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FEATURES

6 The 2015 Nursery/Landscape EXPO Report
The Nursery/Landscape EXPO is truly the premier place for horticulture professionals to grow! The Education Conference and Trade Show provide a unique opportunity for business networking, professional development and more! The 2015 EXPO was held August 13-15 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas, Texas! Relive the excitement in this issue!

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9 Education Highlight Reel
The EXPO Education Conference offered three full days of learning from some of the industry’s top professionals! Offerings ranged from innovative Keynote Speakers to informative education sessions!

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SUPERthrive® is announcing a PHOTO CONTEST!

SUPERthrive® would love for you to show off your pumpkin-carving skills and what you’re growing!

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**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.
The 2015 Nursery/Landscape EXPO was truly naturally inspired! Exhibitors and attendees enjoyed browsing a sold out Trade Show Floor featuring more than 1,000 booths! The Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center was buzzing throughout the whole show as participants explored over half a million square feet of Trade Show Floor! The Trade Show Floor was a great place to do business and make valuable connections, but it wasn’t the only thing going on! The Nursery/Landscape EXPO also featured educational sessions, parties and awards! The Texas Nursery & Landscape Association would like to thank the sponsors who helped to make 2015 spectacular.

The Texas Nursery and Landscape Association is already excited for next year’s EXPO event, August 18-20 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston! Many booth spaces have already sold, so be sure to reserve your booth space for 2016 now!
HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE:

- **Education** was held on all three days! Great keynote speakers packed the house!

- The **Newcomer’s Shindig** was a new event that gave a warm welcome to first time attendees and exhibitors! Newcomers got a tour of the Trade Show Floor and had the opportunity to network in the Hookah “Like” Lounge!

- This was the first year for the TNLA Naturally Inspired **Women’s Wine and Tapas Get Together**! The event provided an opportunity for the ladies of the Green Industry to connect and enjoy being together!

- **Gift & Garden Marketplace** showcased gifts, artisan decorations and unique products!

- A beautiful **Parks & Patio** display designed by Tarleton State University students wowed attendees!

- The **Welcome to Dallas Party** featured live music, dancing and lots of fun! It was a great opportunity to connect with Green Industry professionals off the Trade Show Floor!

- With a sold-out Trade Show Floor presenting **Best Booth Awards** was difficult! The winners seriously impressed the judges and attendees!

Find more information at NurseryLandscapeEXPO.org! Email expo@nurserylandscapeexpo.org or call 512.579.3857 for information about exhibit spaces!
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Education Highlight Reel

The 2015 Nursery/Landscape EXPO had two full days of education that supported thirty two sessions with topics ranging from drought and trees to Green Industry trends. Three keynote speakers attracted over 350 attendees just in one presentation on Thursday evening! In total, about 900 Nursery/Landscape EXPO attendees participated in education sessions over the three days.
Over 150 hours of CEUs from seven certification and licensing agencies.

For the first time LACES (Landscape Architect Continuing Education System) CEUs and ARCSA (American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association) CEUs were offered. This was also the first year that the majority of the education moderators were college students coming from Texas A&M University, Tarleton State University and Texas Tech University.
With over 30 years of experience and the endorsement of the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA), Texas Turf Irrigation Association (TTIA) and many other industry associations, we understand what it takes to protect your green industry business. We’ll make sure you have the coverage you need to protect your business and that it’s cost-effective. Both are good objectives for growth. As a Trusted Choice® independent agency, we’ll access many of the nation’s leading insurance companies to provide all the coverage your business needs in one strong yet cost-effective solution.

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Parks and Patio is a favorite every year at the Nursery/Landscape EXPO!

This year, Landscape Design students from Tarleton State University created the design for the Parks and Patio Booth! All the products used were generously donated by 2015 exhibitors and volunteers worked tirelessly to create the booth. After the Nursery/Landscape EXPO the materials that were used were donated to Naaman Forest High School, Tarleton State University and Cleburne Bible Church.

