



Dear Members & Friends,

September 5, 2007

Each September brings a 'changing of the guard' to our Association roster and we are grateful to the individuals and the companies they serve for stepping up to the plate and supporting our industry!

Also, our thanks go to *The Holden Arboretum* for helping us celebrate our 40th Summer Field Day! *Holden* is a horticultural gem in our own back yard and this year's partnership will enhance, for years to come, the connection between nurseries, allied groups, and the arboretum.

Our *Annual Summer Meeting and Casino Night* at Cappelli's was a fun time with close to 200 guests and I want to personally thank all our 'Celebrity Dealers'!

Associated Green Industries (AGI) attracted 100 attendees to the *Artform Nursery* meeting on August 30th. Thanks to the Artinos for hosting this and to the Association members who supported it.

Executive Director

Karen Hinton, *Executive Director* of our Association, has decided to pursue more time with her family and other commitments, and has resigned her position as of September 30, 2007. Karen has served for four years and deserves our thanks and support!

Anyone interested in this position may request information or submit their resume up until Thursday, September 20, 2007, at which time the Executive Board will select a replacement. If someone within your organization might be interested, please encourage them to pursue this as soon as possible!

During this transition, all contact information for NGLCO will remain the same.

Carol Lyons will continue to serve as *Association Treasurer* during the coming year.

October Dinner Meeting

Title: **Meet the Leaders, Legislators and Candidates Night**

Date: Tuesday October 9, 2007 Time: Cocktail hour 5 PM Dinner 6 PM

Location: Hellriegel's Inn, 1840 Mentor Avenue, Painesville, Ohio 44077

Cost: \$30 due at door; Prime Rib or Chicken Dinner and cash bar

One of our goals for last year and this year is to foster our connections with elected officials. Please help us accomplish this with your participation *and an early RSVP* using the contact information above or info@nglco.com!

November Workshop and Dinner Meeting

Title: **State-of-the-Industry** with Dr. Charles Hall, Texas A&M University

Date: Tuesday November 13, 2007 Time: Workshop 2 PM Dinner 6 PM

Location and Cost: To-Be-Announced

Dr. Hall is a leading economist in the area of nursery and nursery supplier activities. He is a popular speaker, providing an incisive, understandable picture of where our industry has been and where we are headed.

Other Meetings

The second *Propagators' Forum* will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2007, at 3 PM at The Holden Arboretum Greenhouses, 9717 Mitchell's Mill Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Our Association and OSU Extension are putting together an afternoon *Fall Research Recap Meeting* that tentatively will be followed by a discussion of proposed changes to the NGLCO constitution and bylaws. The *December Holiday Dinner Meeting* will be scheduled soon, along with a *February Labor Workshop and Dinner Meeting*.

A complete calendar-of-events including Association and OSU Lake-Extension activities will be posted to our website soon: www.nglco.com

Nursery Map and Brochure

Our NGLCO 16-page brochure and map is currently being mailed to over 20,000 recipients as an insert in *Country Folks Grower* magazine. This year, additional foldable maps are available to Association members. Please call Karen or me if you need additional brochures and maps or if you have any suggestions regarding this format.

Goals for This Year

Last winter we embarked upon a series of dialogues with key members of our Association and these, in turn, led to a constructive reappraisal of who we are, what we ought to be doing and how we might improve upon what we do. This year I would like to engage more members in these discussions, refine our roadmap for the future and continue to implement the recommendations flowing from this process.

Two of these proposals would require changes to our Association constitution. I would like to submit them for discussion at this time, with more details to follow. Time will be set aside at one or more of our Fall meetings for debate. An up-or-down vote on each proposal, with 'an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Active Members present and voting' required for passage, will be scheduled before the end of the year.

First Proposal: Article II, Name, would be changed from 'Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio, Inc.' to 'Lake County Nursery Association, Inc.'

This change in the constitution would be accompanied by a change in Association customary practices so that, wherever appropriate, our new name would be appended with the following description: '*An association of growers and suppliers from Ohio's northeastern lakeshore region*'.

Second Proposal: Article IV, Membership, Sections A & B, language defining Active Members would be changed from 'Lake or contiguous counties' to 'Lake, Cuyahoga or contiguous counties'.

This change would expand our regional scope from four counties to eight, filling the void left when the Cuyahoga Association dissolved and resolving current inconsistency in the Active/Associate determination.

Serving on the Executive Board and as Field Day Co-Chairperson during the past year has been a great experience and a lot of fun. Hopefully we can continue that success and camaraderie into the coming year. I look forward to your comments and recommendations!

Sincerely,
Mark Gilson
President

mark@gilsongardens.biz

Enclosure