



Southeast Texas Nursery Growers' Association

"Dedicated to the Highest Professional Standards of the Nursery Industry"

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009

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A Word from President...

Glenn Middleton

Well, I just thought spring was here. Mother nature just can't make up her mind. But it appears that business is picking up. That is a good sign.

We had a great time at the dinner meeting on March 18th. Joe Davenport gave a presentation on his "Seven Keys to Success in Business". Much was learned about Joe, and how to succeed in business. We are extremely lucky to have Joe in our association. The board, as well as many members, have benefited from his knowledge and wisdom over the years. Joe is the Program Committee chairperson, and does a fantastic job.

The Board is sending three members to the Texas Landscape Architects conference in Austin in mid April. We will have a booth and hand out literature on our association. This should help us by going straight to the designers.

I would like to welcome Hott Tree Farm to STNGA. Tom Hott is the owner, and the farm is located in Cleveland, just around the corner from Bushman's.

Have a great spring!

Glenn

Condolences

to the family of

Charter Member Thomas L. Williamson

Williamson Tree Farm, Inc.
RCW Nursery, Inc.

STNGA Association members mourn the passing of Charter Member Tom Williamson, who had been diagnosed with brain cancer in October 2008, and died on March 20, 2009. Services were held on Monday, March 23 in Magnolia, Texas.

Tom and his family have been actively engaged in the Association since its founding in 1988, always involved in our activities and especially the Annual Trade Shows.

The Williamson enterprises will continue under the leadership of Tom's son, David Williamson and son-in-law, David Pounds.

Meet a NEW Member!

American Nursery and Tree Farm, Inc.

Find your way to SH249 just north of Tomball, take a left on Decker Prairie Road for about a mile, and look to the right: there you'll find both a wealth of history in Southeast Texas Horticulture, and a new vision for the future.

While the sign continues to say, "Teas Herbs and Orchids", you've found the home of American Nursery and Tree Farm, Inc., under the invigorating leadership of owners James Oates and Bill Crawford. (STNGA members have already noted the high calibre of this enterprise: Jim and Bill earned the First Prize Exhibit Award at the 2009 Southeast Texas Nursery and Landscape Show at the Lone Star in January!)

But back to the beginning: on property originally developed by members of the legendary Teas family (in this case, brother and sister David and Janice Teas) Jim Oates bought the 10 acre property in 2005 and began a new career in the green industry, learning as he went. A veteran of business, having operated a successful enterprise providing insurance risk reports on real property since 1981, he, as they say, "ventured off in all directions!" Orchids and herbs, the specialty of Janice Teas, are grown under the auspices of DBA "Teas Herbs and Orchids". "Decker Prairie Dirt" delivers topsoil, mulch (some created on the property with their own mulch grinding equipment) and all manner of flagstone, granite and decorative stone materials. And trees, especially palms, are grown on a 17 acre location elsewhere in Montgomery County.

Subsequent to Jim's settling in the Decker Prairie area, Bill Crawford's wife Dana accepted an executive position in The Woodlands. So Bill sold his successful business in Ft. Worth, also in a very different field, and followed Dana (and their four young children) to find a new and different calling...joining up with Jim in growing and marketing a wide variety of horticultural and related materials. They are now full partners in the growing green enterprise.

While they host an attractive retail operation on the property, their preferred market target is wholesale, to the larger landscaping operations. "While we could deliver and do the installations ourselves, we would prefer to provide all the materials for an installation, including contracting for such things as grass (which we DON'T want to do) to assure a quality outcome overall." A staff of 12, in addition to the owners, is evident in prepping deliveries (only the best goes in the at 281.356.2336 for invitation to visit their growing operation; we suspect you'll find some enhancements for your own product line. (Remember that impressive palm that graced their exhibit at the Lone Star in January? They have plenty more where that one came from; to check them out, just go to [www.americantreeorder](http://www.americantreeorder.com)), as well as assuring plant materials both in greenhouses and in the open are properly nourished.

The Oates and Crawford families are deeply engaged in family and community life. Kathleen Oates maintains a professional general insurance business, and volunteers in leadership positions in community and church organizations. The Crawfords, with four children from 14 to 2 years, and two demanding professions, are intimately acquainted with the idea of "being fully engaged in life".

Why membership in the Southeast Texas Nursery Growers Association? Their immediate response is, "To get to know and work with other successful growers in our industry."

Your editors can't think of a better place to do that than in our association. We urge all to get to know Jim and Bill and check out their impressive plant offerings. Call either of them farm.com !)

From your Program Committee:

All right, get out your calendar and reserve some important dates for the rest of 2009:

Thursday/Friday, April 16-17: STNGA Exhibiting at Texas Association of Landscape Architects Conference, Austin, Texas

Saturday, May 09: A Double Nursery/Farm Tour Treat: a visit to **John's Trees**, Brenham, Texas, together with a tour and lunch at nearby **Suzanne Longley Farms** (Full details and speaker to be announced in the May Newsletter, on the STNGA website and by e-mail).

Saturday, June 27: Gala Nursery/Farm Tour at **Schobels Tree Farm**, Columbus, followed by lunch at the fabled **Schobels Restaurant** in historic Columbus, Texas

Thursday/Sunday August 13-16: **TNLA EXPO**, Dallas

Wednesday, September 16: Dinner meeting and speaker, NW Houston

Saturday, October 27: Field Trip, hosted by **Nitro-Phos**

Wednesday, December 09: Annual Meeting, Social and Election of Officers, **The White Flamingo Restaurant**, Spring, TX

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We're on the Web!
stnga.org

*"Dedicated to the Highest Professional
Standards of the Nursery Industry"*

*Personality
can open
doors...*

*But only
character can
keep them
open.*

Elmer G. Letterman

COMING EVENTS

*Annual program
schedule is included
in this newsletter*

*Watch your newsletters
for future events!*

*Please mark your
calendars!!*

