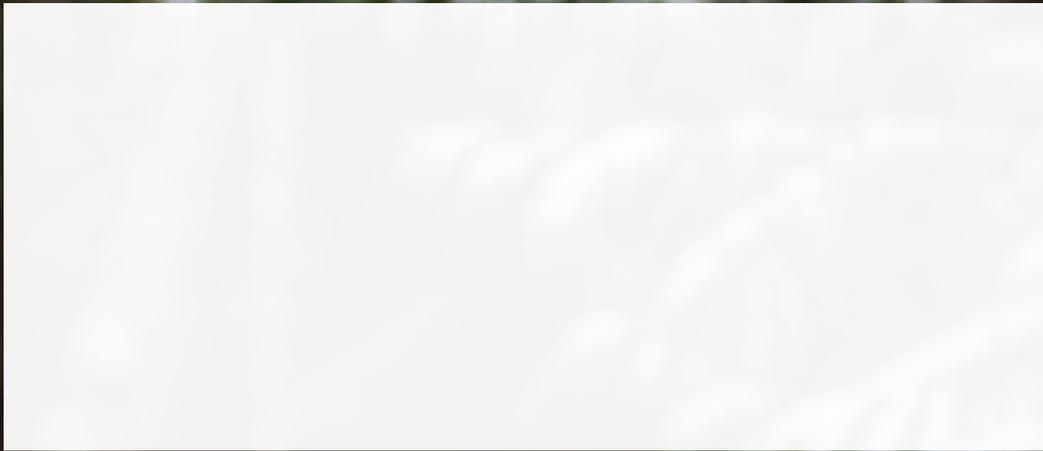


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The NWLP – Northwest Landscape Professional – is the official publication of the Washington Association of Landscape Professionals and is published and distributed quarterly to WALP members and extended gratis to select courtesy subscribers.

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The Washington Association of Landscape Professionals is monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 concerns on public safety.

As this winter issue of NWLP magazine goes to press, we are all still in the thick of responding to the COVID-19 outbreak in Washington and around the world. WALP has developed a resource page on our website to give members and affiliates in the landscape industry up to date information on how this crisis affects landscape professionals. WALP leadership continues to work on your behalf to get answers from the government on key issues that impact our staff, customers, and our businesses.

Please visit www.walp.org/covid-19-resources for the most up to date information. We wish you all good health during this challenging time.

For information regarding advertising opportunities, please call us at (360) 350-4464 or email at info@walp.org.



Welcome to 2021!!!

Ella Vogelpohl
Ragen & Associates
2021 WALP State President

As we start this year, there will be lots of changes coming our way. WALP will be no different. We will continue having our meetings and trainings virtually, but hopefully later in the year being able to socialize in person again.

On January 29th, we will have our Annual Meeting via Zoom and then go into our Strategy Meeting. Please plan on attending both meetings. It means a long day on the computer, but we will get a lot accomplished. We will have fun too!

Last year, some members told us that they didn't feel they were getting anything for their membership dues. I want to make sure that everyone sees the value in their membership. At the Strategy Meeting, I want to us to help set some guidelines and goals for the committees, to give them ideas of what to accomplish during 2021. We will be looking for a few people to join in making the plan happen, but we will try really hard not to make any task too strenuous or time consuming. I know we all have lives outside of work and our families are the most important to us.

On the recent survey, education/trainings, the conference, field day, marketing, WALP Magazine, certification, membership, legislation, and the golf tournament had the most responses. Classes for new business owners, monthly meetings, and networking were also important to the people that answered the survey.

Just a little about me, that a few of you recently have gotten to know about me a little better: I have been working in the office management / bookkeeping profession for almost 45 years. I have the same amount of time in working with non-profit organizations. I don't have any hands-on experience in landscaping, but I have learned a lot in the last 20 years working at Ragen & Associates. My non-profit experience has been as a president, secretary, newsletter editor, leader, trainer, organizer, recruiter, and even a hands-on person running troops, events, meetings, tournaments, and whatever needed to be done for the groups to succeed.

It's important to me to see WALP succeed and prosper. With coming from a non-landscaping background, I see the value in WALP and its members. We need to remember to have fun and let our inner kid out sometimes too. Let's roll up our sleeves on January 29th and get 2021 off the ground for the future. 🌱

Ella

Mission Statement For The Washington Association Of Landscape Professionals

To promote professionalism, integrity, and education to a thriving membership within the Green Industry and the communities served.

