



### **Fall Workshop**

Thursday, October 19, 2023

8:00 am - Noon

Front Range Community College, 3645 W. 112th Ave., Westminster

# **Evolving Production Practices for a Changing Future**

sponsored by:



**8:00 – 8:30**      **Continental Breakfast and Beverages**

**8:30 – 9:15**      **Opening Panel Session: Plants and Trees for a Changing Climate**

Mike Bone, Denver Botanic Gardens; Al Gerace, Welby Gardens; Kelly Grummons, Prairie Storm Nursery

**Session Summary:** A higher level discussion of the challenges plant growers/designers may face as climate change continues to unfold. What direction is envisioned regarding the types of plants that will become more desired and more adapted to a warming, drier climate? What role will native plants play and how will they get incorporated into the mainstream of horticulture and landscaping?

#### **Nursery Track**

#### **Greenhouse Track**

**9:30 – 10:15**      **Innovation and New Technology for Conserving Water in Nursery Production**

Jerrold Scott, Rainbird, Denver

**Session Summary:** This presentation will look at a variety of nursery irrigation systems and how they can be controlled to deliver the most efficient application rates for different watering needs, from filters and pumps to valves, rotors, sprays, nozzles, innovative drip systems controller platforms.

**New Herbaceous Varieties to Grow in a Water-Wise World**

Dr. Chad Miller, CSU

**Session Summary:** What new varieties should you know and grow for low water requirements?

**10:25 – 11:05**      **Pest Pressures in a Changing Climate**

Dr. Whitney Cranshaw, Professor Emeritus, CSU

**Session Summary:** Insects and mites are very sensitive to weather and sustained climate changes will have several kinds of effects. This presentation will highlight several of the important insects affecting nursery plants and that cause problems in and around homes in Colorado, and how different kinds of climate change may affect them.

**Work Smarter, Not Harder**

John Williams, Tagawa Greenhouse Enterprises

**Session Summary:** Tips and tricks for efficiency in the greenhouse, including automation used for efficiency and labor.

**11:15 – 12:00**      **Supplying Climate Resilient Trees**

Andrew Lisignoli, Trees of Corrales

**Session Summary:** Learn what practices production nurseries are taking to supply trees that will be resilient to a warming climate. You will explore new tree introductions/reintroductions, growing techniques to prepare trees for a harsh environment and recommendations on how you can meet this challenge.

**Water and Nutrition for Growing the Best Plants in the Greenhouse**

Dr. Steve Newman, Professor Emeritus, CSU

**Session Summary:** Learn new techniques and strategies for optimizing greenhouse production through the effective use of water and nutrients.

## Speaker Profiles



**Mike Bone – Associate Director of Horticulture, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver**

Mike has worked at the Denver Botanic Gardens for more than 20 years. He is the Curator of Steppe Collections and an associate director of horticulture. He has been involved in the Plant Select program since the late 90's and has been a part of bringing many new and exciting plants to the marketplace. Much of Mike's work revolves around finding, selecting, and breeding plants. As one of the gardens plant explorers Mike is looking at the future of plants in our urban environments. Mike has traveled to each of the 4 great steppe regions of the world looking at our sister climates and how our changing climate is affecting these areas.



**Dr. Whitney Cranshaw – Emeritus Professor of Entomology, Colorado State University**

During his nearly 40 years at CUS, Dr. Cranshaw has conducted a wide ranging Extension/Research/Teaching program with the primary focus of improving the understanding of and effective management of insects of horticultural crops (vegetables/fruits, flowers, trees/shrubs, turfgrass, hemp). He has written extensively on these subjects, producing many hundreds of publications on research and for public education/Extension. He has also written several books, perhaps best known being *Garden Insects of North America* and *Bugs Rule! An Introduction to the World of Insects*. Although retired from CSU in July 2020, he has not retired from "bugs" and continues to write, speak with diverse audiences, support websites and listserv discussion groups, and conduct research on projects of interest.



**Al Gerace – Welby Gardens/Hardy Boy Plants, Arvada**

Al has worked at Welby Gardens for 50 years - as Greenhouse Manager, President and finally as a member of Board of Directors. He is always in search of what's new in plants for the local green industry. His first new plant excursion was in 1974 to Ball Growers Days in West Chicago, followed by trips to field trials in the US, Europe, Central and South America and Japan, primarily looking for new introduction of annuals. This helped produce more than 2000 new plants to Welby's offering over this time. Last year Al was inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame, the first individual from the Green Industry to win this designation. He has traveled the world extensively including South Africa, China, Argentina and Mongolia.



**Kelly Grummons – Prairie Storm Nursery, Lakewood**

Kelly was the chief horticulturist and co-owner of Timberline Gardens in Arvada, CO, which closed in 2015 after 17 years as a rare plant business. He studied botany at the University of Wyoming and received degrees in Horticulture and Landscape Horticulture at Colorado State University. Kelly wrote for the Denver Post for many years and now writes a column in the Colorado Gardener magazine. He owns the mail order websites coldhardycactus.com and dogtuffgrass.com where he sells over 150 varieties of winter hardy cacti, succulents and DogTuff™ grass to customers all over the United States. Kelly's Opuntia hybrid series Walk In Beauty™ are distributed through his mail order business and through Mountain States Wholesale Nursery. Kelly's Windwalker™ series of low-water perennials are featured in the Plant Select Program.

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**Andrew Lisignoli – *Trees of Corrales, Corrales, New Mexico***

Andrew's horticultural career spans more than 50 years and a variety of experiences in four states. After earning a degree in Physical Geography and Botany at California State University Northridge, he continued his horticultural studies at Colorado State University and gained practical experience in California, Colorado, Oregon and New Mexico. Arriving in New Mexico in 1979, Andrew managed a retail garden center, owned a landscape contracting business in Santa Fe, and became a New Mexico Certified Nursery Professional (NMCNP #113). His heart lies in nursery production and the challenge to provide trees and other plants that will succeed in the landscape.



**Dr. Chad Miller - *Colorado State University, Fort Collins***

Dr. Miller recently joined the faculty as an assistant professor in landscape horticulture in the Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. He is the director of the annual and perennial trial gardens, along with the perennial demonstration garden at CSU. As a part of his duties, he holds a research and service/extension appointment. For these programs, his focus is on evaluation and species improvement to work towards increasing sustainable, environmentally conscious plant selections that are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also are more adapted (e.g., heat, drought, pest tolerances) for efficient and responsible production practices for the Colorado Horticulture Green Industry and the broader horticulture industry.



**Dr. Steve Newman – *Emeritus Extension Specialist, Colorado State University***

Dr. Newman has worked in the commercial greenhouse and nursery industry as a university professional since 1985. His specialties: controlled environment agriculture, commercial greenhouse, greenhouse vegetables, ornamental horticulture, plant stress physiology, and drought.



**Jerrod Scott – *Rain Bird, Denver, Colorado***

Jerrod has been with Rain Bird covering the Rocky Mountain region of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana since 2016. His primary focus is contractor education and support. He spends many of his days doing job site visits doing design and irrigation troubleshooting as well as office trainings on IQ4, controllers, rotors, sprays, valves, hydraulics, and electrical troubleshooting.



**John Williams – *Tagawa Greenhouse Enterprises, Brighton***

John is a Manager at Tagawa Greenhouse Enterprises. He has over 39 years of experience managing processes to provide top quality plants and services to Tagawa customers. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in horticulture. He has been honored to speak at multiple conferences and workshops about his horticultural expertise developed during his career at Tagawa.