“Most of the area was out of power for between 5 and 15 days.”

— please see more on page 4

*Before and after the storm: Trees at Hughes Nursery in Cedar Rapids. The 140-mph winds hit on August 10.*



## CATCHING UP

### A very busy couple of years for Scott McAdam:

Since the reunion, our son Scott and his wife Brittany welcomed daughter Harper into this world in February of 2019. Following that, our daughter Amanda got married to Andy Huntington (Pleasant View Gardens and Proven Winners). After the wedding, Veronika and I went to Germany for the Rotary International convention in Hamburg, and then spent time visiting her relatives in Bavaria and traveling through Germany and Austria. On Thanksgiving evening, Amanda and Andy welcomed Beckham Sherwood Huntington into this world. Andy has two children from his prior marriage, so we went from zero to four grandchildren in 10 months. It is great.

In December 2019, Veronika and I celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our son Scott is currently the president-elect of the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. He is one of only three family legacy presidents, and we are very proud of him. Between seeing the grandkids and business, we are trying to get down to Florida to enjoy our place, but this year has been challenging for that; will have to wait until 2021. I'm still on target to step away from the leadership role in the company in a few years, and to watch Scott take the company to a new level. Besides the pandemic, all is good; we are grateful for our family and friends and cannot wait until we can ALL get together again.



## Fare Thee Well, Western

*This year — and the pandemic — continue to take their toll.*

*In mid-October, the Western Nursery & Landscape Association announced that its board had approved dissolution of the 130-year-old organization. Details can be found at [www.wnla.org](http://www.wnla.org).*

In response to the news, Bosh Bruening shared his thoughts:

### **The Western, no more.**

I received the announcement via email that The Western — the oldest nursery trade association — was “in dissolution.” After 130 years, they have become a casualty of Covid-19. Their lifeblood was the annual tradeshow in Kansas City. They knew they couldn't offer the tradeshow this coming January and didn't feel right in committing for the following January, so they had to pull the plug.

I have attended and worked our tradeshow since the late '60s, and for some reason never dreaded an upcoming show. When I think back I believe I looked at them as more of a “family reunion” with some new members of the family with

each show. I have worked nursery tradeshow all across the country and never walked into one that I didn't see familiar faces. One of the pieces that make those of us in our industry unique are our state and regional associations and tradeshow.

Maybe I am biased, but believe The Western was a nearly perfect show. The board members were always there to help with move-in, there was free coffee on the show floor, a free breakfast for exhibitors the opening morning, and board members assigned to aisles to thank and ask for suggestions to improve the show on closing day. Great speakers were always at the show with their sessions on the tradeshow floor so attendees wouldn't be pulled from the floor. Part of my bias may be that after finishing The Western show my next show was Mid-Am in Chicago. No comparison.

All of this reminds me of the reason I enjoyed the ANLA Family Reunion at Hughes Nursery & Landscape the summer before last. You are part of my family.

R.I.P. Western.

### *This space for rent.*

*Do you have news to share? Moves, retirements, new family members, new ventures? Please send info to Sally Benson at [sallydbenson@gmail.com](mailto: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.”*

## “American Nursery & Landscape Association, this is Dee.”

If you phoned the headquarters in Washington any time between the late 1990s and the early 2000s, you were likely to be greeted with that gravelly voice. Some former staffers can still “hear her” now and the team was saddened to hear of Dee Williams’ (aka Delores Dubaich) passing in August 2020.

Before Dee retired, in the era before cellphones proliferated, the only way to reach a staff member was through the main office line. As our receptionist, greeter, office “matriarch,” and gatekeeper, Dee served as “the voice” of ANLA for more than 16 years.

She was a constant fixture in the office: keys jangling around her neck, in a pouch where she also kept her office access card and her metro card. For those of us often out of the office, she was the “lifeline,” a reliable fixture on the front lines who could get things accomplished: “Dee, could you check to see if you can find XXX and fax it to me?”

