

# NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

NEBRASKA NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

## GREAT PLAINS SUMMER FIELD DAY 2018

The Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association and the Nebraska Arborists Association teamed up again to provide the 2018 Eastern Summer Field Day on August 10. The event took place at the Great Plains Nursery in Weston. There were over 150 attendees and exhibitor representatives at the event who took advantage of the learning and networking opportunities.



Marti Neely, President of the NNLA, and Kevin Popken, President of the NAA, welcomed attendees to the event and thanked the exhibitors and sponsors for their support. Gold Sponsors were Ditch Witch UnderCon and the Nebraska Forest Service. The Silver sponsor was Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service. The bronze sponsors

were Bluebird Nursery, Crop Insurance Solutions, Helena Agri Services and ArborSystems, INSUR, Nebraska811 and Sun Valley Landscaping.



Jonathan Larson, the Nebraska Extension entomologist for Douglas and Sarpy counties, was the keynote speaker for the morning. Dr. Larson presented on plant pests.

Following a break, time with exhibitors, and exhibitor demonstrations, attendees had the choice of attending one of two breakout sessions. The first breakout was a herbicide damage roundtable. The second breakout was a pre-climb assessment session led by certified arborist Rob Dein.



Next attendees could choose from three breakout sessions including a nursery tour, equipment demonstrations and a grapple demonstration.

After lunch, attendees chose from two breakout sessions including a repeat of the nursery tour and a session presented by John Griffiths on plant health care.



Later in the afternoon, attendees could choose between two breakout sessions. The first breakout was a walking tour, including plant identification and young tree pruning. The second breakout was an arborist panel.

Thank you to everyone who attended the event.

*See you there!*

**NNLA Workshop**  
January 11, 2019  
Lauritzen Gardens  
Omaha, NE

**2019 Nebraska  
Great Plains  
Conference**  
January 23 & 24  
Holthus Convention  
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Co-hosted by the  
NNLA and NAA.

See [nnla.org](http://nnla.org) for  
more details coming  
soon!



THE NNLA MISSION: TO ADVANCE THE NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND CERTIFICATION TO INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVELY GROWING THEIR BUSINESSES.

## NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARTI NEELY



Another season is coming to a close. It seems there is more to do than hours in the day to get it done. Fall is in the air, but landscape work goes on. As I write this the evening was especially nice. The temperature was warm, the wind had died down and with the setting sun, there was just enough light to see the last birds of the day rummaging through the leaves. Before long the sounds of the owls, which I seldom hear, came alive, and despite all the things that needed my attention, there was no where else I wanted to be.

Taking a moment is one of those things that is far too easy to push aside when we are so busy 'attending to business'. That singular evening, the act of sitting and just being in the moment, did more for my soul and my peace of mind than all the business I conducted the week before. Sometimes we must stop to see the value in the little things that result from the work we do for others. During the 20 minutes I sat quietly, I was able to observe the roses still in bloom, the colors and current state of every plant within view and marvel at how so many were in prime form after 3+ inches of snow only weeks before. Their resilience was remarkable.

As I sat and enjoyed my surroundings it gave me the opportunity to remember how this garden came to be. This space has undergone many transformations over the 30+ years it has been in my hands. It has evolved as have I. Everything we accomplish as individuals is the result of the help we receive from others. Whether it is from our staff, employers, family, friends, vendors or teachers, we would not be where we are or who we are without the people we have met along the way. Every experience we share molds us into who we are. Giving thanks is a small gesture to show we recognize the importance of their role in our lives.

This holds true for organizations as well. The NNLA is fortunate to have a strong board of directors and as president I am thankful for the opportunity to work with these individuals during my time on the board. As part of our structure, Advisory members are appointed by the president to offer an outside perspective in a non-voting capacity. This month we welcomed Terri James from the UNL Horticulture Department as one our Advisory members. She joins Julie Van Meter from the NE Dept of Agriculture, who has served in that position for several years. I want to thank them for dedicating their time and talents to help us advance the mission of the NNLA.

If you would like to become more involved in being a leader in our industry I suggest you consider joining a committee or filling out an application to become a member of the board. Applications for a board position are available on the NNLA website [www.nnla.org](http://www.nnla.org). The time you put into becoming involved will pay you back tenfold. Think of this as one of those 'taking a moment' events. You may just find yourself surrounded by people you wouldn't have known that will make you better than you might have been.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your president. Being able to do so has allowed me grow both personally and professionally. I hope that my efforts have in turn helped our organization to grow in positive ways as well. None of these accomplishments could have been achieved without the members of our Board of Directors, Advisory Members and Executive Directors, Tiffany Fourgeron and Jennifer Eureka. In January the reigns of this office will be turned over to our president elect, Brian Munk. NNLA will be in good hands.

Marti Neely, APLD, NCN  
NNLA President 2017-2018

### NNLA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### 2018-2019

##### Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference

January 23-24, 2019  
Holthus Convention Center  
York, NE

Additional events can be found at:  
[www.plantsearchonline.com/events](http://www.plantsearchonline.com/events)

#### HOLIDAY HOURS

The NNLA office will be closed on the following dates so staff can enjoy time with their friends and families:

November 22 & 23 for Thanksgiving  
December 24 & 25 for Christmas  
January 1 for the New Year's Holiday

The NNLA staff and Board of Directors send best wishes to you and your families for the holidays. Thank you for your membership in 2018. We look forward to serving you in the new year!

## NDA EXTENDS QUARANTINE TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF EMERALD ASH BORER

LINCOLN - In an effort to slow the spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB), the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), is adding three more counties to an existing quarantine on ash tree products. Otoe, Lancaster and Saunders join the counties of Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Washington and Dodge, for a total of eight Nebraska counties regulated under the Nebraska EAB Quarantine. The revisions to the quarantine went into effect Nov. 1.