Thanks to Charles Britton Jr. TMCNP, Joseph Johnson, TMCNP, Johnette Taylor, Sam Weger, TMCNP, Ken Morrow, TMCNP, Derek Whisenand, Heather Hardee, TCNP, Laura Gruenau, Dr. MengMeng Gu, Shaun Murphy TCLP, Michael Brown TCLP, Mike Branch and Anne Muscat for serving on the Parks & Patio Committee!

The Nursery/Landscape EXPO was named as one of the 25 Fastest Growing Trade Shows in the US by TSNN
this was the third year that the Nursery/Landscape eXPO has featured a Gift & Garden marketplace!

The booths showcased unique gifts and products ranging from succulents to one-of-a-kind planters!

Chair Johnette Taylor hosted an event to honor top sponsors, key participants in the TNLA Political Action Committee and those helping TNLA move the Green Industry forward in Texas!

From left to right: James Harden, Sr., TMCNP, Joanne Harden, Doug Rowald, Carol Rowald, Mark Baxmann, TMCNP, Jim Prewitt, James Harden, Jr., Steven Taber, TMCNP
This was the third year that the Nursery/Landscape EXPO has featured a Gift & Garden Marketplace! The booths showcased unique gifts and products ranging from succulents to one-of-a-kind planters!

TNLA PAC supporters gathered together in the Lounge on the Trade Show Floor to relax and talk politics!
The booths at this year’s Nursery/Landscape EXPO featured aspects of the green industry from gorgeous flowers, to one-of-a-kind planters, to powerful machinery!

Awards have been presented for forty-eight years, since the 1967 Nursery/Landscape EXPO in Austin, Texas. This year, a total of six booth awards were distributed. Hardline and greenline awards were presented to small, medium and large exhibits for exceptional displays!

Winning booths are selected based on their ability to attract attendees’ attention, promote products, communicate using design and graphics, balance booth size with product placement and work within the Nursery/Landscape EXPO Display specifications.

With over 1,000 booths this year, the competition was fierce for booth awards!

**Best Small Greenline Booth**

Seville Farms
Lillian, TX

**Best Small Hardline Booth**

The Ground Up
Houston, TX
The booths at this year’s Nursery/Landscape EXPO featured aspects of the green industry from gorgeous flowers, to one-of-a-kind planters, to powerful machinery!

Awards have been presented for forty eight years, since the 1967 Nursery/Landscape EXPO in Austin, Texas. This year, a total of six booth awards were distributed. Hardline and greenline awards were presented to small, medium and large exhibits for exceptional displays!

Winning booths are selected based on their ability to attract attendees’ attention, promote products, communicate using design and graphics, balance booth size with product placement and work within the Nursery/Landscape EXPO Display specifications.
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This year TNLA hosted the Newcomers Shindig, sponsored by TNLA PAC, for those who were new to the Nursery/Landscape EXPO! Before the event, newcomers were offered the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Trade Show Floor. Then, first time attendees gathered together in the Hookah “Like” Lounge to network and talk about their experiences. The newcomers had the opportunity to chat with experienced attendees who shared their insights, advice and favorite things about the Nursery/Landscape EXPO and the Green Industry! This event was a highlight for everyone who attended, and we can’t wait to meet next year’s newcomers!

