



Hello from your Executive Director,

Now that I've settled back into the office after enjoying a little vacation time, I want to thank everyone who attended the 2014 OSA Summer Convention at Salishan Golf Resort and Spa on June 25-28.

We had outstanding attendance this year—a total of 190 member representatives, family members, speakers and guests attended the convention, which is a 12 percent increase from last year. That's an impressive turnout!

We had many great speakers this year. Wednesday's lunch attendees learned conscious communication tips from [Dr. Rick Brinkman](#) during his seminar on "Dealing with People You Can't Stand." For those of you who didn't hear his talk, hopefully you grabbed one of his books to read or give as a gift to a friend, relative or coworker.

We were also privileged to hear [Jake French's](#) seminar "Life Happens. Live it!," where we were reminded that although life can change in an instant, it is how we choose to deal with unexpected change that defines who we are. Jake coached us on the importance of focus, attitude, choice and the power of positive attitude.

Chris Holdgreve, Executive Director of [Excellence Through Stewardship](#), also gave an enlightening talk regarding existing efforts around stewardship practices and fostering coexistence.

Entertainment was enjoyed on all three nights of the convention. Wednesday's entertainment was hosted by Steve and Jerri Tubbs at Eden Hall, and included vocals by Steve who was accompanied by the band "8 balls," led by Mark Dehart (husband of Denise Dehart at DLF).



On Thursday night, we were amazed by the magic, mind-reading and comedy show of [Hart Keene](#), and Friday night brought us the interactive musical performance of [Bret Lucich](#).

We want to once again thank our generous sponsors for their contributions. Without their support, we would not have been able to bring you these speakers and entertainers. Please make sure to thank our sponsors listed at the end of this newsletter!

Board of Directors

On Friday, June 27, the Board welcomed new directors Phill Lindgren of Grassland Oregon and Jake Stockfleth of Oregon Seed Cleaning. The OSA Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 year are:

President

Todd Bond, Mt. View Seeds

Vice President

Greg Loberg, West Coast Beet Seed

Secretary-Treasurer

Mandi Mack, Pickseed

Immediate Past President

Bryan Muntz, IntegraTurf

Directors (1)

Scott Harer, Columbia Seeds

Jeff Martin, The Scotts Company

Directors (2)

Kevin Rogers, CHS Inc.

Rick Myers, DLF International Seed

Directors (3)

Phill Lindgren, Grassland Oregon

Jake Stockfleth, Oregon Seed Cleaning

New Members:

Members voted to approve seven new companies into the association. Integrated Seed Growers (Amity, OR), Lebanon Seaboard (Lebanon, PA), and Seminis Monsanto (Pasco, WA) were approved as active members. ERC Machinery USA (George, WA), Independent Dispatch Inc. (Portland, OR), John Zuelzer & Son Canada LTD (Victoria, B.C.), and Sea Tac Packaging (Puyallup, WA) were approved as associate members. We extend a warm welcome to all of these new members!

Scholarship Awards & Fundraising:

I want to personally thank everyone who donated cash or items to this year's silent auction. Funds raised this year for the scholarship program totaled almost \$11,000! This money came from your bids at the silent auction, cash donations, and other fundraising activities like the golf mulligan sales and the 50/50 raffle. The 50/50 raffle itself raised over \$900, with winner Mike Baker receiving half of the proceeds.

This year OSA Scholarship Committee recognized two talented young men as recipients of the OSA Memorial Scholarship—Chase Cochran and Riley Merrigan—each receiving \$1,500.

Chase Cochran, son of John Cochran (Turf Merchants Inc.), is a recent transfer to Oregon State University's Department of Crop and Soil Science, and is enrolled in OSU's Agronomy Option. According to his professors, he ranks among the very best students in his department and is known as an industrious and capable scholar. After college, Chase hopes to get a job as a field representative for a production company.

Riley Merrigan, son of Bill Merrigan (Blue Mt. Seeds Inc.), will be attending the University of Idaho in the fall to pursue a degree in chemical engineering. He has several ideas for his future career path, including developing new materials for agriculture applications in the material sciences field, or developing new or improving older technologies in the energy sector.