“While we can’t completely eliminate EAB, quarantines can help slow the spread of this destructive insect into non-infested areas,” said NDA Director Steve Wellman. “That gives homeowners and municipalities across the state additional time to consider their options and make decisions about the future of their ash trees.”

The additional quarantines come after EAB was discovered in a tree in Lincoln and after a tree exhibiting signs and symptoms of EAB was discovered in Fremont in August. EAB is an invasive metallic-green beetle that attacks ash trees by disrupting the flow of water and nutrients causing the tree to die. The insect was first discovered in Nebraska in June, 2016.

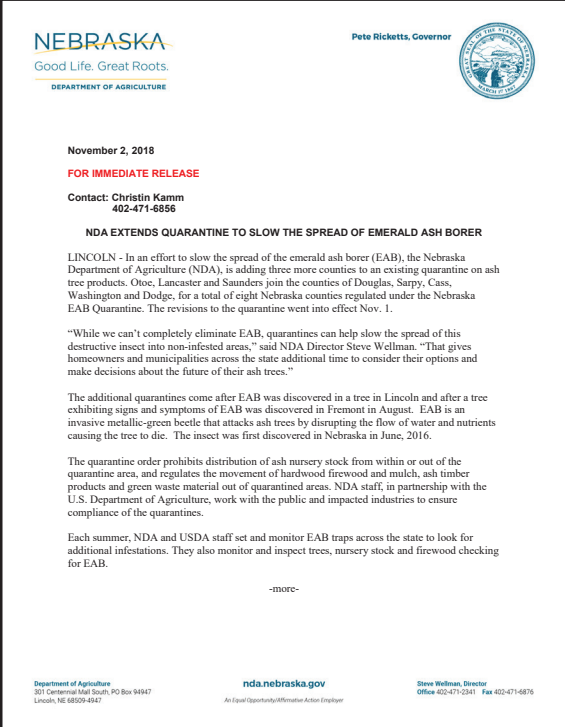
The quarantine order prohibits distribution of ash nursery stock from within or out of the quarantine area, and regulates the movement of hardwood firewood and mulch, ash timber products and green waste material out of quarantined areas. NDA staff, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, work with the public and impacted industries to ensure compliance of the quarantines.

Each summer, NDA and USDA staff set and monitor EAB traps across the state to look for additional infestations. They also monitor and inspect trees, nursery stock and firewood checking for EAB.

The Nebraska EAB Working Group, which includes NDA, USDA, Nebraska Game and Parks, and the Nebraska Forest Service encourage the use of locally-sourced firewood. EAB can easily travel in firewood, so burning it in the same county where it is purchased or purchasing heat-treated firewood is recommended.

If you feel you have located an EAB infestation, please report it to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at (402) 471-2351, the Nebraska Forest Service at (402) 472-2944, or your local USDA office at (402) 434-2345.

Additional information on EAB and the quarantine, can be found on NDA’s website at: <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology/eab/>. Additional information on EAB and Nebraska-specific recommendations for homeowners and municipalities can be found on the Nebraska Forest Services’ website at [www.eabne.info](http://www.eabne.info).



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November 2, 2018  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Christine Kamm  
402-471-6856

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-more-

Department of Agriculture  
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## HUMMINGBIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

Hummingbirds and butterflies are some of our favorite and most dramatic migrators, at least among those that visit our home landscapes. While butterflies already have been active for several months, late summer is their peak season.

Fall migration is when we're most likely to see hummingbirds regularly in our gardens. They pass through briefly on spring migration, and can remain all summer if you're along waterways or other favored spots, but in fall they are in larger numbers and can stay and feed from August into October.



*Hummingbird at feeder. Courtesy Photography by Keller.*

### HUMMINGBIRDS

- There's nothing common about a hummingbird. They are the smallest bird, produce the smallest eggs and make the smallest nest. Their colors include metallic greens, blues and reds. They have the highest metabolism of any animal, with a heartbeat of well over 600 beats per minute; and they are the only group of birds that can deliberately fly backwards.
- Nebraska is on the migration route for four hummingbirds but the ruby-throated hummingbird is the one most commonly seen.
- Their diet consists of flower nectar, sap from trees, spiders and insects, usually captured in or near flowers. It's been estimated that not one square meter, or 40" plot of land, goes unvisited by them in any given year. Still, they may go unnoticed until hummingbird feeders are placed to draw them more readily into focus.
- If you've never had the privilege of watching hummingbirds closely or regularly, it is well worth the time and effort to put some feeders out with a solution of 4 parts water to 1 part sugar, with NO dye, boiled and then cooled and changed frequently in hot weather to avoid molds and bacteria.
- As a rule, native plants contain far more nectar than cultivated hybrids. Spring-blooming plants for early migration in April or May include: azalea, bottlebrush buckeye, columbine, coral bells, coralberry, crabapple, currant, flowering quince, hawthorn, honeysuckle, penstemon, tuliptree and weigela.
- For fall migration that can run almost until frost: blazing star, agastache, butterfly bush, daylily, four o'clocks, gayfeather, hibiscus, hollyhock, honeysuckle, hosta, lamb's ears, milkweed, monarda, penstemon, phlox and salvia.

### BUTTERFLIES

- Some of the best nectar sources are plants we grow without trying: milkweeds are essential to monarch caterpillars and the plant is bad-tasting and poisonous to prey—which quickly learn to avoid eating the larvae; thistles are also favored by monarchs; swallowtail caterpillars feed on dill, parsley, Queen Anne's lace, carrot, celery and fennel; and dandelions attract gossamer wings, vanessids and skippers.
- Hybridized flowers tend to be selected for characteristics other than nectar supply and therefore tend to produce less nectar. And single flowers are more open and accessible to butterflies than doubles and offer a "landing platform."
- Creating "puddling" areas with mud allows butterflies to withdraw minerals from the wet soil.
- They like to be in full sun but prefer sites sheltered from wind by grasses, vines or shrubs.