Over 830 First-Time Participants ATTENDED!
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Women’s Wine & Tapas Get Together

This event was ladies only! TNLA Board Chair Johnette Taylor kicked off the event by sharing a few of her experiences as a woman working in the green industry. Afterwards, ladies enjoyed wine, tapas and each other’s company as they discussed some of the unique aspects of being a woman working in the Green Industry. It was a wonderful opportunity for ladies to relax and connect with each other off the Trade Show Floor. This event was such a success that TNLA has decided to expand its women’s programming!
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Ken Thompson
Founder
Thank you to Tree Town, USA for sponsoring the Welcome to Dallas Party! It was a fun-filled evening that brought both attendees and exhibitors together and provided an extra opportunity to collaborate one-on-one off the Trade Show Floor. By the end of the night everyone was rocking to live music from Bent Burns and James “Sunny Jim” White, which was generously sponsored by OHP, Inc.
This provided an opportunity for Certified Texas Professionals to get to know each other! Kyle Cahill, chairman of the Certification Committee led a toast to the nearly 200 Certified Professionals who attended. Thank you to presenting sponsors GO TEXAN, Calloway’s Nursery and TNLA Region IV and to sponsors Arborbrace Staking Systems, Chamblee’s Rose Nursery, Hotchkiss Insurance Agency, LLC, Nicholson-Hardie, TNLA Region I, TNLA Region II, TNLA Region III, TNLA V, TNLA Region VII and TNLA Region VIII for making this special event possible!
Every year TNLA honors those who are raising the standards in the Green Industry at the Awards Celebration. This year’s event was filled with motivating stories, new memories and inspired ideas.

Over twenty-five Texas Excellence in Landscaping Awards were presented to landscaping companies for outstanding work in 2015 on projects ranging from commercial installation to landscape maintenance. The Young Leader Award was presented to Zac Tolbert of Local Plant Source in Austin for his efforts in helping to move the Green Industry forward. Living Earth received the Summit Award for their exceptional contributions to the industry, their community and TNLA. Sam Weger of Calloway’s Nursery in Dallas received the ARP Award in recognition of his years of service to the industry and to TNLA.

Thank you to Bandit of Texas, Ewing Irrigation & Landscape Supply, State Fair of Texas, Texas Green Industry Safety Group and Transaction Services for generously sponsoring this event.
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- Texas A&M AgriLife Research

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- Southern Botanical for the George Bush Presidential Center
- Southern Botanical for the Lakewood Residential Restoration
- The Spencer Company for The San Luis Resort
- AJ's Landscaping & Design, Inc. for the Jarosz Residence
- AJ's Landscaping & Design, Inc. for the Martin Residence
- Southern Landscape for River Hills
- Lawns of Dallas for Preston Hollow Estates
- Lawns of Dallas for the Clancy Residence
- Lawns of Dallas for Highland Park Residence
- Lawns of Dallas for the Magnuson & Castanon Residence
- Rebecca Winn of Whimsical Gardens for Borders Secret Garden

**GOLD**
- Lambert Landscape Company for their Commercial Installation over $100,000 project - A Spanish Colonial Masterpiece
- Southern Botanical for their Commercial Installation over $100,000 project - The Vendome.
- AJ's Landscaping and Design, Inc. for their Residential Installation $25,000-$100,000 project - Rini's Garden
- Lambert Landscape Company for their Residential Installation over $100,000 project - French Country Retreat
- Southern Botanical for their Residential Installation over $100,000 project - Park Cities Grande Estate

**GRAND PLATINUM**
- Lambert Landscaping Company for the Spanish Colonial Masterpiece
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Integrated Pest Management

Botrytis – What Is It and Should I Be Concerned?

by Blake Commer & Kevin Ong

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service’s 2012 census, floriculture crops in Texas pull in well over $400M annually. Between floriculture and landscape horticulture, there are over a thousand farms actively producing across this state, and they all have at least one thing in common. A well-known fungal pathogen lurks in their midst – and in their mist. Botrytis is a prevalent and devastating genus of plant pathogenic fungi that preys on a wide variety of hosts, especially in the ornamental industry.

