

NTNGA OCTOBER NEWS

October Meeting:

J. Berry Nursery in Grand Saline will be hosting the October meeting on Tuesday Oct 8th. Tom McCarter with Valent will give a short presentation on some new products available from Valent. It will be a joint meeting with TNLA Region III. The sponsors for the meal will be J. Berry Nursery, Jaderloon and Valent. J. Berry is located at 201 P.R. 5180 in Grand Saline. The meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. **Please RSVP to J. Berry Nursery @ (903)962-6590.**

September Meeting:

Thank You to Vital Earth for hosting and sponsoring the Sept. meeting. It began with a tour of their soil plant and the meeting followed at Pico De Gallo Restaurant with guest speaker Eddy Edmondson.
Thank You again to all involved.

Local Environmental group lands Statewide Award:

The State of Texas Association for Recycling, a statewide professional organization dedicated to enhance recycling and diversion activities in the State of Texas, has awarded Environmental Co-op and JLG Brokerage, of Bakersfield, California the statewide, 2009 Leadership Award for "Outstanding Recycling Partnership".

Over the past year JLG Brokerage a Bakersfield, California recycling company and Environmental Co-op, a local non-profit based in Terrell Texas, have become recycling partners. In the first year of operation, this innovative joint venture between a non-profit corporation and a for-profit business has diverted 412,000 pounds of greenhouse waste generated by area nurseries from the landfill, and turned it into recycled material that will become useful products once again. This recycled plastic will save between 104,000 and 141,000 gallons of petroleum and reduce the energy necessary to produce new products by one-third!

The partnership garnered the two businesses the 2009 Leadership Award for "Outstanding Recycling Partnership" from The State of Texas Association for Recycling, STAR, at their conference on September 2nd in Galveston, Texas. The program was chosen from among the many submitted throughout Texas. Materials such as greenhouse covers, plant pots, ground cover and plant trays have been difficult to recycle until Marilyn May, Executive Director of Environmental Co-op, met Carl Gaines, Vice President of JLG Brokerage. In talking they found both of their recycling programs would work very well together.

In this partnership, JLG Brokerage provides balers for businesses to use to compact recyclable material. The balers are used by the businesses at no charge and the materials are picked up for recycling by JLG. Ms. May, Executive Director of Environmental Co-op, manages the collection and shipment of materials at these locations allowing a local person to be available for any questions or training needed by the customers. "Environmental Co-op's mission is to reduce the quantity of solid waste going to the landfill either by reduction, reuse, or recycling". This nursery recycling program fits well with other programs operated by the Co-op. "We now have Eddie Deen and Company Catering, United Copper, along with, Tree Town USA, Tawakoni Plant Farm, and Bruce Miller Nursery, participating in this baling program." stated Ms. May. "In the next few weeks we will have two more large businesses on line. In this turbulent financial time a program like this is working well for businesses that we hadn't thought would be interested before."

Recycling these difficult to capture materials, besides reducing our dependence on foreign oil, reduces the energy necessary to make new products and relieves pressure on expensive landfills. The initial success of this recycling program demonstrates the benefits and effectiveness of innovative partnerships in addressing local and regional problems.

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