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## CEMETERIES OFFER PARK-LIKE SETTINGS AND MUCH MORE

KARMA LARSEN, NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM, PLANTNEBRASKA.ORG

Some of the largest planted and managed landscapes in our communities are cemeteries. Though they're not used for recreation or other large—or even small—public events, they're historical, necessary and deeply valuable both personally and community-wide. Even more, they have to continue into the future and in some cases are already centuries old.

- They are extremely challenging to manage for a number of reasons:
- They are usually large and sprawling, ranging from several acres to hundreds of acres in size.
- They rarely have good access to water/irrigation.
- They are usually home to large old trees that need care but may have far outgrown the space originally allotted to them.
- Frequently they are under the care of a church or other organization with limited time and resources.
- Because of their large size and limited boundaries or fencing, they are vulnerable to damage from deer and other wildlife.
- In order to keep gravestones visible, which are close together and abundant, mowing and trimming is a time-consuming priority.
- Plantings can vary dramatically from one plot to another, requiring different types of care and equipment at different times of the year.
- New burials and management require heavy equipment that can kill plants, damage roots and compact soil.



*Forest Lawn Cemetery in north Omaha has been open since 1885. It was designed as a park with wide, hard-surfaced roads and rolling hills that wind through a forest-like setting. It's the only cemetery in the midwest that is an Arboretum and a Bird Sanctuary, and its 349 acres include four Nebraska State Champion Trees.*

### LEARNING AND CONSERVING WHAT REMAINS

Given their long history and all the challenges they pose, we have a lot to learn from our cemeteries. Their worth goes far beyond plant selection, i.e., a place to see long-lived trees and other plants. They shelter native prairie and woodlands and they offer quiet places for reflection, inspiration, walking and bird-watching. A few examples, both past and present, can help us to realize all they have to offer.

In Illinois, only 2,300 of its original 22 million acres of tallgrass prairie remain. Chris Benda and others with the Illinois Native Plants Society and Illinois Natural History Survey searched out old cemeteries and were able to find “untouched, pre-settlement prairie at pioneer cemeteries... It is as if the pioneers, in their deaths, left us a few seeds of life,” Benda said.

If you're looking for a beautifully planned and managed cemetery, Omaha's Prospect Hill Cemetery (one of Nebraska's oldest cemeteries, founded in 1858) would not be high on your list. Nevertheless this all-volunteer site gives us a glimpse of what survives, including native and adapted trees of the eastern deciduous that transition to tallgrass prairie. \*A historical note is that it contains the grave of a “Buffalo Soldier,” an honored name given to African-American troopers by western Native American tribes.

### PLACES OF QUIET, REFLECTION, REFUGE

In west Philadelphia where land and quiet are at a premium, a 54-acre 19th century cemetery called The Woodlands put out a call for volunteers, hoping to get 25 volunteers for weeding and planting. This year they will oversee more than 130 gardeners eager to put their hands in the soil, grow some flowers and get away from the noise, concrete and fast pace of city life. Many of Nebraska's cemeteries, including Prospect Hill mentioned above, also have adopt-a-plot programs, so check locally if you're interested.

Even back in 1916 in the wide open spaces of Nebraska, an article by Miles Greenleaf waxed effusive about the bird sanctuary offered at Omaha's Forest Lawn Cemetery. He wrote, “Few who have attempted the study of bird life know how difficult a thing it is to find a cardinal upon the nest, and how timid these glorious redbirds are in the parks and public woods. Is it not strange that they should know that Forest Lawn cemetery is sanctuary for them, and that they are as safe therein as in the sequestered depths of the forest primeval?”

### THE VALUE OF STEWARDSHIP

Land has always been valuable. Far beyond its monetary and functional worth, people have always found important ways to manage it that ultimately extends care to themselves. Whether it's for historical research, conservation efforts, outdoor classrooms, regional plant selection, wildlife habitat, even picknicking or other park-like uses, cemeteries are well worth a visit. While this article focuses primarily on cemeteries as landscape, any usage needs to be conscious of their deeper, more profound meaning for those with loved ones in them.

## MARTI NEELY DESIGN AND ASSOCIATES WINS AT HNA!

On Thursday October 18th the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute (ICPI) announced the new Hardscape North America (HNA) Award winners in Louisville, KY during the HNA Awards Recognition Presentation.

Marti Neely, APLD of Marti Neely Design and Associates received an Honorable Mention award for a lakeside project designed in Bennington, NE that featured the use of porcelain pavers. This project was built by Craig Tuttle Construction and the landscape was installed by Jensen Gardens.



The HNA Awards recognize residential and commercial hardscape projects in the United States and Canada, including walkways, patios, driveways, and commercial plazas, parking lots, streets and more. There were 18 hardscape categories with more than 150 entries this year.



Winning and honorable mention projects will be featured in Interlock Design magazine, the HNA website, social media, a press release and other industry publications.

Belgard selected this project to be photographed for use in their printed and digital promotional materials. Belgard is the US distributor of Mirage Porcelain Tile, which is the material used as all paving surfaces, pool coping, steps and as the veneer on the large poured retaining wall.



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## SUMMER GATHERING FOR A WINTER'S DAY

BOB HENRICKSON, NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM, PLANTNEBRASKA.ORG

Many gardeners plant “everlastings,” flowers and herbs that maintain their color and form when dried, specifically with the idea of using them in craft projects. Included in wreaths or other displays, they extend the beauty of summer’s bloom. There are many plants that hold their shape and color well, from the deep yellow of yarrow to the vibrant purples of statice and gomphrena.

Most everlastings can be dried simply by hanging them in a warm, well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight for about three weeks. Plants are dry when the stems snap easily.

Ornamental grass seedheads, leaves and seedpods also dry well. They can be displayed with pumpkins, gourds and potted mums in fall and with evergreen boughs, ribbons and other plants for winter. When dried properly, grasses will last all through the season without deteriorating.