Vision Statement For The Washington Association Of Landscape Professionals

- The Washington Association of Landscape Professionals is a publicly recognized and unified industry of landscape professionals who embody business and technical excellence.
- The Washington Association of Landscape Professionals provides and promotes the opportunity to mentor and support its members.
- The Washington Association of Landscape Professionals' members receive value and benefit by sharing knowledge, resources, and experience.
- The Washington Association of Landscape Professionals is the networking place and referral resource for "Green Industry" professionals.

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Education Committee

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Events Committee

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Legislative Committee

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Puget Sound Plants

Marketing Committee

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Membership Committee

Tim Buiten
Tim's Complete
Landscape Management



WALP Committee Updates

Conference Committee

Will Anstey, Chair

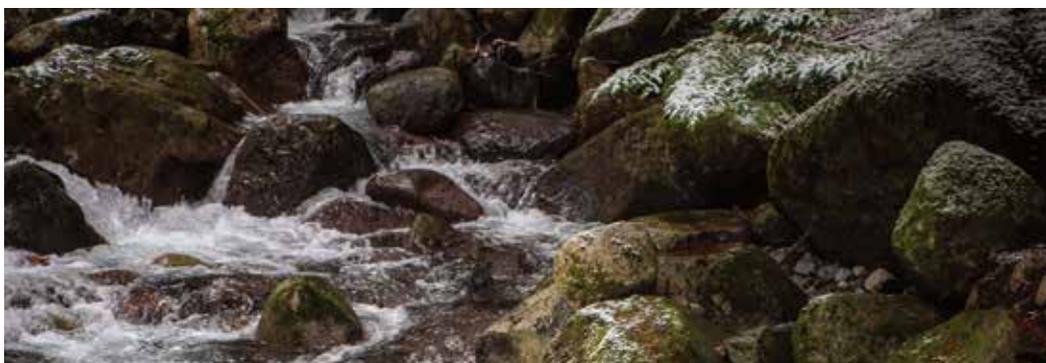
Dear members,

As the conference chair and business owner I am following the evolving COVID situation, as I am sure we all are. The uncertainty of particular restrictions makes it infeasible to make any solid plans or reservations at this time. I have determined that online/Zoom is not a practical substitute given “Zoom fatigue” and lack of participation in WALP’s previous online events and other industry online events. I am hopeful that with the upcoming vaccine availability the government will soon ease restrictions, and we can then plan our next live and in person Conference where we can all get together and enjoy the networking and camaraderie that we all miss. Please stay tuned to your WALP Wednesday emails, as we will be sending out surveys for membership input on the type of educational components you all want at our next Conference. We are also looking into the possibility of mixing up the time of year, and possibly combining with a “Field Day” type event. Wishing the best for all of you and your businesses, and looking forward to a better 2021!

Golf Committee

Ken Yorozu, Chair

During this past year, as we all know, we had to cancel our annual golf tournament due to the pandemic. The golf committee is still in the planning stages for a comeback in 2021. Although a course hasn’t been selected, to date, we hope to have a site selected sometime in January. I will be contacting the other member of the committee this month to lock down a site that will be fun for all. Please plan on marking your calendars for August or early September. 🌿





WALP Chapter Updates

King County Chapter



*Director
Dave Haizlip, EPC
New Leaf Creations, Inc.*

What a year 2020 has been! Everyday seems to bring some change whether in your business or personally. I know these times can be difficult but I hope you are staying busy beautifying properties as people are spending more time at home and in their yards. We have missed seeing everyone in person at chapter meetings and look forward to when we can. 2020 has been an off year but we are working to get together via virtual / zoom chapter meetings and are lining up some good presenters. We welcome any and all suggestions

for meeting topics so we can present information that will be beneficial. Please email me directly (dave@newleafcreations.com) or the WALP office with any suggestions.

