

Letter from the Editor

Dear TPN Reader,

This is my final issue as your editor. It has been a genuine pleasure working on this publication for the past 12 years. In total, I've edited 26 issues (including this one) containing 242 articles. When I took over in 2011, the journal had been languishing

somewhat, with only nine issues published since 1997. Also, it had only been published in black and white. Since then, TPN has been published twice annually and is in full color. The photographs and other color graphics have truly given new depth and appeal to the articles. Many other changes and additions to TPN have occurred. The "Tree Planting State by State" series started in 2011 and has had 26 papers published thus far (and will continue beyond my retirement). Also, my colleague, Carrie Pike, facilitated a series of TPN papers on seed-transfer guidelines for tree species in the Eastern United States. These papers have been compiled into a U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Agriculture Handbook (available soon, check the RNGR.net website for more information). Starting in 2014, papers from the annual meetings of the Western, Southern, and Northeastern Nursery Associations have been published in TPN. Incorporating the meeting papers into TPN eliminated the need for publishing separate proceedings and provided wider distribution for the papers.

During my years as your editor, I've had the opportunity to work with so many amazing people in the nursery, reforestation, and restoration communities. Some people had never published a paper before—especially many of those that were cajoled into writing for the "State by State" series. Even though some authors do not have strong writing skills or do not run a traditional research project, they have a worthwhile story to share. My approach as an editor has been to welcome all articles and work together to create a polished manuscript worthy of publication. Thus, no articles have been rejected since 2011 (except two that were completely out of the TPN scope). I believe this broad inclusion and editing support is important to uphold that which makes TPN unique. It is a completely applied journal and includes a wide range of technical and research articles that are easy to understand and readily applicable to on-the-ground nursery, reforestation, restoration, and conservation personnel. Many TPN articles have been cited in other journals or at professional meetings, workshops, and conferences. Tree Planters' Notes began in 1950, and I'm honored to have been a part of that 74-year legacy. And, I'm delighted to be handing the reins over to your new editor, Andrea Watts. She has degrees in English and forestry and a lot of writing and editing experience in the forestry world. She's excited for this opportunity, and I'm confident she will do an outstanding job of keeping this important resource available into the future. Contact information, guidelines to authors, and subscription options continue to be available online (<https://rngr.net/publications/tpn>).

"Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet; one need only own a shovel."

— Aldo Leopold

Tree Planters' Notes (TPN) is published by the Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The purpose of Tree Planters' Notes is to benefit the nursery community by sharing information and raising awareness of issues related to nursery production and outplanting of trees, shrubs, and native plants for reforestation, conservation, and restoration.

TPN welcomes unsolicited manuscripts from readers on any subject related to nursery production. For editorial questions or to contribute an article, contact Editor Andrea Watts at andrea.watts@rngr.net. Tree Planters' Notes is available online (<https://rngr.net/publications/tpn>).

TPN accepts both technical and research articles; each is reviewed by the editor. Please see the guidelines for authors for details about editorial policy, formatting, style, and submission (www.rngr.net/publications/tpn/author_guidelines).

Note from the production staff: As mentioned in the "Letter from the Editor," the design of TPN has evolved over the years, and this year brings new changes. This issue presents a refresh of the layout. Additionally, minor updates to the TPN style and author guidelines will improve consistency across issues.



Farewell and best wishes,

Diane L. Haase