

ANLA ALUMNI NEWS

SUMMER 2020
ISSUE 2



Happy Summer, all!

We hope that everyone is faring well during this most unusual of years. It's a challenge, but as the kids say, we got this! And, as always, we have each other.

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."

Plants, People, and Politics: A Book by Peter Orum

A life in horticulture and service, politics and leadership. The life of an immigrant; the success of a determined entrepreneur. It's fascinating tale.

Peter Orum, founder of the Peter Orum Nurseries® — including Midwest Groundcovers and Midwest Trading — is writing a book with the working title, "Plants, People, and Politics."

It chronicles his personal and professional life, beginning with his boyhood in a small town in Denmark during the aftermath of German occupation, through his voyage to the U.S., the establishment of a small nursery in a friend's back yard, the growth of Midwest Groundcovers, and his years of service to the industry and to community through volunteer work with associations and civic groups.

It's a story of adaptation and innovation, of inspiration and motivation. And written in Peter's inimitable voice, it's a great read.

So, how soon will it be available? We're aiming for mid 2021, and if current progress is any indication, we're on target. Polish up those reading glasses, and we'll keep you up-to-date. (We promise you will not need a Danish-English dictionary.)

Spreading the word and producing peat alternatives

Hank Guarriello has been busy with a number of projects, and we'll let him explain:

"Our youngest son, Rob, and I have started a little advertising business using a floating 10-foot by 40-foot LED billboard (mounted on a 60-foot boat), located in Daytona Beach, Florida. One of the first ads we displayed was to benefit the nursery industry, and we are doing this gratis. The screen displays the words, 'Landscaping with plants improves the value of your home, the life you lead and even the air you breathe.' The ad runs for 15 seconds every three minutes.

"Another little enterprise that I am involved with is called Nutrient Control Systems; it processes cow manure from large dairy barns to recover the undigested fiber, compost it, and haul it to baggers of potting soils as a replacement for peat moss. There are several trials currently in the pipeline; 11 installations around the U.S."

For more information, visit the Nutrient Control Systems Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ncsysinc/>, or call Hank at (717) 860-3415.

Milestones Etcetera

Dual anniversaries in 2020

Here's a note from Barbara Meyer:

"Horticultural Services turned 50 years old this year. Carl started the company in 1970. It was disappointing we could not have a 'real' celebration, but we have been very fortunate to be open. And, we are having a record year as I imagine many are.

"This year was also special because we celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary on June 30. In 1990, we enjoyed our honeymoon at the AAN convention held in Nashville. It was a wonderful experience, which has continued through the years with so many wonderful people in the nursery industry.

"Carl has declined a little with his Alzheimer's, but it is still manageable. Some days are better than others. I am hoping we can return to Kansas City before too long for some more hyperbaric oxygen treatments, which helped so much. Hope all of you are having a good year and staying well.

"We will endure ... faith, family and friends!"

Carl and Barbara Meyer

Pinneys observe 66 years!

Tom and Myra Pinney, of Evergreen Nursery Inc., in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary this year! Tom retired in 2001, but keeps in touch with his ANLA alumni colleagues.

News from Carl Whitcomb

"During the winter, I did an update and summary relative to the development of the micronutrient fertilizer named Micromax® by Sierra Chemical. The company has been sold several times, but Micromax remains a good selling product. Plus, since the patent expired years ago, there are lots of copycats and most work reasonably well." For more information, contact Carl at carl@lacebarkinc.com.



Hughes Horse Haven in the Sunshine State

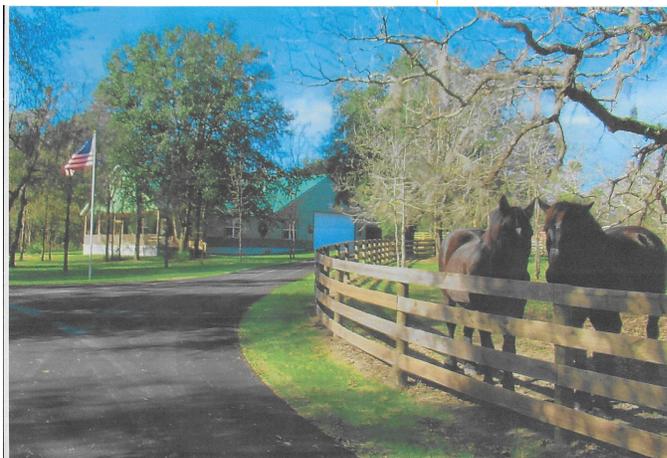
What did you do when you "retired"? (Does anyone really retire?)

Dwight Hughes Jr. headed south from his nursery in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to central Florida, where he built a winter getaway custom-made for his magnificent Percherons — with room, of course, for a few humans. (Those who attended the reunion in August 2018 may have been fortunate to enjoy a wagon ride courtesy of Dwight and his two-horse team.)

In Florida, Dwight and his friend Kelly Lamb have been busy creating a retreat where they can spend the cold-weather months enjoying less-challenging weather.

Dwight describes the project: "We purchased 10 acres of pine and oak timber 25 miles west of Ocala, Florida. We cleared an acre to build a 'barndominium,' hired a contractor, and then did all the site work, including installation of a patio-fire pit. We completed the fencing and an asphalt drive in 25 months.

"The property joins a 53,000-acre equestrian state park full of miles of horse trails. Bill Reese has been our resident horticulture resource, and Bob Lyons performs annual inspections. We plan to enjoy the winter months from November until Iowa tree-digging season in late March."



Photo, top: Dwight works on the patio at his property in central Florida. Bottom: The Hughes Horses have settled in nicely.