

**PRESS RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AmericanHort Elects New Volunteer Leadership**

Columbus, Ohio – AmericanHort announces the election of officers and four new members of the Board of Directors. Dale Deppe of Spring Meadow Nursery in Grand Haven, Michigan, was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Terri Cantwell of Bates Sons & Daughters in Lake Placid, Florida, was elected the Vice Chairman. Mark Foertmeyer of Foertmeyer & Sons Greenhouses in Delaware, Ohio will become the Immediate Past Chairman.

Four industry leaders were selected to serve as members of the board of directors: Dan Batson of GreenForest Nursery in Perkinston, Mississippi; Mike Klopmeier of Darwin Perennials in West Chicago, Illinois; Susie Raker of C Raker & Sons in Litchfield, Michigan; and Mark Sellev of Prides Corner Farms in Lebanon, Connecticut. These four will join nine other volunteers and the CEO on the board of directors, which is comprised of a diversity of retailers, growers, installers, and industry suppliers.

Each will assume their positions on the board of directors during Cultivate'15, July 11-14 in Columbus, Ohio.

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AmericanHort was formed in 2014 by the consolidation of the American Nursery & Landscape Association and OFA – The Association of Horticulture Professionals. With a combined history of 220+ years, AmericanHort supports nearly 16,000 member and affiliated businesses that include breeders, greenhouse and nursery growers, garden retailers, distributors, interior and exterior landscape professionals, florists, students, educators, researchers, manufacturers, and all of those who are part of the industry market chain. The horticulture industry's production, wholesale, retail, and landscape service components have annual sales of \$163 billion, and sustain over 1,150,000 full- and part-time jobs. Our mission is to unite, promote, and advance the horticulture industry through advocacy, collaboration, connectivity, education, market development, and research. The association has offices in Columbus, Ohio for administration and member services, and in Washington, DC to facilitate government relations and research activities.