

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

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**Search for New AmericanHort CEO Moves Forward**

Columbus, Ohio – AmericanHort is progressing in the search for a new CEO with the help of an expert consulting firm. The firm will solicit candidates well suited to lead the association and serve the horticulture industry. The selection of the search firm and ultimately the new CEO will be guided by a search committee comprised of the following AmericanHort members:

Susie Raker-Zimmerman, C. Raker & Sons  
Dan Batson, Greenforest Nursery  
Bill Calkins, Ball Horticultural Company  
Terri Cantwell, Bates Sons & Daughters  
Tom Demaline, Willoway Nurseries Inc  
Dale Deppe, Spring Meadow Nursery Inc  
Mark Foertmeyer, Foertmeyer & Sons Greenhouse  
Lisa Graf, Graf Growers

Once the executive search firm has been selected, the search committee will reach out to members in all segments of the AmericanHort membership to participate in the CEO search process. CEO candidates will undergo a comprehensive interview process involving several interview teams to ensure an excellent fit for the vision and mission of AmericanHort.

“Hiring a CEO for the AmericanHort requires different insights, expertise, and access to a broader market,” says Susie Raker-Zimmerman, chair of the search committee. “The guidance of a professional service will ensure we have a solid recruitment strategy and access to the best candidates.”

The committee is dedicated to moving this process along as expeditiously as possible to ensure that the momentum of the association continues. The search time is not expected to impact the operations of the association or its service to the industry.

Questions, comments, and suggestions should be directed to Susie Raker-Zimmerman, Chair of the Search Committee, SusieRaker@Raker.com, or David Savoia, Interim President & CEO, DavidS@AmericanHort.org.

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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 1.15 million 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.