



November 22, 2009

Dear Friends and Members,

Things are slowing down and I actually enjoy this time of year. Many of our people are gone for the season but there is still plenty of work to do. Field digging is done and our cold storage is full. We did our own 'LEAN' management program this year and it worked...who can believe that? We're down to one crew now that moves from farm to farm. We work together on whatever needs to be done: making cuttings, maintenance, trimming in the field, tying up arbs, washing bare root plants for next year's out-of-state shipments. We stay busy but without the 'chaos' of the main season. I'm waiting for the snow to start flying. I have a quiet social life generally...but I really enjoy sitting in front of the fire at this time of year....and just waiting for the Browns to win another game!

Now to the serious stuff that we need to talk about for our members.

Upcoming events:

Quickbooks Training Session

Wednesday December 2, 11:00 AM – 1:00 pm.

Presenter: Scott Gregory, Bottom Line Accounting Services

Perry Public Library

This is your chance to learn about a great software program for your operation...or to get specific answers to questions you're having with Quickbooks. Lunch is included! Hurry, only a couple more spots open for this!

Reception at Cleveland Botanical Garden

Hosted by NGLCO and LEAP Native Plant Promotion Committee

Wednesday December 2, 3 PM to 5:30 PM

Presentations by NGLCO and other organizations followed by reception and discussion

The generous offer for us to co-host...at no cost to ourselves...represents a great opportunity for us to present our views on a variety of issues including 'native plants', cultivars of 'native plants' and 'invasive plants'. In addition, we have the opportunity to learn from this group and the many organizations they represent.

NGLCO Holiday Party

Thursday December 10

Scores Bowling Alley, Painesville, Ohio

Cost: \$15 per adult, children under 10 FREE!

Time: 5pm. Social hour

6-8pm. – Bowling and pizza!

8pm. - ? – Prizes!

Please bring a \$10 prize for the STRIKE table! If you bowl a strike, you get to choose from the gift table! Gifts should be appropriate for your gender so we have gifts for everyone there that bowls a strike!

The board wanted to try something different for the holiday season! We're hoping to have lots of laughter at this party! Bring your kids, bring the whole family! Please RSVP to Annette at Annette@gilsongardens.biz or 440-241-7969 no later than December 7th!

NGLCO Trade Show Displays

Our Association will have displays with member catalogs at MANTS, January 6-8, 2010, in Baltimore, Maryland...this is our first time at MANTS!...and CENTS, January 25-27 in Columbus, Ohio. Be sure to drop off your catalogs at least a week prior to these shows at Gilson Gardens or Sunleaf Nursery.

NGLCO Golf Outing

Friday June 18, 2010

Erieshores Golf Course, Madison, Ohio

NGLCO Casino Night and Field Day

Monday August 9, 2010 (location to be announced)

Tuesday August 10, 2010 Lake Farm Park, Kirtland, Ohio

In other news...

DOL crackdowns: Some of our members are reporting recent DOL inspections into wage/hour issues. One nursery reports fines and penalties. Personally I think we'll see more of this in the coming year. Members are asked to contact NGLCO with information.

ONLA Update: Congratulations to Lisa Ungers and Mark Gilson who have been nominated to join Andy Harding, Jay Daly, Tom Green and others on the ONLA Board. Our state nursery association is feeling the pinch with all of us...membership is down 9%...but the organization remains strong financially and offers a great new look for CENTS.

Water Coalition: A group of members in Lake County met recently to promote a local 'water coalition' tasked with protecting Ag water resources. For more information contact Lisa Ungers, Roemer Nursery. Members in other counties interesting in pursuing their own coalitions should contact NGLCO for startup information based upon recommendations from a national water council that includes ANLA.

Economic Conference Call: NGLCO recently sponsored a conference call with nursery economist Dr. Charles Hall, Texas A&M University. For a summary visit our website: www.nglco.com

Wind Energy: Some nurseries in Lake County are signing long-term leases with wind energy companies and some are not. Cottage Gardens is currently building their own wind turbine system to power irrigation. For more information about these new opportunities, attend the meeting at Madison High School Lecture Hall. (use entrance located on Middle Ridge Rd.) November 30th. 7pm.

Vrooman Road Bridge: Mark Gilson drew the 'short straw' and represented NGLCO at the Vrooman Bridge 'Stakeholders Meeting'. Some members view the bridge...which would provide an easier connection between Perry Township and I-90... as a growth opportunity for local communities and others see it as the end-phase of the nursery industry in Lake County.

Ag Preservation and Estate Planning: The 2009 Nursery Survey of Lake County, funded by Cleveland Foundation, indicated that nursery owners average 57 years old and less than 30% have 'estate plans'. A recent Soil & Water Conservation District meeting addressed these issues with information about CAUV, Ag Districts, Ag Security Areas, Farm-Link programs, Conservation Easements and Estate Planning.

Wow, I filled up the second page! I hope everybody's family had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday get-together. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Chuck Von Hof, President