### DRYING FLOWERS

It’s best to collect flowers on cool mornings, after the dew dries. Many plants will wilt if collected on hot days, often ruining their shape and color. Stripping the leaves from the stem helps reduce the drying time. Seedpods should be collected soon after they mature to prevent them from shattering while drying or in the arrangement

Arrange the stems and bind them with a rubber band while you are collecting to make handling much easier. Branches that are tied with a rubber band will accommodate the shrinking stems as they dry. Keep the bundles relatively small so the drying air can move between the stems. Then hang them upside down so they will dry with the stems and heads straight rather than bent.

The best color is retained when plants are dried quickly at 105-110 F. Using a fan can increase the air flow and reduce the drying time. A garage or shed is probably the most convenient location to dry flowers. If possible leave the door or windows open to provide some air movement during the drying process.

After they are completely dry you can store them in a large box or hang them in a dry area out of the way. In general there is no need to spray everlastings with a fixative if they are picked at the right time.

### TIPS FOR HARVESTING

Some flowers will fade or shatter if picked too late. The best rule of thumb is to experiment on a number of different flowers and blooming stages each year to find out the best time to pick. Here’s a few tips:

- For flowers that open after picking—strawflower, globe thistle, beebalm, chives, rose—pick buds as soon as the first set of petals opens.
- The clusters of flowers that contract after picking—tansy, ageratum, feverfew, calendula—should be picked as the center buds open and sides are just beginning to open.
- Flowers that remain the same after picking—yarrow, gomphrena, statice, cockscomb—can be picked when fully open but before the color begins to fade.
- Hydrangeas are best cut August-October when they are somewhat dry and begin to feel papery. They should be gathered on dry rather than rainy days and the heavy blossoms should be hung upside down to avoid bending the stems.
- Spike-type flowers—salvia, goldenrod, larkspur, gayfeather—can be picked when half developed, but before the bottom begins to fade.
- Grasses can be cut when the seedheads are fully ripe but while the stems are still green.

Plants not mentioned above that dry well include: Artemisia, black-eyed Susan, globe thistle, sea lavender, sunflower. Some of the best seed pods are: love-in-a-mist, Baptisia, beebalm, milkweed, penstemon, poppy, coneflower, Siberian iris, hibiscus and sumac.



*Hydrangeas are best cut August-October when they are somewhat dry and begin to feel papery.*



**SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR BACKYARD FARMER COMMERCIAL**

The NNLA is excited to once again promote the association through a commercial spot during the entire Backyard Farmer season. This will be the fifth year that NNLA has provided a commercial for this program. This is great exposure for our members as the ad directs viewers to our website to find a member near them. We would like to update the photos in the commercial. We are asking members to submit photos that reflect the work of our membership. A committee will be assigned to choose the photos that will be placed in the commercial.

If you would like to submit a photo, please send a photo that is high resolution, colorful and reflects your work. If photos include a house or identifiable place, you will need to validate that you have permission to use the photo. The photo submission deadline is December 7, 2018.

**ADVERTISE IN THE NNLA NEWSLETTER**

Would you like to see your company featured in an ad in the Nebraska Nursery & Landscape Association's quarterly newsletter, Nebraska Nursery News?

You will have the opportunity to present your company logo, products/services and company identity to members from across the state. Check out the new lower advertising rates on the last page of the newsletter. This is a great, affordable opportunity to reach members and anyone who views the newsletter on the website. Please contact the NNLA office at [tfougeron@youraam.com](mailto:tfougeron@youraam.com) or (402) 761-2216 for further details.



Norfolk Area Business  
**HALL of FAME**  
2018




**AREA INDUCTEE: BLUEBIRD NURSERY IN CLARKSON**



PHOTOS BY JERRY GUENTHER/DAILY NEWS

**BLUEBIRD NURSERY**, observing its 60th anniversary this year, remains a family operation that was begun in Clarkson by the late Harlan Hamernik. Shown here are sons (front, from left) Mike, Chuck and Tom (back) and Harlan's widow, Shirley, who is now retired.

## Bluebird has planted deep roots in Clarkson

CLARKSON — Loyalty, hard workers and people who enjoy small-town life have helped fuel Bluebird Nursery for the past 60 years.

The three Hamernik brothers — Tom, Chuck and Mike — are carrying on the family business started in 1958 by their parents, Harlan and Shirley.

The business has gained customers and respect from across the U.S., so much so that it has been selected as one of two 2018 inductees into the Norfolk Area Business Hall of Fame that is sponsored by the Daily News and First National Bank of Norfolk.

Tom, the oldest of the brothers, said they are appreciative of the Clarkson community.

"It's been a great opportunity for us to raise our families and work in our hometown," he said. "It works for our employees, too, being close to the school and close to their kids. That includes being able to get away if there is something they want to attend or need to attend. Other than the spring shipping season, we're pretty flexible."

The Hamerniks' interest in Clarkson and its residents doesn't stop there. The brothers each serve on many organizations, including the volunteer fire department and as EMTs.

Shirley is now retired but said the business began on a much smaller level. She and her husband eventually added workers and learned that to keep good employees, they needed to offer year-round employment.

So they did, moving away from the spring-only jobs that many other greenhouses offer.

**Guiding philosophy**

Chuck said the guiding philosophy was always been if the employees are at work when they really are needed — especially in the spring — the Hamerniks are happy to accommodate them when they need time away.

To make greenhouses work year-round and in a northern climate, the Hamerniks found they had to grow a little different crop mix than most others.

Bluebird is known for its broad selection of plant material. Other greenhouses are more specialized, but Bluebird can provide about anything, given that it has around 2,000 plant varieties available.

The brothers credit their father, Harlan,

By **JERRY GUENTHER**  
[regional@norfolkdailynews.com](mailto:regional@norfolkdailynews.com)



**SUCCULENTS**, which come in many varieties, are some of the most popular sellers and often are indoor plants, at least initially. To find out more about how a 40-year-old greenhouse from Lincoln became Bluebird Nursery, see page 12.

for working hard and educating himself to get the business all going.