Description - Symptoms, Signs, & Host Range
Botrytis favors cool, wet environments that are encouraged by shade and prolonged humidity. A rainy spring season around 60°F will increase the chance of encountering this fungus, commonly known as “gray mold.” This fungus can also grow and thrive throughout the year. Spores are suspended aerially on stalks and heavy infection resembles a silver or grey dust on stems, flowers, and leaves. Some species, including the well-known Botrytis cinerea, can also form small black fruiting bodies called sclerotia that can overwinter on fallen debris in flowerbeds and greenhouses. Botrytis infects over 200 different hosts, including a wide variety of ornamentals, and can affect multiple parts on each plant. Certain container trees can also be affected by gray mold, as well as fruit and vegetable crops both pre and post-harvest.

Disease Cycle
Conidia (spores) of Botrytis are free-floating in the air, and it is not uncommon for them to already be inactively resting on leaves and flowers or in residual water droplets. When environmental conditions are conducive and humidity increases, the spores begin to grow and invade the host tissue, killing cells and rotting the plant along the way. If sclerotia are formed, they can survive in soil and on fallen debris through a wide range of environmental conditions. Once prompted to germinate by conducive environmental triggers, they will produce a large amount of conidia that can cause new infections and continue the disease cycle.

(continued on page 36)
Management

Fungicide use is the most common management strategy when Botrytis is found to be causing plant health issues. The fast growth and reproductive nature of this fungus allows it to “evolve” and acquire resistance to the fungicides. Good cultural practices are crucial to preventing and managing disease development throughout the year, as well as reducing opportunities for acquiring fungicide resistance.

Some common cultural practices are listed below:

- Amply space plants to encourage good air circulation.
- Avoid misting and overhead irrigation, as it will readily dislodge and spread spores.
- Clean the planting area (practice good sanitation), especially between crops.
- Sanitize tools between planting batches to reduce and prevent transmission of the fungus.
- Apply fungicides at first sign of disease or preventatively when a conducive environment is predicted (wet, cool, and prolonged cloud cover).

Excessive moisture and conducive conditions resulting in blight of the pansy plant.

Rose bloom covered with sporulating Botrytis.

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Learn about these and other Proven Winners plants with the new iBook for landscapers. Easy-to-read overviews of each genus lead to detailed, downloadable pdf sheets for individual varieties.
Practice fungicide rotation to reduce the possibility of fungicide resistance developing. Observe FRAC numbers when planning treatment rotation.

Resistance to some strobilurin fungicides and fenhexamid has been reported on Botrytis. This is of concern as we want to continue to ensure that we have effective treatment methods. A current effort is underway to learn more about Botrytis in Texas, with the goal of developing an improved understanding of the fungus, as well as better preventative and management strategies. Blake Commer, a graduate student in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at Texas A&M University, will be studying Botrytis population structures in Texas. We hope that the information gained from her work will result in better approaches to managing Botrytis issues in ornamentals. We need your assistance in helping to build a TX ornamental Botrytis collection for her study.

**We Need Your Help!**

If you find symptoms of Botrytis and are willing to submit a sample, please contact Blake Commer (blake.commer@ag.tamu.edu). Samples should be bagged and preferably overnighted to:

**TX Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab**
ATTN: BLAKE COMMER – Botrytis
1500 Research Parkway, Ste A130
College Station, TX 77845

Thank You for helping to advance knowledge

---

**Bloom bud of zinnia is infected by Botrytis.**

---

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I have just returned from three weeks of planes, bullet trains, subways, vans, taxis and trekking in China – and I’m now having my usual bout with jetlag. For two weeks I can’t sleep right. I’m disoriented, confused, a bit incoherent and kind of grumpy. Staff says I’m like that all the time, but that’s not true, of course. Down deep, I’m quite cheerful.

