

Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio, Inc.

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Executive Secretary: Annette Howard



Dear Members,

July 1, 2008

A couple weeks ago sixty-four members and friends sliced, hooked, dribbled and hacked their way across the rolling south Madison countryside in the NGLCO Annual Golf Outing at Powderhorn Country Club. In an industry not typically associated with golf excellence, one of the more closely watched competitions is 'high score'. This year, the MacKenzie Nursery Supply team, after five years atop this dubious pinnacle, fueled by 'The New Moe Champion' gladly watched the Losely Nursery team step up and accept the award before a jeering crowd. The Bonar brothers from Farm Credit Services with their perennial partners from Cope Farm Equipment tied for low score with Hannigan's Pub.

Thanks to our participants and sponsors for making this an enjoyable and successful event, providing enough for this year's ATI scholarship and then some!

Sponsors: MacKenzie Nursery Supply (beer and beverages), Hannigan's Pub (lunch), Richmond and Richmond Insurance (hole-in-one prizes), Melzers Fuel Service, Cope Farm Equipment, Farm Credit Services, Losely Nursery, Jenks Trucking, OhioCAT, Yoe's Nursery, Bluestone Perennials, Gilson Gardens, Willoway Nursery, Davis Tree and Nursery, The Scotts Company, Sun Gro Horticulture, Tom Green Nursery Sales, Flying Burrito Restaurant and Sysco Supply.

We have two more events on tap this summer. Plan to bring your managers, coworkers, customers and other guests! One of our bigger challenges with these events is guesstimating attendance in order to line things up with the caterers. If we guess high, we don't make any money. If we guess low, we have food riots with lots of hungry people! Please help us out by making your reservations as soon as possible!

NGLCO Annual Summer Meeting and Casino Night

Monday August 11, 2008 5 PM Social Hour 6 PM Dinner 7:40 Gambling!
Perry Community Center 2800 Perry Park Road, Perry, Ohio 44081 (at the Lake)
Steak Dinners and full cash bar by *Dinos*
Texas No-limit Hold-em Tournament
Silent Auction, Prize Raffles, Music by DJ Doug Secor
Same price as last year:
\$30 per person (\$35 after July 25)

41st Annual NGLCO Summer Field Day

Tuesday August 12, 2008 9 AM to 4 PM
Host: Herman Losely & Son Nursery
3410 Shepard Road, Perry, Ohio 44081
Barbecue Lunch, Nursery Tours, Exhibits
Attendees: \$16 by August 1, \$20 at-the-door
Booths \$160/\$215
Contact NGLCO for details: www.nglco.com info@nglco.com

Communications

One of our goals this year has been to improve the way we get our message out. Each month we mail our Letter-to-the-Membership to 160 members, partners and elected officials. In addition, we email the letter to employees of member companies and other interested parties. Past letters are posted to www.nglco.com where you can read them over and over. Updates and announcements during the month go out to the entire readership via email. Please contact Annette if you would like others within your organization to receive the letter, if you would prefer to receive an email copy instead of a paper copy or, heaven forbid, you want to be removed from our contact list!

OSU Extension

I know I don't have any bugs or diseases in my nursery, but if you do, Dr. Dave Nielsen with OARDC is looking for research samples ASAP: two-spotted spider mites, lace bugs and containerized Taxus with Fletcher scale. OSU researchers have done tremendous things for our local industry over the years and it's important that we provide our support!

Randy Zondag, Extension Director Lake County, is currently working on low-volume spray applications, sprayer calibration, water reduction in container irrigation and developing a cost-effective way to routinely test our irrigation ponds. Randy's regular Integrated Pest Management (IPM) meetings with local growers are posted on our calendar-of-events at www.nglco.com.

Political Outreach

Last week the Demalines, Lyons, Loselys and others hosted a nursery/landscape industry fundraiser for State Representative Matt Dolan (Geauga County). Guests chatted one-on-one with Rep. Dolan, a focused and articulate spokesman who is angling to become the next Speaker of the Ohio House and wants to fix Ohio's broken economy. Also on hand was Rep. Carol-Ann Schindel (Lake County), who faces a tough re-election battle this fall against a Cuyahoga County democrat who just rented a place in our district in time to get on the ballot.

On Friday July 18, Sheriff Dunlap is hosting a Skeet and Trap Shoot Fundraiser for State Rep. Carol-Ann Schindel at Urbandale Gun Club in Madison. Shoot your trap off and eat for \$85; \$40 for dinner only! Contact Curt Lau for reservations: (440) 487-1758 or www.carol-annforohio.com

We recently urged the Painesville City Council not to adopt a proposed resolution to 'Cooperate with Current Immigration Law'. Our position has been that the current law is 'broken' and while our members continue to comply with it, we need comprehensive immigration reform and AgJobs legislation at the national level.

Out-and-About

We met with Sheriff Dan Dunlap recently regarding Hispanic worker traffic stops and vehicle impoundments. Longtime friend and supporter of the nursery industry, Sheriff Dunlap provided extensive background information and recommendations. Bottom line, Mexican Drivers Licenses and 'International Drivers Licenses' are unacceptable for our seasonal workers. While there is no deliberate crackdown on Hispanics, there is an increased Sheriff's presence on Route 20 (one of top five most dangerous roads in Ohio!) and other areas thanks to federal grants. The best bet, if you have workers driving with illegal licenses or unresolved prior offenses, is to keep them off the roads. HOLA is working to set up training sessions for our Hispanic workers to ensure they are not driving illegally.

The Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District has an opening coming up on their Board of Supervisors. Carla Lee, NGLCO past president, is working to fill it with a nursery person. This would give us solid representation on county advisory committees for Extension, Planning Commission, Stormwater and Soil&Water!

Associated Green Industries (AGI), an umbrella organization for Extension and industry groups throughout Northeastern Ohio, will hold their Fall Get-together at Willoway Nursery on Wednesday, September 17. NGLCO and other groups support this get-together in place of our own September meetings. Details will follow next month!

The 4H fundraiser for Carole Wheeler, a salesperson for C.M.Brown Nursery who is undergoing chemotherapy for lung cancer, was well-attended by the nursery community. Thanks to everyone for supporting Carole and her family!

As I reflect upon our role as an Association amidst this topsy-turvy marketplace and economy, I keep coming back to the same goal: none of our members should have to 'go it alone'. By addressing 'hot button' issues throughout the year, maintaining productive political relationships and actively partnering with other organizations, none of our members should ever be 'blind-sided' by a new issue, an unforeseen pitfall, or remain unaware of new opportunities. I tend to focus on Lake County. If you have local nursery issues that need to be addressed in Lorain County, Medina County, Ashtabula or others, please give us a call so we can all work together!

Sincerely,

Mark Gilson, President

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