Here is to a healthy and prosperous 2021! 🌱



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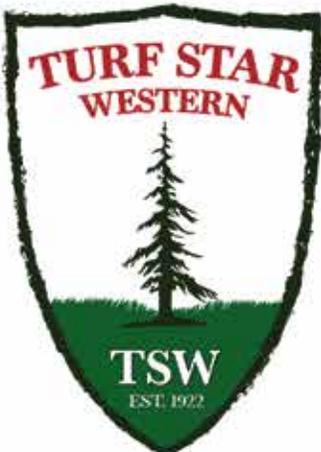
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Remembrance

Brendon Nepon, long-time WALP Member and colleague

I want to thank WALP members for the outpouring of love and prayers I have received since Brendon disappeared on 9-27-20.

I had the privilege of being a WALP member from 1990, until my retirement in 2016. Brendon grew up surrounded by so many wonderful people in the landscape industry. He attended WALP social activities with me as a child, and I was so proud to have him follow my footsteps with his insurance career. It was only natural for Brendon to take over my WALP clients, and he was passionate about his career and serving the association. We attended several of the state conventions together, and I was so proud of the way he jumped right in with everything WALP.

In July Brendon adopted Sita, a Jindo rescue puppy from Korea, and he was so happy. They were constant companions, and started hiking together on overnight trips around the area. On September 27th, Brendon's 37th birthday, they left to hike to Snow Lake and on to Gem Lake at Alpentel. He was last spotted past Snow Lake on his way up to Gem Lake about 3 pm. It is our belief that he fell trying to help Sita, who we believe was off leash, and probably chased a chipmunk and went over a cliff.

To date neither Brendon's body or evidence of Sita has been found. Over 6 days, 366 volunteers from all over the state spent almost 2000 person hours searching 100 square miles, and did not turn up a single clue as to their whereabouts. King County Search and Rescue volunteers had scoured the mountain every weekend on foot, helicopter, and drone since the formal investigation ended. There will be another search in the spring after the snow melts.

We are so grateful for all the volunteers.

Brendon leaves behind a heartbroken family. I am thankful for the 37 years we had together, and miss him terribly.

Tena Wheat



■ Update on new Appliance Efficiency and Testing Standards

In the FALL 2020 issue of the NWLP, we printed House Bill 1165 which addressed Low-Water Landscaping Practices. We learned that this Bill was different than Senate House Bill 1444 which sets the new standards for “Spray Sprinkler Bodies” to meet new Appliance Efficiency and Testing Standards effective January 1, 2021. Please review the summary of House Bill 2SHB 1444.

FINAL BILL REPORT 2SHB 1444

Brief Description: Concerning appliance efficiency standards.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris, Fitzgibbon, Tarleton and Ormsby; by request of Department of Commerce).

House Committee on Environment & Energy

House Committee on Appropriations

Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

Appliance Efficiency and Testing Standards.

Federal law generally allows states to establish minimum efficiency and testing standards for products that are not covered by federal appliance efficiency regulations. Once a federal efficiency standard is established for a given appliance, the federal standard will preempt existing state standards unless the state is granted a waiver of federal preemption. Appliances for

which federal efficiency and testing standards have been established include:

- commercial refrigeration and freezing equipment;
- pool heaters; and
- general service fluorescent lamps.

Washington law sets minimum efficiency and testing standards for several categories of appliances sold, offered for sale, or installed in the state, including:

- commercial hot food holding cabinets;
- portable electric spas;
- showerheads; and
- wine chillers.

continued on page 8



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The Department of Commerce (Department) may recommend updates to the state appliance efficiency and testing standards. The Department may also recommend establishing state standards for additional non-federally covered appliances. In making its recommendations, the Department must use certain criteria, including that:

- multiple manufacturers produce appliances that meet the proposed standard at the time of recommendation;



This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

- appliances meeting the proposed standard are available at the time of recommendation;
- the appliances are cost-effective to consumers on a life-cycle basis using average Washington resource rates;
- the utility of the recommended appliance meets or exceeds the utility of a comparable appliance available for purchase; and the standard exists in at least two other states.

Water Conservation Performance Standards.

The State Building Code Council is required to adopt rules that implement and incorporate water conservation performance standards for certain plumbing fixtures. The state water conservation performance standards supersede all local government codes. After July 1, 1990, cities, towns, and counties may not amend or otherwise adopt water conservation performance standards for certain plumbing fixtures.

Retail Electric Customer Privacy and Consumer Protection.

An electric utility may not sell private or proprietary customer information. An electric utility may not disclose private or proprietary customer information with or to its affiliates, subsidiaries, or any other third party for the purposes of marketing services or product offerings to a retail electric customer who does not already subscribe to that service or product, unless the utility has first obtained the customer’s written or electronic permission to do so.

