



NTNGA September News

September Meeting:

Vital Earth Resources in Gladewater will be hosting and sponsoring the September meeting. It will be a combined meeting with NTNGA & TNLA on Sept 25th.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., starting with a tour of Vital Earth's facility in Gladewater, dinner and meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.

The speakers for the evening will be:

Walt Spears – NE TX Regional Water Planning Group

Keith Hansen – County Ext. Agent Smith County

Dr. Brent Pemberton – Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Directions from Tyler: Head North on Hwy. 155 to Hwy. 80, then right (east).

Travel 3 miles. Vital Earth will be on your left.

Please call (903) 845-2163 by 9/18 to RSVP and for more information.

July Meeting:

The July meeting was held at Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Overton.

The Memorial Greenhouse was dedicated at the meeting. There were 80 plus in attendance.

Kinney Bonded Warehouse and Meyers Lawn & Garden (Dillen, ITML, Listo & Pro Cal) sponsored

the meal. **Thank You** to everyone involved. It was a huge success.

For those of you that haven't donated – there is still time. Enclosed you'll find a form. Please fill out

and mail in with your donation. Call Jade Hopson at (903) 963-5255 for more information.

Financial Contributions have been made by the following companies:

Bruce Miller Farms, Chitty's Wholesale, Circle G Nursery, Estes, Helena, Kimbrew-Walter Roses, Inc,

L.B. White Heater Co., Landmark Wholesale Nursery, LETCO Group, Troy & Mary Moser, NTNGA, OHP Inc., Ran-Pro Farms, TNLA Region 3, Tru-Liner Nursery,

Equipment has been donated by the following companies:

Dosmatic U.S.A. Inc., Dramm Corp., East Texas Nsy and GH Program, Kinney Bonded Warehouse

Thank You all very much for your continued support.

Below is a copy of the speech written by Herman Vess that was given at the dedication:

Overton Experimental Station Memorial Greenhouse Dedication

Dedicated at the NTNGA monthly meeting on July 10, 2008 in Overton Tx

It is such an honor and privilege to be a part of an industry that enjoys such closeness and comradery as the horticulture profession. Friendships are formed and bonded as we work together and share information, solve common problems and grow our industry. But there comes the realization of our finiteness, our mortality and the inevitable loss of some friends along the way.

Honoring and remembering these friends, as we are doing today, helps the pain of our loss and keeps their memories alive for all of us. How appropriate that we construct this greenhouse in their honor, a structure to be used to continue to improve our industry.

Each time we benefit from research or experiments performed in this memorial greenhouse we will be reminded of our friends. We will think often and fondly of Buck Barron and know that heaven is heavily planted with trees and bromeliads. Our minds eye will see a huge white clay pot and seated inside, grinning, will be Jesse Grubs. That grin will remind us Stan Spraug and how busy Gaylian must be trying to keep him out of trouble. Charles Finch keeps us reminded of what a caring group we are involved with and Charles House assures us that we know how to have fun.

We at Northeast Texas Nursery Growers Association are noted for doing it our way, perhaps we learned that from George Mea. It is for certain that we will remember Bill Cartwright and those twinkling blue eyes. He and Odie Chitty are probably trying to out do the other with their storytelling. And blue eyes will bring to mind our good friend Richard Day, always thoughtful of those around him. And quick smiling if not downright chuckling John Galloway fills our thoughts, what a genuine and hardworking nurseryman. And hardworking makes is thing of John Drew, we will never forget how he worked with us to make our brochures more professional.

Doug Burrows, what a friend to our organization and each one of us. Surely if he has a trade show booth in heaven it is right next to the restroom. Jerrell Hawkins will probably be there working it instead of his own booth. Charles Breedlove will be strolling about with his driving cap perched atop his head. Which of the three will have the most mischievous grin is anybody's guess.

Joe and Ruth Burks remind us of what a large and far reaching industry we are involved with while still being neighborly and friendly. Dave Wheeler was a good neighbor as well as easy going and caring. Hattie Rainey was quick with a smile and willing to help out when she could. Joe Robertson kept us on our toes while always eager to help. If our organization had a mentor it was certainly Floyd Trammell. Who of us has not, at one time or another, called Floyd for his sometimes painfully honest advice?

But we are also reminded as we reminisce how fragile and short life can be. J.W. Cowen with his overalls and home spun antics. Michael Smith, mature beyond his years and genuinely caring for other people, gone before their time. What a great bunch of friends we have lost.

But as we reminisce let us not be sad for our friends who have gone on before us, instead be happy in our memories of them and each individuals contributions to our great industry. What a small token this structure is to their memories. Hopefully it will be used to grow our industry with a similar commitment as our departed friends. For their companionship we can only say thanks and Gods speed.