



# Region VII News

TEXAS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2011-2012

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 16

*Economic & Social  
Benefits of  
Composting &  
Mulching  
U.T.P.A., Edinburg*



November 17

*Emerging  
Communities  
Conference  
Edinburg*



December 8

*Christmas Party  
Pins & Cues  
Weslaco*



January 13-14, 2012

*TNLA Business  
Management  
Workshop  
Austin, Texas*



*TNLA Members, Your Employees, & Spouses  
are invited to*

## The Region VII Christmas Party

Thursday, December 8

6:30 - 8:30

Pins and Cues

514 Plaza Los Encinos  
Weslaco, Texas 78596

\$10 per person



Includes dinner, one game of bowling, and shoe rental  
Additional games of bowling will cost \$3.00 per person per game  
Cash Bar

Please RSVP to:

[Elizabeth@tlclawncare.com](mailto:Elizabeth@tlclawncare.com)

Or phone (956) 973-2313

*Door Prizes*



CHRISTMAS PARTY  
MENU CHOICES:

Pizza (2 pieces) & Drink

Hot Dog & Drink

Hamburger & Drink

## Region VII Board of Directors

### Chairman

**Gerry Bower**  
TLC Total Lawn Care  
956-973-2313

### Past Chairman

**Ouina Rutledge**  
City of McAllen—Recycling Center  
956-681-4050

### Vice-Chairman

**John Barragan**  
Ewing Irrigation Products  
956-350-5995

### Treasurer

**Jon Klement, TCLP, TMCNP**  
Southern Landscapes  
956-618-1899

**Landscape Director**  
(open)

### Grower Director

**Mary Beth Simmons, TCLP**  
Simmons Oak Farms  
956-425-5859

### Retail Director

**Paul Crerar**  
Mid-Valley Garden & Pond Supply  
956-973-1998

### Supplier Director

**Noel Garcia**  
Texas Plant & Soil Lab  
956-383-0739

### State Board Rep

**Todd Kinney**  
Kinney Bonded  
956-464-4491

*From your Region 7 Chairman . . .*



We are finally feeling a change in the weather; some of us even felt a few drops of rain. We should be preparing for our season to finish up shortly and this is a great time to start looking at our 2012 budget, look at our equipment and our employees needs.

One of the privileges of being a TNLA member is the great benefits that are provided to us and this is a great time to take advantage of them like: TNLA certification programs for all levels of our staff, TNLA Management Workshop in January and our Christmas Social, which is an opportunity for our member's employees and spouses or significant others to get together and share some fun.

I know it seems a little early, but this may be the last time I have the opportunity to wish you a Blessed Holidays Season and successful New Year.

*Gerry*

**Tailgate Topics** is a complete guide to training your landscape workforce in an easy to use and convenient package. Training topics include: equipment, equipment maintenance, plants, installation, irrigation, fertilizer, pruning, landscape preparation, pesticides, safety and turf grass. Contact the TNLA Education Department to find out more at 512-579-3860 or [chelsey@tnlaonline.org](mailto:chelsey@tnlaonline.org)



## Updating your Agriculture Sales Tax Exemption

Beginning in January, people using the agriculture sales tax exemption will be required to contact the Comptroller's office and submit an affidavit stating they are eligible for the exemption. This effects all growers of plants and trees for the nursery industry.

TNLA Green Matters has written about this a number of times. Everyone who does not pay sales tax in Texas will now be required to have an exemption number. For more information, click [here](#) or go directly to the state Comptroller's site, [Get Ready, Texas](#).

## Emerging Communities Conference

November 17, 2011

9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Edinburg Conference Center  
at Renaissance

118 Paseo Del Prado

\$50 per person

Downloadable [Registration Form](#)

Many Texas communities are growing at an astounding rate. Small communities face unique obstacles during times of accelerated urbanization; community leaders need planning tools and technical support systems to help them prepare for high velocity growth before it happens - not after. The goad of **Texas Emerging Communities** is to empower small communities projected to undergo rapid growth by 2030 to manage their resources with the future in mind.

Topics & Speakers include:

- Raul Soto, E.P.A., Funding & Economic Opportunities
- Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, The Economic & Social Value of Urban Forests
- Dr. Kathleen Wolf, University of Washington, The Value of Water



### MISSION STATEMENT

The Texas Nursery & Landscape Association's mission is to enhance members' business success through legislative/regulatory advocacy, education, networking, and promotion of professionalism.

## Discounted Membership Fee for New TNLA Members

TNLA membership is being offered at a discounted rate to new members. If you know of anyone who should be a member but isn't, contact Marisol at the TNLA office. Together we are stronger than we are alone.

## TNLA Certification

Certification Exams are now available online 24/7. Click [here](#) for more information, to order a study manual or to register and begin taking the exam. After you register to take the exam online, you have 90 days to complete it. What a great way to spend the winter!

Already a certified professional? Need CEUs to maintain your certification? It's easier than ever with online opportunities. Check them all out on the [TNLA website](#).

## Attention Growers and Producers

Watts and Associates, Inc, under contract to the USDA Risk Management Agency, will hold a listening session regarding the FCIC "Nursery Crops" Insurance Program. The session is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on November 16, 2011 at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Smith County (1517 W. Front St, Suite 116, Tyler, TX 75702)

The contract covers a review of existing insurance and a look at what might be done to improve the program under the constraints of the Federal Crop Insurance Act. Producers are especially encouraged to attend. The focus of the listening sessions will be upon obtaining information not otherwise available, such as degree of interest, reasons for interest, willingness to pay, risks to productions (natural and man-made), perceptions of potential conflicts, etc.

If you plan to attend, please contact Dr. Randy Landgren ([rlandgren@wattsandassociates.com](mailto:rlandgren@wattsandassociates.com))

If you would prefer to send written input, please send it to Dr. Landgren. A Phone contact in your email will allow follow-up if necessary, but supplying such contact information is not a requirement.

## Benefits of Composting and Mulching

November 16, 2011  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
UTPA International Room, ITT Building

*This event is designed to introduce you to the economic and environmental benefits of using compost and mulch. Add value to your landscape; economically control erosion; comply with storm water runoff regulations; economically dispose of food waste, and "green" your golf course and commercial landscapes.*

Breakfast and lunch are provided. There is no charge for this workshop. Because of limited seating, reserve a seat by contacting Naomi Keith at [keithnk@utpa.edu](mailto:keithnk@utpa.edu) or (956) 664-2488.



# *Business* TNLA<sup>V</sup> MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

*Faster. Smarter. Better.*

## Save the date:

January 13 & 14, 2012  
The Westin at the Domain  
Austin, TX



**Trust us. You want this on your calendar.**



Morning keynote speaker, Ron Rosenberg, will give you the Inner Secrets of Outrageous Marketing, including Part I: How to Dominate Your Market Niche and Part II: How to Create Outrageously Effective Marketing Materials!



What you've heard about Terry Brock is true, he really is that good. During two keynote presentations Terry will give you the tools you need to not only succeed but have fun while doing it. Terry's presentations are interactive, full of information, and you won't want to miss it!