"If you told him he couldn't do something, that was a mistake because he'd find a way to prove you wrong," Chuck said. "He was a very determined person."

Mike, the youngest of the brothers, said their father was an avid reader.

"If he was interested in something, he would either find books or buy books and read up, he would learn what he needed to know about it," Mike said.

Their father also was a good promoter and saw a niche for this region. He wanted to create plants that the average person could grow in the region they lived, which included going back to a lot of the native plants.

Harlan understood that for gardeners to continue, they had to be successful. That meant providing appropriate varieties and information.

But he kept most of his knowledge in his mind, not writing much of it down.

"It was kind of a shame," Shirley said. "He could get up and speak at the drop of a hat to any group, but he just didn't care for writing."

Harlan was extensively involved in the International Plant Propagators' Society, whose members are less commercial and more interested in sharing their expertise.

Among the requirements was to present to the groups, with lots of discussions and sharing by members — even if something didn't work. Someone else might be able to use others' experience on their project.

"Their motto is, 'To seek and share,'" Tom said. "It wasn't about protecting. It was about sharing with the rest of the industry."

Harlan's contributions to the society over the years led him to be recognized and named as a society fellow, its highest honor.

"He received a lot of recognition in his day, but that one had the top meaning for him," she said.

**Working with plants every day**

Mike said they learned a lot from their father by working with and watching him.

"The way I look at it, I know a lot of plants and have a lot of knowledge, but I never studied it. It just came by working with it every day," Mike said.

Chuck said while Tom went to horticulture school, he and Mike were doing what needed to be done. Tom did, too, when he finished school.

Tom said Shirley worked behind the scenes, with such tasks as starting seedlings and paperwork. She also was raising three boys and keeping Harlan organized.

"He (Harlan) was an idea guy," Mike said of his father, who died in 2012. "We were always trying to rein him in. And nothing was ever small. If we thought we could sell 1,000 of something, then we'd grow 10,000 of them."

Like other consumer industries, things have changed greatly over the years, the brothers said. The industry has become more competitive, and every cent is counted.

"It takes a lot of labor to get things done, especially when you have a lot of varieties," Chuck said.

The brothers said they enjoy the work and don't care much about titles. When it comes time to make business-related decisions, they usually get together and talk it out.

"I got asked that the other day, what my job title was," Mike said. "The job title is whatever hat needs to be worn that day. That is the hat that any one of us is wearing."



### NNLA BOARD WELCOMES TERRI JAMES

Terri James was appointed to the NNLA Board of Directors in October 2018 as an Advisory member.

Terri grew up on a small, family-owned farm just south of Lincoln. In 2003 she received a bachelor's degree in horticulture with an emphasis on design from University of Nebraska Lincoln. She was then offered a position with the Nebraska State Fair Park in Lincoln as the property's horticulturist, where she managed the 200-acre property for the next five years.

She returned to the university and the department in 2008, taking the position of extension assistant for urban gardening, and continued her education at Nebraska by pursuing a master's degree in public horticulture. She received her master's degree in May 2016.

Terri joined the UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture faculty in August of 2016 as an assistant extension educator. She coordinates the Nebraska Master Gardener program and works with Backyard Farmer.

Terri states her interests are in helping to improve consumers' knowledge about landscapes and gardening by providing research-based resources. By using the great Nebraska Extension programs, Backyard Farmer and Master Gardeners, she can dispense excellent research-based landscape information through television, social media, on-line classes and hands-on training.

Terri lives in Lincoln with her husband, Russ and continues to add to and improve her own urban landscape.

### MEET JENNIFER EUREK



I am very excited to have joined the staff at Advanced Association Management and become your new Executive Director. I know I have much to learn and big shoes to fill. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Tiffany during the transition.

My work background includes association management within the healthcare industry, but I grew up on a farm that has been in my family for over one hundred years. I can honestly say there is nothing better than a day spent outside, the smell of fresh turned earth, and having Nebraska dirt on your hands. I carry with me my Dad's love of the land and have always respected him looking for ways to enhance our farm's conservation efforts. I currently reside in Lincoln so have learned the uniqueness of both rural and urban living. You fill a vital role in your communities and I look forward to learning more about your specific businesses.

Please reach out to me at [Jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:Jennifer@youraam.com) or at the NNLA office at 402-761-2216. I hope to see many of you at the Great Plains Conference!

Warmly, Jennifer Eurek

Be sure to tune in to the new season of Backyard Farmer on Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

Watch for the NNLA commercial spot!



## ANNUAL MEMBER AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Nebraska Nursery & Landscape Association presents awards annually to individuals who have spent their careers promoting and advancing the GREEN Industry and the NNLA programs and mission. Nominations for these awards are submitted by the general membership for consideration of the Board prior to the Winter Conference.

### DISTINGUISHED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL AWARD

This award is given to a member of the NNLA who is an active role model for the industry and his or her community. He or she should be active in the nursery or landscape industry for 10 years or more.

### NNLA HALL OF FAME AWARD

This award is given to a member of the NNLA who was instrumental in advancing the NNLA and the nursery and landscape industry and who has been active in the nursery or landscape industry for 20+ years.

### NEBRASKA CERTIFIED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL

This award is to be presented to a current NCN who exhibits the ideals and standards associated with the NCN professional status and is active in advancing the NCN program.

### GOLD LEAF NURSERY AWARD

This award is given to a group or individual who has actively shown outstanding support to the NNLA and the nursery and landscape industry in Nebraska. The recipient is not required to live or operate exclusively in Nebraska.

### NNLA LANDSCAPE AWARD

View pages 18-19 for more information.

Want to nominate someone? Fill out the available form at the end of the newsletter or view the website for more information.

## NNLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

### Marti Neely, NCN President 2017-18

Marti Neely Design & Associates  
9811 Sprague St., Omaha, NE 68134  
Cell: 630-0050  
martineelyapld@gmail.com

### Miles Imel, NCN Past President 2017-18

Peaceful Prairie Nursery  
140090 Brook Way Dr., Mitchell, NE 69337  
Cell: 308-631-7452  
peacefulprairienursery@gmail.com

### Brian Munk, NCN Vice President

Downtown Lincoln Association  
206 S. 13th, Ste. 101  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
402-441-0020  
btmunk@hotmail.com

### Brett Schroer, 2017-18, Treasurer

Urbanroots Landscape  
15259 Cooper St., Omaha, NE 68138  
402-819-4913  
brett@urbanrootslandscape.com

### Jason Kuehl, NCN 2017-19

Plant Right, LLC  
5656 S. 188th St., Omaha, NE 68135  
402-669-6703  
jkuehl@plantrightsolutions.com

### Rod Ruzanic, 2017-19

Wolf Landscape Design, LLC  
PO Box 336, Ogallala, NE 69153  
308-284-4848  
ruzanic2@hotmail.com

### Ashly Neneman, 2017-18

Sun Valley Landscaping  
5601 Harrison St., Omaha, NE 68157  
402-932-5704  
ashly@sunvalleyomaha.com

### Jeremy Vlcek, 2018-20

Vlcek Gardens  
213 9th St., Chapman, NE 68827  
308-986-2559  
vlcekgardens@live.com

### Kendra Bretschneider, NCN 2018-20

Great Plains Nursery  
3074 County Road I, Weston, NE 68070  
402-540-4801  
kendra@greatplainsnursery.com

### Julie Van Meter

Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Lincoln, NE  
402-471-6847  
julie.vanmeter@nebraska.gov

### Terri James

UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture  
Lincoln, NE  
402-472-8973  
Tjames2@unl.edu



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## LINCOLN LANDSCAPE – SAVE A TREE

SHEILA SCHRADER, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER & CERTIFIED ARBORIST, LINCOLN LANDSCAPING

Here at Lincoln Landscaping we do landscape installs as well as tree pruning and removal. We probably plant as many trees as we remove each season. However, we would really prefer to be removing fewer trees. So often we are asked to come to our clients' homes to provide them with bids to remove trees that we feel should be saved. Sometimes we will remove a tree that should be saved because it appears that if we won't do it then the client will find another company that will. At Lincoln Landscaping we make it a point to educate our clients on the value of trees before removing them.

Trees provide so many benefits to our homes, communities and world. A few benefits that stand out to us are: year-round beauty, shade & wind/snow protection, reduce heating/cooling costs, habitat & food for people & wildlife, purify air & water/convert carbon dioxide to oxygen, store carbon to reduce climate change effects, reduce stress, make communities feel safer, act as a landmark/memorial.

So, how do we decide that a tree should be saved even if a client wants it to be removed? In talking with our clients, we listen for reasons that relate to the maintenance and appearance of the tree.

Some of our bad reasons to remove a tree: drops leaves, seeds, branches grow over house, close to another tree, shading out the lawn, animals live in the tree, shades garden, clogs gutters, not perfectly symmetrical

There are many legitimate reasons to remove trees. Our list of reasons includes: disease or decay, cracks or structural issues, insect infestations, death, if the tree is an ash and not a good candidate for Emerald Ash Borer treatment.

It is important for homeowners that do have a tree that needs removed to work with a certified arborist for the safety of the client's property and the crew removing the tree.

We encourage our clients to see themselves as stewards of the trees on their property and in their community. Caring for a tree should not be perceived as a burden. Raking leaves or fruit, cleaning gutters, and tolerating animals that live in trees are tasks of homeownership just like changing lightbulbs or vacuuming the carpet. We ask our clients to reflect on the history of the tree and what this tree could provide to future generations. We also try to educate our clients that the idea of a perfect tree is just not realistic. Through the process of cloning certain varieties of trees to get the identical and predictable shape and features we have created an unrealistic expectation for our clients. We should be rewriting the narrative that variety is welcomed and that it creates a more diverse and stable community forest. Cloned trees have identical genetic makeup so if a disease or pest comes through that targets these trees there is less of a chance that some will survive. We can do more by planting trees that are grown in our communities from seeds collected from local sources. *Continued on next page...*

# the Western

January 16, 17, & 18 • Kansas City, MO



**celebrating Plants with Purpose™**  
*the economic, environmental & quality of life benefits of plants*  
Trade Show • Learning Centers • Roundtable Discussions  
Retail Workshop • Design Workshop with Roy Diblik  
Owner / CEO Breakfast Club • Trolleys to Restaurants & Bars  
Wednesday Reception at Boulevard Brewing • Western Pub  
Emerging Leaders • Student Advisory Committee & Volunteers  
Micro Mentoring Lunch • Fashion Show of New Plants  
Keynotes by Shannon Currey, Hoffman Nursery  
George Coombs, Mt Cuba Center • Craig Regelbrugge, AmericanHort  
**Details at [wnla.org](http://wnla.org) • 888-233-1876**



**Western**  
Jan. 16, 17 & 18, 2019 • Kansas City, MO  
education • networking • trade show • PLANTS WITH PURPOSE

Continued from previous page...

We can plant trees using best practices to give trees the optimum chance to thrive. We also try to convey to our clients that the cost of removing a tree is more than pruning a tree every few years and that they get to enjoy all of the benefits of tree in the meantime. Also, we emphasize that protecting trees from compaction in the root zone, competition from turf and mower damage is so important in growing healthy trees. As landscape designers we try to convey that having a unique tree planted in their yard will create a sense of space and identity as well as set their property apart from their neighbor's. Trees increase the market value of a property. As landscape professionals we can do our part to educate our clients, avoid removing trees that should be preserved and continue to plant new trees grown from local seed sources. Through a collaborative effort we can create a more resilient and vibrant community forest.

