

# GROWERTALKS

## GT in Brief

1/1/2025

## On The Move

*Jennifer Zurko*

### Bailey

**Tim Jacobson** has been appointed as Chief Human Resources Officer and **Katie Huth** will serve as Chief Financial Officer. Both will play pivotal roles in steering the strategic direction of the company and driving its continued growth.

Tim is a people-first leader with a diverse background across multiple industries. He most recently served as Vice President of People and Culture at a leading non-profit organization.

Katie joins Bailey as current CFO John Bailey transitions into a strategic leadership role as Secretary-Treasurer, focusing on legacy and long-term planning. Katie brings a wealth of experience from her previous role in financial leadership at a large multi-national ag-tech and horticultural breeding company.

### Dümmen Orange

Dümmen Orange announced the promotion of **Tim Clark** to U.S. national sales manager. Based in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area, Tim will now oversee Dümmen Orange's network of customers, broker companies and sales representatives throughout the U.S.

Prior to joining Dümmen Orange in spring 2022, Tim worked 25 years for Benken Florist Home and Garden Center as general manager. He gained practical business experience before that as a zone operations manager for five years with Frito-Lay North America.

Tim's professional credentials are many and feature the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association where he's served on the organization's board of directors, including a term as board president. He was national tour chair from Ohio for the American Nursery and Landscape Association in 2008. Tim also served in numerous leadership roles for the Midwest Landscape Network, including secretary from 2007 to 2009, treasurer from 2009 to 2011 and president from 2011 to 2013.

Dümmen Orange North America also recently hired **Sarah Thompson** to become its new western regional sales manager and **Michelle McElhannon**, Ph.D., to be its new technical specialist.

As an experienced horticulture professional, Sarah has two decades of expertise in sales, relationship management and program development. Prior to joining Dümmen Orange, she spent the past 20 years serving in multiple roles at Olson's Greenhouse Gardens, a well-known annual and perennial bedding plant supplier. She gained additional industry experience with a brief stint at Franz Witte Nursery and as an instructor at the College of Western Idaho.

Michelle is a scientist with over 20 years of experience in horticulture, agriculture and academia. With an extensive background in laboratory, greenhouse and growth chamber research, she has worked with plant propagation, crop protection products and plant nutrition. Before arriving at Dümme Orange, she worked at Consolidated Greenhouse Solutions, BASF, Northeast Georgia Health District, Carole's Nursery, Horticultural Consulting Services Inc. and Oglevee Limited. She gained additional professional experience working as a graduate researcher at North Carolina State University and Auburn University.

### **PanAmerican Seed**

Dylan Sedmak has been named Portfolio Manager – Vegetables for PanAmerican Seed. As Portfolio Manager, Dylan will be responsible for setting the strategic direction of the vegetable product portfolio, including the criteria for introducing new products in key categories at PanAmerican Seed.

Dylan has been at PanAmerican Seed since 2022 when he was hired as the Regional Account Manager for the Great Lakes/Northeast Region. Before that, he worked at Scotts Miracle-Gro as a Senior Specialist in Research & Development for Live Goods.

Dylan holds a B.S. in Sustainable Plant Systems: Horticulture Science, Cum Laude, from The Ohio State University College of Food, Agriculture & Environmental Science, and an A.A.S. in Greenhouse Production from The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute. His extensive knowledge and experience in trial evaluation, growing and research make him a valuable asset to PanAmerican Seed.

### **Proven Winners**

Proven Winners announce Noah Derohanian as the new director of product development. Noah follows in the footsteps of John Gaydos, the first-ever Proven Winners employee, who's been mentoring him throughout the stock season. John will continue to do so, providing valuable insights and guidance to maintain the company's high standards and continue its tradition of excellence until his retirement in April.

Noah brings extensive experience and expertise from his distinguished career in the horticultural industry. For the past seven years, he's been the lead grower at Pleasant View Gardens, overseeing six growers and managing 8 acres of greenhouse space. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Southern Connecticut State University and began his career at Clinton Nursery.

John Gaydos (left) with his successor Noah Derohanian.

### **Rimol Greenhouse Systems**

Rimol Greenhouse Systems is expanding its footprint of national sales representatives with the addition of Adam Earle to its sales team. Adam will be responsible for managing sales in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Long Island and Colorado. As a regional sales representative, Adam will be responsible for building relationships with new and existing customers, supporting agricultural and horticultural innovation, and promoting Rimol's products.

Adam joins Rimol Greenhouse Systems following more than a decade as the Founder and President of Adam's Greenhouse Construction (AGC). At AGC, Adam exclusively installed Rimol Greenhouses for growers across the country, from the northernmost parts of Maine and New York to Alaska. He has extensive experience building Rimol's full catalog of greenhouse structures, including high tunnels, gutter-connected Matterhorn greenhouses and institutional greenhouses.