While in China Aug 12 – Sept 1, I hung my hat in Jiangsu, Sichuan, Hubei, and Zhejiang provinces trekking through blueberry research and commercial farms, Taxodium nurseries and plantings, meeting with colleagues, giving talks, and there’s a blur of ornamental nurseries and gardens. Professors Yu Hong and Yin Yunlong of the Nanjing Botanical Garden are my counterpart hosts in China – blueberries and Taxodium scientists, respectively - and after many years, we’re now very good friends. Because of our success with two years of good Golden Kiwi crops, I had asked before the trip if I might connect with the kiwi scientists while in Wuhan in Hubei province - and they made it happen. This was a wonderful opportunity to see just exactly how this crop is grown in its home land, how the genetics lay out, and learn the nuts and bolts of strategies for high yields of quality production. I learned a lot. We now know enough to be dangerous.

We received the grand tour of the Hubei Institute of Fruit and Tea with our host, Dr. Lei Zhang (English name ‘Jane’). Jane is a high energy young scientist who recently coauthored a publication on the genome Actinidia (kiwi) in Nature Communications in 2013. I remarked that after such an accomplishment at such a young age, the administrators would only be satisfied with the Nobel Prize. Everyone thought that was funny - and true. In addition to cultural studies with kiwi, she has an active breeding program in place with twenty advanced selections in final evaluation stage. While at the Institute, we also received fine hospitality from Zhongqi Qin, Director of the Institute, and Professor Yang Fuchen, who works with blueberries and pears. Then, with Professor Yu Hong, we visited the Wuhan Botanical Garden. This germplasm repository is home to over 50 species, 81 varieties and over 1000 genotypes, many from the wild. Plants were in good shape, the irrigation system was in fine form and many fruit were about a month or less off.

I learned that our two Auburn-introduced varieties, Actinidia chinensis ‘AU Golden

(continued on page 41)
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Texas Nursery & Landscape Association
Visit www.tnlaonline.org to purchase your copy of the Best of Texas Landscape Guide Third Edition!
(continued from page 39)

Dragon’ and ‘AU Golden Sunshine’, are actually named ‘Jinnong’ and ‘Jinyang’ in China. Jane told me that ‘nong’ pronounces similar with ‘long’ which means ‘dragon’ in English, and ‘yang’ means sun and sunshine. Both were selected in the 1980s, after an extensive field investigation which began in 1978. ‘AU Golden Sunshine’ was selected from the wild in September, 1982, in Chongyang country and was then grafted in the garden in Hubei. ‘AU Golden Dragon’ was a large fruit taken from a distillery and the seeds of that fruit sowed. The seedlings bore fruit in 1985 and ‘AU Golden Dragon’ was selected from that population. The golden kiwi, A. chinensis, is less popular in China than the green fleshed varieties of A. deliciosa, except the variety ‘Hongyan’, which is red fleshed with a short shelf life. She was surprised that I thought eating the skin of the golden fleshed varieties was fine. Plants need to be very well drained and are often planted on wide raised beds. Finally, I learned that most commercial plants are grafted, on A. deliciosa, in particular. While I think this has to do with disease resistance, it may also slow down the exceptional vigor of A. chinensis and make for an easier to maintain planting.

Dr. Hongwen Huang was a PhD student at Auburn (1990-1994) and provided the original cuttings to Dr. Joe Norton, his advisor during that period. After a very productive career as Director and Professor at the Wuhan Botanical Garden, he is currently the Director of the South China Botanical Garden. By most accounts, he’s the expert and “wrote the book” on kiwis. In 2007, Auburn University and the Hubei Institute of Fruit and Tea, signed an agreement and plants are on the market, albeit there have been a few issues on availability and pricing. For those interested, the Gold Kiwi Group, has a website that describes product and availability of the two patented varieties that have performed well at SFA Gardens: http://growaukiwi.info/contact.htm.