Disclosure or sale of private or proprietary customer information by a third party, when prohibited by a contract with the electric utility, is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the Consumer Protection Act.

Any other person who legally possess private or proprietary retail electric customer information that is captured or obtained for a commercial purpose may not sell, lease, or otherwise disclose the private or proprietary customer information to another person unless:

- the retail electric customer consents to the disclosure;
- the private or proprietary customer information is disclosed to an electric utility or other third party as necessary to effect, administer, enforce, or complete a financial transaction that the retail electric customer requested, initiated, or authorized, provided that the electric utility or third party maintains confidentiality of the private or proprietary customer information and does not further disclose the information; or
- the disclosure is required or expressly permitted by state or federal law. Summary:

Repeal of Federally Preempted Appliance Efficiency and Testing Standards.

The state appliance efficiency and testing standards for the following products have been preempted by federal standards and are repealed:

- commercial refrigeration and freezing equipment;
- state-regulated incandescent reflector lamps;
- pool heaters;
- automatic commercial ice cube machines; and wine chillers.

Amendments to Existing State Appliance Efficiency and Testing Standards.

Beginning January 1, 2020, portable electric spas must meet the efficiency requirements of, and be tested in accordance with, the American National Standards for Portable Electric

continued on page 10



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Spa Energy Efficiency (ANSI/APSP/ICC-14 2014).

Beginning July 19, 2021, residential pool pumps must meet requirements specified in the dedicated-purpose pool pump rules published by the United States Department of Energy on January 18, 2017, and effective on May 18, 2017.

Showerhead tub spout diverter combinations and showerheads must meet the requirements in the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, section 1605.3 in effect as of January 1, 2018.

The idle energy rate of commercial hot food holding cabinets must be determined using the ANSI/ASTM F2140-11 standard test methods for the performance of hot food holding cabinets.

The state standards for hot water dispensers, bottle-type water dispensers, and point-of-use water dispensers expire on January 1, 2020.

New State Appliance Efficiency and Testing Standards.

State appliance efficiency and testing standards are established for the following appliances:

- commercial fryers, commercial dishwashers, and commercial steam cookers;
- air compressors; computers and computer monitors;
- faucets, except for metering faucets;
- portable air conditioners;
- residential ventilating fans;
- showerheads;
- **spray sprinkler bodies;**
- uninterruptible power supplies;
- urinals and water closets (toilets);
- water coolers;
- general service lamps;
- high color rendering index fluorescent lamps.

If manufactured on or after January 1, 2021, the following appliances may not be sold or offered for sale, lease or rent in the state unless they meet the state's efficiency standards:

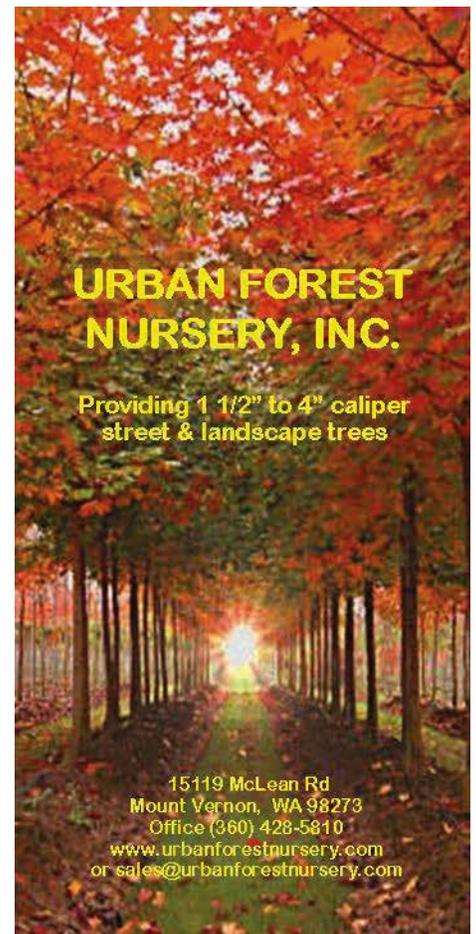
- commercial fryers, commercial dishwashers, and commercial steam cookers;
- computers and computer monitors;
- faucets, except for metering faucets;
- residential ventilating fans;
- showerheads;
- **spray sprinkler bodies;**
- uninterruptible power supplies;
- urinals and water closets (toilets);
- and water coolers.