Dee was more than a little mysterious. Generally, the team knew little about her life outside the office. Warren Quinn remembers that she loved crossword puzzles and sardine sandwiches (and if you know anything about life in a small, poorly-ventilated enclosed office space, one of those things was far less endearing to her coworkers!). Kellee (Magee) O’Reilly recalls Dee’s hair pulled up into a “messy

bun” long before Millennials made it trendy. A tiny lady, often bundled in layers of turtlenecks and sweaters, she looked unassuming, but was in fact fiercely protective of the team members in the office. Pity the salesman of toner who would try to “ply his way in” to see a decision maker. (She wouldn’t have it.)

Teresa Jodon-Manns, who had an office near to Dee’s desk, recalls: “I enjoyed when she would pump up the jams when a classical gem came on the radio, and her disdain for the K Street ‘night’ workers that she’d bump into in the morning as she finished her cigarette before heading upstairs. She loved to talk and had great stories about Hawaii, Boston, and a deep snarky attitude that I truly respected.”

Craig Regelbrugge, one of Dee’s adopted “brothers” in the office, remembers the time he took her out for beers and oysters at iconic Washington bar, the Old Ebbitt Grill: “After she’d had a few draft Budweisers, at a pause in the conversation, I asked, ‘Dee, were you ever in love?’ She got this wistful, far-off look in her eye, took a long drag on her cigarette, and finally replied, ‘Once.’ That’s all she said. Ever. It would have been imprudent to pry.”

Finally, Bob Dolibois comments, “I join (the team) in expressing my appreciation for Dee — for her loyalty, striving, and struggling. She’s looking down smiling at all of us ... except that #s%@ toner salesman.”

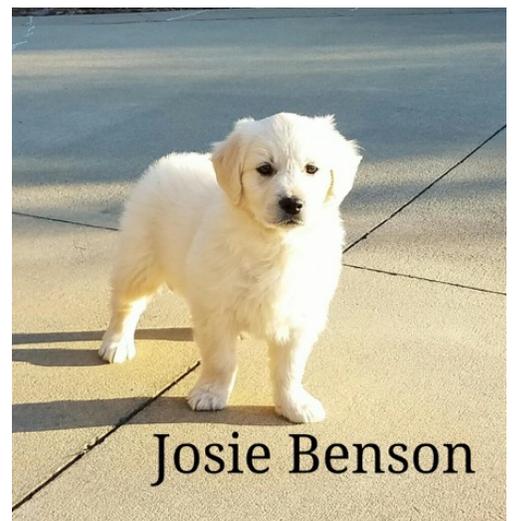
May Dee Williams, the mysterious “Voice of ANLA,” rest in peace.



### Because we all need a little “aw ...” moment.

Sally Benson (all-too-excitedly) announces the impending arrival of her newest grandniece, Lola (enjoying her first pumpkin). Niece Kristin brings Lola home on November 6, where feline siblings Bogey and Lily will welcome her with open paws.

Josie, Lola’s older cousin, lives nearby with nephew Mark, and she’s eagerly anticipating shared walks in the woods, sleepovers, and sharing treats.



Josie Benson



The Hughes crew has been busy cleaning up not just their property, but the city of Cedar Rapids.

*(top) The 100-plus-year-old windbreak planted by Dwight Hughes' grandfather was snapped by brutal winds during the August 10 derecho.*

*(middle) Dwight supports stock while it's tied and staked.*

*(bottom) Fortunately, Tom Hughes says, most of the stock was salvageable.*



## Making connections in 2021

As the global pandemic continues to prevent us from meeting face to face, we're all eager to get together in whatever way we can. These days, that means virtual connections.

- MANTS, the must-attend event each January, has transitioned to "MANTS.com Business Hub," scheduled at the normal time: January 6 to 8. According to MANTS management, the new format is "... developed to connect exhibitors and buyers ... the intelligent, searchable business directory will provide opportunities for exhibitors and buying companies to engage in commerce." More at [www.MANTS.com](http://www.MANTS.com).

- Most local, state, and regional winter events have also gone virtual; check with the organizing association for details.

But whatever you decide to do about those continuing professional connections, please make plans to do this:

Pick up the phone and call a friend. Hop on your desktop, your laptop, your smartphone, and email a colleague. Join a Zoom get-together (okay, maybe not ... ).

Reach out and make that connection.