As a trialing agreement, our original vines came to us in November, 2010 via Dr. Jay Spiers, Auburn University. They were planted in 2011 and our first crop in 2014 resulted in 144 lbs of nice golden kiwis from six vines of ‘Golden Dragon’. The general consensus was yield and quality looked good. With two crops in a row, while not the final verdict, there’s now some room for optimism that we can produce kiwis in Texas. Kiwis are male or female. We have three female varieties, ‘AU Golden (continued on page 42)
Drake, ‘AU Golden Sunshine’, and ‘Au Fitzgerald’ coupled with three males ‘CK3’, ‘Tiger’, and ‘AU Author’, respectively. One male for every four to six females is considered sufficient. AU Golden Dragon’ has been the high performer here at SFA. We do have vine health issues. Some vines suddenly wilt, die back, some all the way to the ground and then typically reemerge from the crown with very vigorous suckers. Cause remains undetermined.

We have much to learn. We are excited to be working with Tim Hartmann and colleagues at Texas A & M University as they ramp up evaluation and research plots. In the next few years, we’ll know if kiwis are an exciting new fruit for Texas – or not. Even if they’re a go in scattered small farms of the South, I’m convinced there’s a potential bigger opportunity available – one that capitalizes on mass markets and wholesale/retail nurseries to supply plants to homeowners. In fact, the two female varieties that have performed for us need to be in the hands of a wide range of enthusiastic gardeners across the South. Never underestimate what good gardeners can do with the right plant material. For nurseries, the plant roots easy and grows very fast so it’s all about timing the crop to hit the market right. Plants can quickly outgrow a container. The fact that you need a male and a female plant to make fruit complicates things. So I dreamed up a colorful “six pack” idea, perhaps four females and two males in tubelings. Think fancy point of purchase promotion and a cheerful fact sheet hanger on each purchase – basically a small lug with an easy to grab handle, ready to plant in April or May. Charge a good price. The fact sheet would explain plant spacing and what a small pergola or overhead arbor might look like. I think it’s a brilliant idea – others might think otherwise. Let’s keep planting.
Welcome! TNLA would like to welcome its new members. If you would like to become a member, or if you have any questions or concerns about your current membership, please contact us at 800.880.0343. Visit www.tnlaonline.org to learn about the benefits of becoming a part of TNLA.
Certified Individual's Name

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Work Telephone          Fax

Employer's signature (required) Title

For those whose certification will expire on December 31, 2015. To renew your certification, you must: 1) be employed in the nursery industry, 2) complete this renewal form, 3) have your employer sign your form, and 4) send your form and renewal fee with any necessary Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to the TNLA office by December 31, 2015.

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Your certification will be valid through December 31, 2017.

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*To comply with PCI compliance regulations, credit card information will no longer be asked for in written form.
Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

5  Region VII Christmas Party at KBW Supply in Donna, Texas, 5:30-7:30pm
10  Region I Meeting at Peterson Brothers Nursery, 6:00-8:00pm
   Region II Meeting at Plants for All Seasons, 6:00-8:00pm
   Region IV Meeting at Living Earth Nurseries, 6:00-8:00pm
11  Fire Ants & Crazy Ants at Mercer Botanic Gardens in Humble, Texas, 12:00-2:00pm
13  Region III Christmas Party at Rick’s, 6:00-8:00pm
17  Region V Game Feast sponsored by Hydromulch, 6:00-8:00pm

DECEMBER

8  Region IV Christmas Party, location TBD, 6:00-8:00pm
   Region II Christmas Party at Cadillac Bar and Grill, 9:00-11:00pm
   Region V Christmas Party at Fort Worth Botanic Garden, 4:00-6:00pm

JANUARY

21  Dallas Market center Tour & social Hour in Dallas, Texas at the January Total Home & Gift Market
26  CEU Workshop for Landscape Professionals Pesticide Training in Hoblizelle, Texas
26-27  TNLA Winter Showcase at One World Theater in Austin, Texas

For meeting times and additional information, please visit www.tnlaonline.org

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OHP introduces

**Segway® O**

Greenhouse & Nursery Fungicide

- Controls Pythium, Phytophthora and Downy mildew
- Unique class of chemistry, no cross resistance
- Vital part of your Downy mildew rotation
- Spray or drench applications