No new general service lamp manufactured on or after January 1, 2020, may be sold or offered for sale in the state unless the efficiency of the new product meets or exceeds the state's efficiency standards.

No new air compressor manufactured on or after January 1, 2022, may be sold or offered for sale in the state unless the efficiency of the new product meets or exceeds the state's efficiency standards.

No new portable air conditioner manufactured on or after February 1, 2022, may be sold or offered for sale in the state unless the efficiency of the new product meets or exceeds the state's efficiency standards.

No new high color rendering index fluorescent lamps may be sold or offered for sale in the state after January 1, 2023, unless the efficiency of the new product meets or exceeds the state's efficiency standards. The Department of Commerce (Department) may establish by rule an earlier effective date, not before January 1, 2022, if the State of California adopts a comparable standard with an effective date before January 1, 2023.



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Electric Storage Water Heater Design Requirements.

An electric storage water heater, if manufactured on or after January 1, 2021, may not be installed, sold, or offered for sale, lease, or rent in the state unless it has a modular demand response communications port compliant with certain standards.

The Department may establish a later effective date for, or suspend enforcement of, requirements for electric storage water heaters if the Department determines that doing so is in the public interest.

Private and proprietary customer information collected, stored, conveyed, transmitted, or retrieved by an electric storage water heater equipped with a modular demand response port is subject to retail electric customer privacy and consumer protection provisions.

An electric utility supplying electricity to a building in which an electric storage water heater that meets the design requirements has been installed may not, without first having

obtained in writing the customer's affirmative consent, alter or otherwise require the utility customer to alter the usage of electricity or water relating to the electric storage water heater on the basis of information collected by the electric storage water heater or any associated device.

Department of Commerce.

The Department may adopt rules that incorporate by reference federal efficiency standards for federally covered products only as the standards existed on January 1, 2018. The Department, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, must regularly submit a report to the Legislature on federal standards that preempt the state appliance efficiency and testing standards. Any report on federal preemption must be transmitted at least 30 days before the state of any regular legislative session.

The Department may adopt by rule more recent versions of any state efficiency standard or test method, including any product definition associated with the standard or

test method, in order to maintain or improve consistency with other comparable standards in other states.

Repeal of Certain Water Conservation Performance Standards. The following provisions are repealed:

- certain water conservation performance standards;
- the authority of the State Building Code Council to adopt rules that implement and incorporate the water conservation performance standards; and
- the preemption of local government codes by the state water conservation performance standards.

Votes on Final Passage:
House 57 41

Senate House

Effective:

26 22 (Senate amended) 55 39

(House concurred)

July 28, 2019

House Bill Report 



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Delegating Work... Successfully!



*James Robertson, President /CEO
Trinity River Associates
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As a business coach and small business owner one of the most common issues I see in small to medium businesses is an owner who is overwhelmed with the amount of work he or she must do themselves. Even in a business where there is a reasonable office and support staff the owner is still doing a number of time consuming

tasks that would be better done by staff. When I ask about this the answer is almost always “if I want it done quickly and I want it done right I must do it myself.” My advice to owners is to consider their time worth hundreds of dollars per hour and consider the tasks they are doing!

There are ways to successfully delegate tasks to your staff, delegation that will free up your time to focus on the high value things you should be focused on: executive sales, funding growth, hiring staff, and managing finances. As your company grows the tasks you should be managing will change and evolve, a good index of successful delegation is to gage whether or not your tasks are constantly moving up to higher value activities.

To help get you started with successful delegation below are some straightforward steps to help insure you delegate successfully.

