



PRESS RELEASE

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PIA Announces the 2009 Interior Plantscape Hall of Fame Inductees

Ukiah, CA. – The Plantscape Industry Alliance (PIA) proudly announces the 2009 inductees into the Interior Plantscape Hall of Fame. The Interior Plantscape Hall of Fame is dedicated to those individuals who have given unselfishly of their time, effort, and talents in the development of the interiorscape industry.

The 2009 Plantscaping Professional is Richard Parker. Richard grew up in the green industry, just a couple of minutes away from his parents' wholesale greenhouse. He graduated from Texas Tech but returned home to New Jersey to take over the nursery's newly established interiorscape division. With his wife, Vicki, he began to grow Parker Interior Plantscapes, Inc., into the successful company known to the industry today. The company diversified into four divisions – Parker Interior Plantscape Inc., Parker Holiday, Parker3D, and Parker Urban Greenscapes. For 30 years, Richard Parker has led Parker Interior Plantscape Inc. It is one of the largest privately-owned interiorscape companies, with excellent employee retention – 17 of his employees have been with the company for over 20 years. Parker's achievements include two awards from the White House, a Maxi award, developing the first flame retardant trees, training a Japanese company in interiorscaping, and consulting for Steve Wynn in Las Vegas. Richard is a member of many industry associations and has been a contributor to several publications.

The 2009 Allied Trade Professional is Tom Acklin. Tom has always been a strong supporter of the interiorscape industry. He graduated from Cleveland State University with a bachelor's in business administration, and initially worked with artificial grass putting greens before moving into other types of artificial plants. Known for his natural-

looking artificials, he started Autograph Foliages back when an artificial plant was created from plastic and vinyl. Tom worked with factories in China to promote the use of fire retardant materials in the manufacture of artificials. Autograph Foliages is a family business, with five of Tom's six children involved in the company. Tom has participated in a variety of industry organizations, including the American Floral Importers Association, SILK Trade Show, National Interiorscape Network, and the Professional Landcare Network.

The 2009 Posthumous inductee is Todd Bachman. Todd had an early exposure to horticulture. He grew up working in greenhouses and overseeing crops with his relatives. He graduated in 1968 with a bachelor's in horticulture and a minor in business administration from the University of Minnesota. Todd loved working in the green industry – the people, the flowers and trees, the products and services. He worked hard as a chairman and board member of many boards, including the Minnesota Commercial Flower Growers, Society of American Florists, North Central Florists' Association, Ohio State Florists' Association, American Floral Endowment, Yoder Brothers, Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association Foundation, and Hortica Insurance Company. He was a strong supporter of his community through his faith and through the establishment of the Todd and Barbara Bachman Chair in Horticulture/Floriculture Marketing at the University of Minnesota. Todd passed away in the summer of 2008 at the Olympic Games in Beijing.

The individuals honored in 2009 will be inducted into the Interior Plantscape Hall of Fame on the evening of Thursday, October 1, 2009 at the PIA Interior Plantscape Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet during CalScape Expo. CalScape Expo, the annual interior plantscape conference and tradeshow, will be held this year at the Flamingo-Harrah's, Las Vegas, NV, September 30-October 2, 2009. CalScape Expo is a production of the Plantscape Industry Alliance, as is the Interior Plantscape Hall of Fame. Hall of Fame nominations are solicited throughout the industry. An independent committee comprised of past Hall of Fame inductees review the nominations and select, by unanimous decision, the candidates to be inducted. For more information about the Hall of Fame program or the induction ceremony contact PIA at www.piagrows.org or 707/462-2276.

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Photos:



Plantscaping Inductee Richard Parker, Parker Interior Landscapes



Allied Trade Inductee Tom Acklin, Autograph Foliages



Posthumous Inductee Todd Bachman, Bachman's Inc.

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