

2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Amanda Staehely PRESIDENT	Columbia Nursery 29490 S. Jackson Road Canby, OR 97013 Wayne@Columbia-Nursery.com 503-263-2623
Todd Nelson PAST-PRESIDENT	Bountiful Farms Nursery Inc. 17280 Boones Ferry Rd. N.E. Woodburn, OR 97071 Info@BountifulFarms.com 503-981-7494
Ben Verhoeven PRESIDENT-ELECT	Peoria Gardens Inc. 32355 Peoria Rd SW Albany, OR 97321 BenV@PeoriaGardens.com 541-753-8519
Darcy Ruef VICE PRESIDENT	Al's Garden & Home 1220 N. Pacific Hwy. Woodburn, OR 97071 DRuef@Als-GardenCenter.com 503-981-1245
Patrick Newton TREASURER	Powell's Nursery Inc. 5054 SW Boyd Rd. Gaston, OR 97119 PowellNursery@gmail.com 503-357-0631
Jesse Nelson SECRETARY	Hans Nelson & Sons Nursery Inc. 30120 S.E. Waybill Road Boring, OR 97009 JNelson@HansNelson.com 503-663-3348
Chris Robinson MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Robinson Nursery Inc. PO Box 100 Amity, OR 97101 Chris@RobinsonNursery.com 877-855-8733

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrick Peterson ASSOCIATE MEMBER	Simplot Turf & Horticulture Patrick.Peterson@Simplot.com 541-214-5802
Adam Farley CONTAINER GROWER	Countryside Nursery AFarley@CountrysideNursery.com 503-678-0511
Dave Daniel CONTAINER GROWER	Fall Creek Farm & Nursery Inc DaveD@FallCreekNursery.com 541-937-2973
Blake Nelson CONTAINER GROWER	Bountiful Farms Nursery Inc. Blake@BountifulFarms.com 503-981-7494
Joe Dula FIELD / B&B GROWER	Moana Nursery JoeD@MoanaNursery.com 503-266-8170
Sam Barkley FIELD / BARE ROOT GROWER	J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co. SamB@JFSchmidt.com 503-663-4128
Jay Sanders FIELD / BARE ROOT GROWER	KG Farms Inc. JSanders@KGFarmsInc.com 503-678-3245
Andrea Avila Aragon GREENHOUSE	Smith Gardens Andrea.Avila-Aragon@ SmithGardens.com 503-678-5373
Tyler Meskers GREENHOUSE	Oregon Flowers Inc. Tyler@OregonFlowers.com 503-678-2580
Gary S. English RETAIL	Landsystems Nursery Gary@LandsystemsNursery.com 541-382-7646

Helping others succeed

One of my favorite things about this association and this industry in general, is everyone's willingness to help and guide one another.

As my husband, Wayne, started Columbia Nursery, he called countless people — truly too many to mention. There was always someone to answer his questions on grafting, business planning, where to buy nursery items, or anything else regarding our new business venture.

Steve Germany was a mentor and was the first person to introduce him to propagation and a love for plants. Wayne was only in second grade when he got that banana plant, but by the time he was in eighth grade he had over 50 varieties of lilies in his back yard. He knew that growing plants was going to be in his future.

For many in this industry, this is what being apart of the association helps you with. It's special to be surrounded by like-minded people that are willing to help one another.

Not too long ago, the main space for this was at board meetings. Those would be a time to bounce ideas off one another.

One of my main goals as president this year was opening that same door of communication and mentorship with new leadership groups that have emerged as the industry has evolved. I am so excited about our leadership groups and feel like they are the perfect addition to our already thriving association.

The first one to start this year was the NexGen group, and boy, did they hit the ground running! The group is aimed at aiding people new to the industry and others hoping to expand their knowledge and career opportunities within the nursery industry.

NexGen has already had several successful social and educational events. Their officer team even went to Sherwood High School and spoke to the students there about future career possibilities in horticulture and gave a demonstration on grafting. This type of outreach is vital in expanding our pipeline of industry professionals and demonstrating the vast spectrum that our industry encompasses.

The next leadership group is just



Amanda Staehely

taking off. Human Resources Leadership Professionals is aimed at providing a space to discuss industry specific challenges and brainstorm solutions that arise around employee retention, business success in general, and other HR-related issues.

Many of you run a small business like I do, and I am the "HR" person. To keep up with all the new things in that arena, as well as my normal day-to-day nursery tasks, can be overwhelming. To have an outlet to be able to get industry-specific information regarding this will be a game changer for me.

Following soon will be a Hispanic leadership group and a grower segment group. I am very excited about both groups getting started. Both allow current (and potential) members a place to engage with one another and get involved in some capacity with our association based on their interests and capacity within the nursery industry.

It will be an incredible asset for the association, as well, to help guide the future leaders of our organization.

This has been one of my main priorities as OAN president: to make sure that the organization is responsive to the changing needs of the industry and those who work in it. And it is vital to ensure a successful OAN for future generations to come.

Please take time to look into events these leadership groups are hosting and continue the industry tradition of mentoring and helping others. I know I will, and I hope to see you there! To find out more or indicate an interest in joining one of these groups, go to [OAN.org/LeadershipGroups](https://oan.org/LeadershipGroups). ☺