Seven Steps for Delegating Work

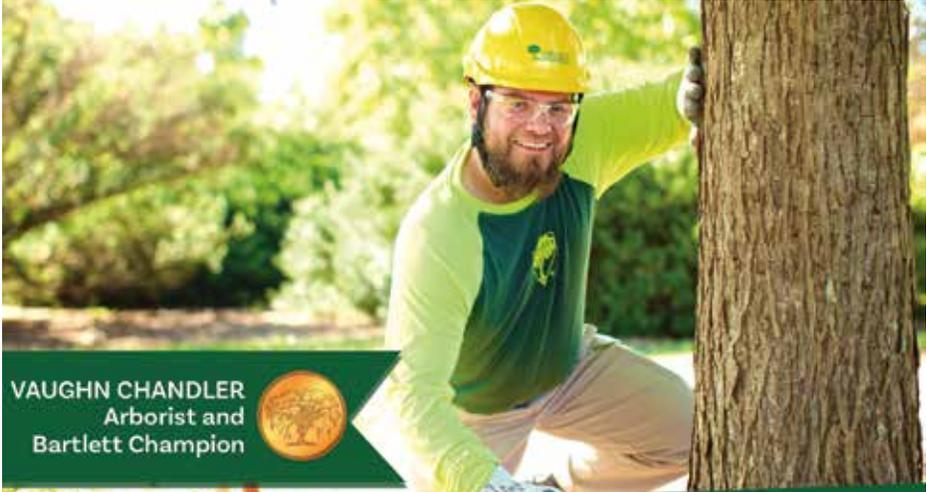
How to run your business more efficiently

- 1. Explain the concept clearly.** At first, your employees may be hesitant to change the way they do things, particularly if they have been on the job for a long time. Begin by covering all the ground rules. This includes which employees will perform which jobs, what their goals will be, when assignments are due, how the work will be evaluated, etc. If everyone starts on the same page, the process should go more smoothly.
- 2. Match jobs to talents.** Not all employees thrive under a delegations system. The best approach is to begin with employees who have demonstrated the ability to think on their feet. Otherwise, you might end up with an endless stream of people coming to you for help – a sure sign that

the delegation process is not working out too well.

- 3. Give up some control.** In order for delegation to work well, you must empower your employees to make their own decisions. Do not make “delegation” just another word for doing things the same old way. Be receptive to change.
- 4. Obtain a commitment.** In return for receiving greater authority, your employees must understand that they will now be held more accountable for their decisions. To get this point across, spell out the rewards for those employees who succeed and the repercussions for those who fail.
- 5. Monitor the work flow.** In the beginning, you should keep a close watch on how well your staff is handling the delegation process. This is a tricky area. If you do too much monitoring, you are back to doing things on your own; too little, and you can lose track of what your staff is doing.
- 6. Review the work.** Once a project is completed, set aside time to evaluate the employee’s work. Has everything been done to satisfaction and on time? If not, explain where the person went wrong and what you expect the next time. Try to offer specific and constructive criticism so the person can learn from the experience.
- 7. Leave other matters to the experts.** For instance, you would not expect an attorney, accountant or business consultant to know everything about running your business – why would you assume that you know theirs? Obtain professional advice on matters such as taxes and employment discrimination when it is appropriate. 🌿

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Do You Ask This Question Every Day?



*John Marshall
President & Founder
Results Driven Coaching*

Recently, I was introduced to a very successful businessman. Although he was still quite young, he was already semi-retired.

During our conversation, he shared with me that he was able to glide into semi-retirement very successfully because he had done many things right at his company. He set up metrics, KPI's, documented his procedures, and

had ongoing training with his team. Even though he did all of these things, he still felt something was missing. He knew the business was capable of more growth. More profits.

As we talked further, he said something that caught my attention. He shared that everyone on his team did this one thing every day. Throughout their day. He, of course, did it every day as well.

This was the game changer in his business. It was simple. Profitable. Powerful. It was easy to do and easy to implement.

He had his team ask themselves this one question daily – “What have I done for my customers today?”

That was it. Simple right? Well, there's more to the story.

He told me his team initially thought it was a good idea. They tried it for a few days. The team came up with good ideas. Then like many initiatives it stopped.

He was disappointed because he knew the potential of this idea. So, in

every weekly meeting, the managers of his small business had to share their own ideas, as well as, ideas from their team on what they had done for their customers. Additionally, whenever the owner was communicating with any team member, he asked this question.

It took a while, but soon everyone embraced this idea. It became a habit. Everyone was focused on the customer.

The dividends from this idea were felt everywhere in his business. The company deepened their client relationships. They explained this idea to potential new customers as a way to differentiate their business. They gained new customers. Their revenue increased. So, did their profits.