We have created a one-page handout to share with our tree clients that summarizes the content of this article. If you are interested in a copy to edit and share with your clients email me at sheila@lincolnlandscapingcompany.com.

## NNLA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal forms were sent in May for the 2018-2019 membership year. The NNLA membership year runs from July 1 - June 30. Be sure to renew your membership to continue to receive the quarterly newsletters, email updates, discounted educational rates for the GREAT PLAINS Conference, workshops, and Summer Field Days, marketing & outreach and much more...



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## NNLA SCHOLARSHIP

The Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association is pleased to announce they will be providing \$1000 scholarships again this year to full-time horticulture students in Nebraska colleges. The NNLA believes in investing in students pursuing degrees in horticulture.

We encourage you to promote this scholarship to area students and urge them to complete the application packet. Applications are due by December 10.

The applicants will be notified by the Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association the first week in January. The scholarships will be awarded at the Nebraska Great Plains Conference to be held January 23 & 24, 2019. More information will be provided prior to the Conference to scholarship recipients.

NNLA also has a student membership available. There is no cost to Nebraska horticulture students to participate in NNLA. Student membership forms are available on the NNLA website if you have students who would be interested.

Application Packet: <http://nnla.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2019-Scholarship-Application-Packet.pdf>

Student Membership:

<http://nnla.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NNLA-Student-Membership-Form2.pdf>

## Do you ship nursery stock out-of-state?

More than just your NE nursery license may be required.  
Don't risk shipping without proper certification!

For info about requirements, contact the  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Export Certification Coordinator at:  
402-471-5902 or [agr.phyto@nebraska.gov](mailto:agr.phyto@nebraska.gov)

**NEBRASKA**

Good Life. Great Roots.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

### NNLA LANDSCAPE AWARDS PROGRAM

The NNLA Board is excited to announce the NNLA Landscape Awards Program nomination submission is now open. Everyone is encouraged to submit their best projects to be juried by a panel of industry experts. The award-winning projects will be showcased at the 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference.

Six categories are available:

1. Residential Installation Under \$15,000
2. Residential Installation \$15,000 - \$50,000
3. Residential Installation \$50,001 +
4. Use of Seasonal Color, Container Gardens or Perennial Gardens
5. Theme Gardens or Retail Displays of Horticultural Products or Services
6. Student Project

The program is available to all NNLA members and non-members. Projects are eligible up to 6 years after installation. To enter, submit the half-page form, entry fee, and 8-20 photos with an attached written project description. No plans are required (except for student projects). The deadline to submit entries is December 15.

Winners will be recognized and honored during the 2019 Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. A commemorative plaque will be provided to winners in each category and photos will be featured on the NNLA website, Facebook page and newsletter.

The form is available on the website: <http://nnla.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Landscape-Award-2018.pdf>

This is a great opportunity to showcase the talent of our members!

**YOU NEVER  
KNOW  
WHAT IS  
IN YOUR  
LURKING  
FIREWOOD**



Tree-killing pests, like the emerald ash borer, hitchhike on firewood and spread insects and diseases that destroy our trees. Keep your backyard, campgrounds and favorite places safe from these pests.

**PREVENTION IS KEY:**

- 🕒 Buy locally-harvested firewood.
- 🕒 Ask a park ranger or campground host about where to get local firewood when you travel.
- 🕒 If you brought firewood in from another area, BURN IT! Don't leave it, don't take it with you.



## BUY LOCAL, BURN LOCAL.

To report potential emerald ash borer, contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351.

**NEBRASKA**  
Good Life. Great Roots.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH PROTECTION**

**DONTMOVE  
FIREWOOD.org**

## PLANT NATIVE

Chinkapin oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii*

Height: 50-60'

Spread: 40-50'

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium

Though typically found in the wild in dry rocky soils, chinkapin oak performs best when planted in fertile, cultivated soils; once established, it is very drought-tolerant. It can handle alkaline soils and will grow rapidly, for an oak, under cultivation. It's in the white oak family and occurs naturally in southeastern Nebraska, growing on the loess bluffs of the Missouri River and rocky outcroppings in nearby counties. The handsome, sharp-toothed leaves look similar to those of chestnut and are dark green with a whitish cast below. The light yellow fall color is accented by bright ashy-gray bark and the gnarly branching pattern on picturesque old specimens. It's an outstanding shade tree for wildlife, producing an abundance of small, nutritious acorns that may form on trees just a few years old. Chinkapin oak is a recommended Tree of the Year for the GreatPlants for the Great Plains program.

\* Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, [plantnebraska.org](http://plantnebraska.org)





**NEBRASKA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

**Award Nomination form**

Directions: Complete the following biographical data. On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions. Send the nomination form and questions to the NNLA office by **December 1**.

**Award** (circle one)

Distinguished Nursery or Landscape Professional – NNLA Hall of Fame – NCN Nursery Professional – Gold Leaf Nursery

**Name of Nominee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address of Nominee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone (Home)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Work)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name & Address of Local Newspaper** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitted by** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone (H)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(W)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Application** \_\_\_\_\_

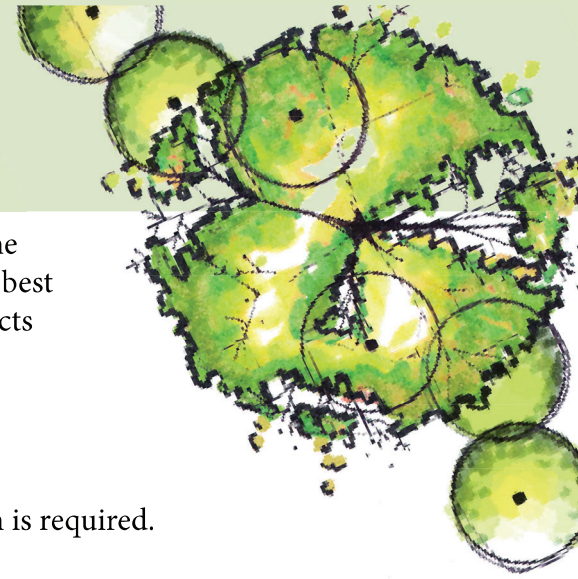
1. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated support to the NNLA & Green Industry. List specific examples.
2. How has the nominee shown a concern for the commitment to the betterment of the community?
3. Include any additional comments or data that would support your nominee.

