Greetings TNLA Region IV members! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable new year so far. We are very excited to announce our annual Day(s) of Service coming up during the first weekend of March: Friday, 3/6 and Saturday, 3/7. This year we will be partnering with Texans Can Academy in an effort to enhance the beautification of their Grant East campus in southern Dallas. This campus was a “reclaimed” Wilmer Hutchins Elementary School building that was acquired by Texans Can a few years back. If you have been to this campus, you will have experienced the amazing improvements. After having become somewhat rundown over the years, the updated building is now thriving under the supervision of Texans Can Academy.

While the campus structures look fantastic, the grounds are very much a blank slate in need of some TLC. This is a great opportunity to provide a curb appeal that will bring a sense of pride to the students.

The scope includes landscaping the front entrance and outdoor lunch areas. We also plan to provide shade trees for the younger children’s playground, replace dead shrubs that are part of the side drive way screen, and set up a student garden/bed that will be a potential learning tool for prospective students interested in our industry.
As you might imagine, we are very excited about this opportunity. We hope that many TNLA members will show up to participate. Stay tuned for more details in a future TNLA eblast coming your way soon!

See you in March!

-- Greer Pittman
Region IV Chair

Region IV’s  
- UPCOMING EVENTS -

TNLA Region IV
Days of Service  
Times TBD

Region IV sponsors days of service, providing a unique opportunity to utilize our professional skills to give back to the community.

Texans Can Academies offers a second chance to any students who have struggled in a traditional high school setting. They have a unique network of 14 charter schools across Texas that are tuition-free, open enrollment, public high schools of choice, welcoming students from all walks of life. Learn More

Region IV Meeting

March 25
Wednesday

6-8pm | Members: $5  Non-Members: $10
6-6:30 Social Time
6:30 Dinner (provided)
7-8 Guest Speaker, Dr. Charlie Hall of Texas A&M: Current Economic State of the Green Industry

Dallas Arboretum
8525 Garland Rd.
Dallas, TX 75218
MAP  WEBSITE

Region IV Social

May 12
Tuesday

6-8pm | No Charge, Dinner Included, Cash Bar
6-7 Social Time
7-8 Dinner (provided)

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Austin is the co-owner of **Green Lake Nursery**, succeeding his semi-retired father, Bob.

Austin is a native Texan, growing up in Dallas and Rockwall. His parents established Green Lake prior to his birth, so Austin was raised in the green industry. During high school, Austin worked for the family business part-time. He then attended Texas State University in San Marcos. There, he studied business management and continued his love of horticulture, taking several classes at the University and working for a local nursery.

After graduating college, Austin moved back to Dallas to work for the family business. He began his official career at Green Lake in 2009, working in the Sales Department. He has since worked in several other departments, moving through Growing, Production, and Purchasing. Currently, Austin works as the general manager of the entire facility and staff.

At the end of 2018, Austin joined the TNLA board at as the Grower-Director. In his spare time Austin enjoys all things outdoors -- kayaking, hunting, and biking are among his favorite activities. He and his wife Emily have one young daughter, Addison. She also keeps them very busy.
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Advocate, Cultivate, Collaborate, Educate, and Motivate
Raised in rural Graham, Texas, I earned a respect for plants, animals, and all other living things. I participated in 4-H for 10 years and regularly spent time outdoors hiking and gardening.

Translating this respect into higher education, I earned a bachelor’s degree in Landscape Architecture at Texas A&M University in 2011 and studied abroad for a semester in Germany. I held a summer internship for a wholesale grower and have been working in the wholesale nursery industry ever since.

Although I do love design, I appreciate the time my career allows me to be outdoors and have daily contact with beautiful plant material.

Outside of my Inventory and Purchasing Manager position at OakStreet Wholesale Nursery, I can be found hiking in Big Bend National Park, hunting for native Texas plants, or designing floral arrangements.

More information on my adventures and designs can be found here: www.traviswardhorticulture.com

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For more information or to advertise in this publication, contact Peter Ciprari at Peter@IPTruck.com

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“When one tugs on a single thing in nature, he finds it *attached to* the rest of the world.”

—John Muir