Finally, this idea helped him achieve his personal goal. Work less and enjoy life more. 🌿

*John Marshall
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- No belts, no belt slip, constant power delivery and consistent blade-tip speed in any cutting condition.
- No downtime from a surprise belt break.
- Proprietary, two-piece assembly separates the spindle from the motor. Blade-slip technology helps protect the motor if blade strikes an object and stops.

Reduced Noise

- Operates at noise levels similar to vacuum cleaners, compared to gasoline-powered units with noise levels matching subway trains.
- Expands ability to work in noise-restricted campuses.



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■ Casey Kralovetz Named New Branch Director at STIHL Northwest



Casey Kralovetz
STIHL Northwest

experience as a Territory Manager and Sales Manager at Intermountain STIHL and Dealer Services Manager at Midwest STIHL, Casey will be a valuable asset for the STIHL Northwest team and the dealers in the region.”

The position was formerly held by Dave Warren, who will begin his new role as General Manager of STIHL Limited in Canada.

“I am humbled by the opportunity to continue the legacy established by Dave Bulger and perpetuated by Dave Warren, said Kralovetz. I look forward to leveraging my background and experience to further support and grow our STIHL Northwest Dealer network,”

Kralovetz started his nine-year career at STIHL Inc. in 2011 serving as Product Management Specialist in Virginia Beach. In his most recent role as Sales Manager at Intermountain STIHL, Kralovetz was responsible for sales operations in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico and Utah. 🌱



VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – STIHL Inc., the manufacturer of the number one selling brand of gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment in America,* announces Casey Kralovetz’s promotion from Sales Manager at Intermountain STIHL to Branch Director of STIHL Northwest. As Branch Director, Kralovetz will be responsible for directing and managing the sales, distribution, and service of all products, parts and accessories at the company-owned branch. He will also lead the development of advertising and marketing plans for the territory which encompasses Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska.

“Casey is a natural choice for this position,” said Nick Jiannas, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at STIHL Inc. “With his previous



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NEW PRODUCT UPDATES

■ John Deere Debuts Single-Motor, High-Flow Snow Blower Models



- John Deere introduces three new versatile and durable snow blower models leading into peak snow-removal season.
- Compatible with John Deere compact track loader, compact wheel loader and skid steer models, the SB72D, SB78D and SB84D Snow Blowers have a direct drive motor at the auger and impeller, and two auger options, standard and serrated.

- The two-stage hydraulic snow blowers are ideal for clearing roadways, parking lots, driveways and sidewalks, and they can throw snow up to 45 feet from the machine, enabling faster, more efficient removal.

MOLINE, IL (October 14, 2020) –

John Deere announces three new single-motor, high-flow snow blower models just in time for peak snow-removal season. Compatible with the John Deere compact track loaders, compact wheel loaders and skid steers, the SB72D, SB78D and SB84D Snow Blowers incorporate features, such as hydraulically operated poly-lined chutes and deflectors, reinforced wrappers, adjustable skid shoes and two auger options for improved performance and durability.

“We continue to expand our lineup of attachments to include additional, versatile solutions that increase the value and capabilities of our compact machines,” said Jessica Hill, program manager, global attachments at John Deere. “The SB72D, SB78D and SB84D Snow Blower models are the ultimate snow-handling attachments, helping clear snow faster and more efficiently, while enduring harsh winter conditions.”

The new two-stage hydraulic snow blowers are ideal for clearing snow from roadways, parking lots, driveways and sidewalks, and they move snow up to 45 feet from the machine. In addition to the standard smooth auger, the D-Series Snow Blowers are now also available with a serrated auger option that is designed to cut through the toughest of snow conditions. No case drain connection is required on standard and high-flow models, and the direct-drive motors at the auger and impeller provide reliable performance while requiring fewer parts than previous models.

The D-Series models feature a 36-inch high-volume intake shroud, maximizing snow-clearing productivity.

The hydraulically activated, poly-lined chutes and deflectors enable easy snow placement from in-cab controls, making it stress-free for the operator to maneuver and remove snow. The chute rotates 270 degrees using a simple, direct-drive hydraulic motor, rather than a chain and sprocket design or cables.

The simple-to-adjust skid shoes set cutting edge height to accommodate different surge types on the job. Additionally, the models can be equipped with replaceable bolt-on, wear-resistant, tapered steel edges and poly edges.

To learn more about the new snow blowers, as well as the entire attachment lineup, visit www.JohnDeere.com or contact your local dealer.