Also, as a result of our successful fundraising this year, OSA President Bryan Muntz awarded an additional scholarship of \$1,500 to Morgan Aerni, daughter of Nancy Aerni (Turf Merchants Inc). Morgan, a sophomore at Oregon State University, is majoring in Animal Science and minoring in Chemistry, with the goal of becoming a veterinarian. She hopes that someday she will be able to fulfill her dream of helping animals.

The selection committee this year consisted of Roger Herron, Pennington Seed; Phani Bangalore, Turf Tech Inc.; Leon Strait, Pennington Seed; and Sam Cable, Pure Seed. Thank you very much for your hard work!

Special Awards:

Special awards this year were given to Mike Baker of Pennington Seed, and Greg Loberg of West Coast Beet Seed.

Mike Baker was honored with an Honorary Life Membership. He started his career in the seed industry working for Far West Farmers' Cooperative in Lebanon, until 1986 when he opened Pennington Seed's Oregon Division. In fact, at one time he worked out of his bedroom until opening a small office on Hwy. 34.

Some highlights of Mike's career include serving as President of the Oregon Seed Trade Association in 1995-96, speaking at the Bio-Ethic Conference in Virginia in 2003, serving as President of the Western Seed Association in 2012-13, and co-founding the Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance.

Currently, he is the Vice President, Manufacturing and Strategic Procurement, of Central Garden & Pet. He and his wife Patti have 3 children—Peter, Audra, and Phil. The single most important thing he is most proud of is being called "Grandpa."

Greg Loberg was honored as Person of the Year. Greg earned his B.S. at the University of Minnesota and his M.S. at Iowa State University in Agronomy. He started his agricultural career working at Bayer CropScience, where he stayed for more almost 20 years. He then joined West Coast Beet Seed Company as Manager in April 2007, where he currently works.

Since joining the OSA Board of Directors, some of Greg's most recognized accomplishments include being appointed a member of the Governor's Task Force on Genetically Engineered Agriculture, and leading the OSA GE Stewardship Committee.

Greg has three children with his wife Cindy—Grant, Allison and Luke—and is the "Head Wagon Master" for his four grandkids.

Congratulations to both well-deserving recipients, Mike Baker and Greg Loberg.

Contest Winners:

The annual golf tournament was a huge success this year with 11 teams and 44 players. The wacky putt-putt golf tournament included around 15 players of all ages.

The golf teams and individual winners included:

- 1st place team (score 65) – Don White, Rick Cale, Brian Carlsen and Charlie Vandehey
- 2nd place team (score 66) – Kyle Stone, Cindy Stone, Steve Tubbs and John McShane
- 3rd place team (score 67)– Thomas Hawker, Dean Boyle, Brad Anderson and Rick Dunham
- Men's closest to the hole #4 – Steve Tubbs
- Men/women long drive – Bret Brusse
- Women's closest to the hole #6 – Mikki Underwood
- Men's closest to the hole #11 – Martin Luttrell
- Men/women closest to hole #15 – Rick Dunham

Wacky golf prize winners included Jace Muntz, Reece Blacker, Tammy Lindgren, Wade Jackson and McKenzie Jackson. All participants also received a Baskin Robbins or Dutch Bros. gift card.



Thank You!

Thanks again to our convention committee members who worked tirelessly to make this year's convention a success—Bryan Muntz, Nancy Aerni, Ashley Wagoner, Kyle Stone and Jenni Heinen.

Thank you to everyone who donated for the silent auction and made it such a success, and a big thank you to all of our sponsors listed below for their generous support!

Upcoming Events:

- *August 29, 2014* – Come by the OSA booth at the OSU Turf Field Day, Lewis-Brown Farm in Corvallis
- *January 13, 2015* – Mid-Winter Meeting, Salem Convention Center
- *June 26-28, 2015* – Summer Convention, The Resort at the Mountain in Welches

We are also in the planning stages for a fall educational workshop, and will send information in the coming weeks.

As always, I would love to hear from you with any ideas or comments. I can be reached at blacker@pacwestcom.com, or by phone at 503-685-7555.

Angie Blacker
Executive Director

Thank you to our convention sponsors!



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