The deadline for awards is December 1, and nominations postmarked after the deadline will not be accepted. If there are any questions, please call the NNLA office at (402) 761-2216 or email [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com).

Mail applications to the NNLA office: NNLA, Attn: Awards, 521 First Street, PO Box 10, Milford, NE 68405

Updated 10/10/2011

# Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association Landscape Awards Program



The NNLA Landscape Awards Program is an opportunity for excellence in the landscape industry to be recognized. Everyone is encouraged to submit their best projects to be juried by a panel of industry experts. The award-winning projects will be showcased at the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference.

## CATEGORIES

### **CATEGORY 1: Residential Installation Under \$15,000**

Submit 8-20 project photos and a written description. No plan is required.

### **CATEGORY 2: Residential Installation \$15,000 - \$50,000**

Submit 8-20 project photos and a written description. No plan is required.

### **CATEGORY 3: Residential Installation \$50,001 +**

Submit 8-20 project photos and a written description. No plan is required.

### **CATEGORY 4: Use of Seasonal Color, Container Gardens or Perennial Gardens**

Seasonal color entries must include images depicting a progression of seasonal color on a single client's project. Seasonal color or container garden entries could include window boxes, patio planters, street planters, etc. and may include the use of annuals, perennials, bulbs, etc. Perennial garden entries must feature the predominant use of perennials and/or grasses, with 8-20 project photos and a written description. Plans or plant lists are not required.

### **CATEGORY 5: Theme Gardens or Retail Displays of Horticultural Products or Services**

Projects may include permanent or temporary installations or product/merchandise displays, such as: displays at garden centers or in landscapes; landscape or garden center company headquarters; garden show, mall, trade show, or state/county fair displays; knot gardens; butterfly gardens; rock gardens; dwarf conifer gardens; etc. No plan is required. Submit 8-20 project photos and a written description that states the intended theme.

### **CATEGORY 6: Student Project**

Students, individually or as a team, are encouraged to submit creative designs while being mindful of the practical considerations of site opportunities and constraints, program requirements, local government rules, and environmental issues. Students are not restricted by a design and construction budget. Entrants should submit a landscape plan, maximum size 24"x36", for a garden or residence. All plants and hardscape elements must be clearly labeled. The plan should be drawn to scale and include a graphic scale and north arrow. Additional supporting drawings such as elevations, details and perspective sketches may also be included. No student names or the name of any school should appear on the plan. Print or high resolution digital images of plans may be submitted. All entrants must be NNLA student members. A list of all team members must be submitted with the entry form.

## RULES

**Eligibility:** This program is open to all NNLA members and non-members. Projects are eligible up to 6 years after installation. Entrants must have executed or designed the majority of the project. Projects can be re-entered in the same category in a following year unless the project received a top NNLA award.

**Copyrights & Client Permission:** The entrant assumes the responsibility of copyrights, photographic fees and client permission for further use of images by NNLA for public relations purposes. NNLA is not responsible for the pictures selected or any edited copy used from the files sent to the media. Entries become the property of NNLA and may be used for publication or other purposes deemed appropriate.

**Entry Fee:** There is a \$35 fee for initial entries and a \$25 fee for additional entries for NNLA members with Nebraska Certified Nurseryman (NCN) staff. A \$50 fee for initial entries and a \$35 fee for additional entries for NNLA members without NCN staff. For non-members there is a \$100 fee for initial entries and \$70 fee for additional entries. Students may provide entries for free.

## RULES

**Recognition:** Winners will be honored and recognized during the Nebraska GREAT PLAINS Conference. A commemorative plaque will be provided to winners in each category. Winning project photos will be featured on the NNLA website, Facebook page and newsletter.

**Judging & Awards:** Awards will be granted in each category when warranted based on a points system. Points are awarded by a panel of judges for each entry. If entries do not reach the appropriate score, no award will be offered. Three judges, who are experienced in the landscape field and not directly involved with the NNLA, will evaluate all entries.

## TO ENTER

**Email:** Send completed application to [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com). Instructions will then be provided to submit photos.

**Deadline:** December 15.

Use a separate entry form for each entry. This form must be completely filled out and accompanied by a written description of all photos for the submitted project to be considered.

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ If Selected, Name to Appear on Award: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Category Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Category Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount for Contracted Work: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Installation: \_\_\_\_\_

*The entrant assumes the responsibility for copyrights, photographic fees and client permission for further use of images by NNLA for public relations purposes. NNLA is not responsible for the pictures selected or any edited copy used from the press package sent to media. Entries become the property of NNLA and may be used for publication or for any other purpose the association deems appropriate. I verify that all information contained on this entry form is accurate. I further verify that no alterations of any kind have been made to the images I've submitted for this entry.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Entry: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 (NNLA Member with NCN staff)

Additional Entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 (NNLA Member with NCN staff)

Initial Entry: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 (NNLA members without NCN staff)

Additional Entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 (NNLA members without NCN staff)

Initial Entry \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100 (non-members)

Additional Entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$70 (non-members)

Number of Entries \_\_\_\_\_ x FREE (NNLA Student Members)

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECKLIST

- Completed entry form
- Entry fee
- 8-20 high resolution photos in JPEG format
- No company names or logos on photos
- Written project description

**DEADLINE: December 15**

## Questions:

email [jennifer@youraam.com](mailto:jennifer@youraam.com)  
or call (402) 761-2216