About John Deere

Deere & Company (www.JohnDeere.com) is a world leader in providing advanced products, technology and services for customers whose work is revolutionizing agriculture and construction — those who cultivate, harvest, transform, enrich and build upon the land to meet the world’s increasing need for food, fuel, shelter and infrastructure.



continued on page 19

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■ New John Deere Fastback™ PRO Rear-Discharge Mower Deck Enhances Productivity and Performance

- The Fastback™ PRO Rear-Discharge Mower Deck, available in 60- or 72-inch cutting widths, provides a rear-discharge solution for the Z900 ZTrak™ gas and diesel zero-turn mower line.
- The new deck option features a heavy-duty, commercial-grade design customers expect from John Deere, and is built to enhance productivity, ease of use and performance, while providing a high quality of cut.
- With the rear-discharge mower deck, John Deere is further expanding its commercial mowing lineup to provide more solutions for customers.

CARY, NC (October 6, 2020) –

John Deere debuts the new Fastback™ PRO Rear-Discharge Mower Deck for its line of gas and diesel Z900 ZTrak™ Mowers. Available in a 60- or 72-inch cutting widths, the rear-discharge mower deck increases productivity and improves operator comfort without sacrificing cut quality. Well-suited for a variety of applications, the addition of the new deck offers a solution for professional landscape customers who desire or require the rear-discharge placement of grass or debris.

As a result of the rear-discharge design, the chance of damage from objects being thrown from the mower deck is decreased. The unique design also helps minimize the amount of debris blown onto the operator, resulting in a cleaner mowing experience. Additionally, the rear-discharge mower deck saves time by allowing operators to mow closely around fixed objects with either side of the deck.

“Every landscaping business is different, and we are committed to continuously listening to our customers to provide the right solutions for their operations,” said Ruben Peña, product manager, John Deere. “With the ad-

dition of the new mower deck, we are providing our customers – especially those working in restrictive applications - with a mower that meets their needs, while also delivering the performance and durability they expect from a John Deere machine.”

The commercial-quality, reinforced deep-deck design allows for a large volume of material to be thoroughly processed during operation. The unique baffling system is designed to reduce clumping and windrowing. The baffles surrounding each blade enhance efficiency by controlling and directing material as it moves to the rear. The baffles are lowered at the rear so that collected material can be quickly discharged to minimize the likelihood that clippings will be expelled to unwanted areas. Materials are directed to the rear, kept low and guided into the turf by the flexible rear shield, ensuring the operator will have a clean experience while using the rear-discharge mower deck.

The rear-discharge deck is suspended from and supported by the mower to provide a level cut. The mower deck wheels and rollers help smooth out mowing in uneven conditions and reduce the chance of scalping. Two wheel and roller heights, higher and lower, can be set based on the mowing conditions. The higher settings can be used when mowing at lower cut heights, in rougher conditions, or as necessary to reduce the chance of the wheels hitting the ground. The lower settings are ideal for higher cut heights and smoothing out the mowing job. The mower cut height can be adjusted from the machine operator's station, ranging from 1 to 5.5 inches.

Increasing the durability of the machine, the mower blade drive system is powered by a universal joint shaft drive from the vehicle transmission and includes a heavy-duty right-angle, cast-iron gearbox and a dependable v-belt drive system. Reliability and durability



are further enhanced with cast-iron blade spindle housings. For additional convenience, easy access grease fittings are mounted at the top of the spindle shafts. The grease pressure-relief valves minimize seal damage from overfilling and keep debris from entering the housing.

To reduce maintenance efforts, the quick-release belt covers provide easy access to the spindle pockets by lifting one corner of the cover and rotating it to remove. No tools and no ring clip are required. A hole in the deck tab is provided for use of an optional ring clip if desired. With only a single belt to service, and a center spindle accessible with a removable foot platform, servicing is quick and manageable, getting operators back on the job sooner.

Finally, a serrated surface is welded to the top left corner of the deck, providing additional traction when entering and exiting the machine.

For more information on the rear-discharge mower deck, as well as the Z900 line of zero-turn mowers, visit www.JohnDeere.com

About John Deere

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A man wearing a high-visibility vest, safety glasses, and ear protection is using a leaf blower to clear a yard. The scene is filled with falling autumn leaves, and a house is visible in the background.

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