



Home Nursery University

Guest Speakers



Bill Sproat
VPG
Regional Sales Manager
bsproat@fertilome.com
217-840-5334

My name is Bill Sproat, and I am the Regional Sales Manager for Fertilome and Hi-Yield products. We are a manufacturer of premium lawn and garden products. I have worked for VPG for 20 years. Working hand in hand with our Lawn & Garden centers to assist them in their product needs and product knowledge. My job before VPG was a lawn garden center manager for 18 years. My first job was at a Garden center as well. All I know is the lawn & garden industry.



Debbie Lonnee
Bailey Nurseries
Product Development Manager
Debbie.Lonnee@baileynurseries.com
612-369-5713

Debbie has a B.S. in Horticulture from the University of Minnesota. The first thirteen years of her career she worked in the retail garden center business, managing a large Twin Cities garden center. For the last thirty-one years she has worked at Bailey Nurseries, starting first as a production coordinator and is now the Product Development Manager, responsible for Bailey's new breeding farm in Georgia as well as working with breeders around the world, bringing new plants to Bailey brands.

She is an avid gardener and has recently moved from South St Paul to Southwest Virginia and is starting a new garden in zone 6, near the Blue Ridge Mountains

She has been a member of the Perennial Plant Association, the Garden Writers Association and served 16 years on the board of directors of the MNLA, serving as President in 2012 and 2013. Garden writing is her second job; she is the horticultural editor for Northern Gardener magazine and has written the 'Plant to Pick' article for many years. She has also co-written the revised editions of Growing Shrubs and Small Trees in Cold Climates as well as Growing Perennials in Cold Climates.



Susan Ehlenbeck
MO Dept of Agriculture
Plant Protection Specialist
Susan.Ehlenbeck@mda.mo.gov
573-418-8955

Susan Ehlenbeck has worked as a Plant Protection Specialist for MO Dept of Agriculture for 27 years. She has a Horticulture Degree from UMC and is an ISA Certified Arborist. She inspects nursery facilities for plant pest issues and often discusses Best Management Practices with producers to prevent insect and disease issues.

She is a member of the Landscape and Nursery Association of the Greater St Louis area. Susan is a member of the Central Chapter of the Horticultural Inspection Society. She also serves several youth organizations such as Scouts, 4-H and FFA, guiding youth through horticulture and other projects, Merit Badges and even helping students prepare for horticulture FFA competitions. She currently volunteers as the landscaper for the Tribute to Veterans Memorial of Warren County.



Kevin McIntyre
Missouri Botanical Garden
Manager, Landscape & Plant Collections
kmcintyre@mobot.org
314-577-9440

“Kevin McIntyre is a professional ISA Certified Arborist who has practiced arboriculture in a variety of settings including private residential tree care, public parks, and non-profit organizations. He has a degree in Forestry from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale and has held various positions at Bartlett Tree Experts, The Morton Arboretum, Tower Grove Park, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Kevin has dedicated his career to trees and to educating those around him about taking care of trees and believes that with a little knowledge, we can get every tree off to a good start.”



Keith Dintelmann
Home Nursery, Inc.
Vice President of Support Operations
kdint@homenursery.com
618-223-3049

Keith grew up in the green industry working for his family Nursery business in Belleville Illinois. From the age of 12, summers were spent hoeing, planting, watering, grafting, trimming and more hoeing. After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1983 with a degree in Horticulture, Keith returned to the family business, spending some time at the retail and growing operations but most of his time was spent in the residential landscape division, designing, selling, installing, and maintaining home landscapes. Keith joined the team at Home Nursery in 1994, first running the Albers Distribution Center, and then as Manager of the Re-Wholesale division. Today he is the V.P. of Support Operations overseeing both Distribution Centers and the outside purchasing of finished plant material, as well as the Inventory and Shipping departments. Keith works hard for Home Nursery because he enjoys what he does, and he feels like everyone at Home Nursery is more than just his coworkers, we are family. Currently, Keith serves on the Illinois Green Industry Association (IGIA) Growers Committee.