



# MEMBER NEWS

Improving San Diego's quality of life through proper tree care.

NOVEMBER 2019

PO Box 796 | Orange, CA 92856

## January 2020 PTCA General Meeting Details

Join the PTCA for our first general meeting of the New Year! We will be kicking things off with two great speakers that you surely won't want to miss!

We will meet at Fillipi's Pizza Grotto in San Diego. After an Executive Meeting of our Board (all members are welcome!), we will begin our General Meeting at 6:30 PM.

Our January program will kick off with Bob Squibb, PTCA Member, offering a report on his recent experience riding in the 2019 Tour des Trees. He'll share his highlights of the ride, and offer thanks to the PTCA for our continued support of this ISA fundraiser.

Next we will hear from Ben Kotnik, local fruit tree expert and community college instructor. Ben will share his top tips for many of the fruit trees that grow in our region. He will share his annual calendar of when each fruit ripens through the year. Come and learn about tried-and-true fruits, the varieties appropriate for our diverse region, and how to care for them. No need

to waste time and money with trial and error. Many homeowners want year-round harvests, and want to enjoy fruits at peak ripeness, nutritional value, and flavor. Ben will also share a two-page handout. This will certainly maximize the experience for anyone who plans to take the Fruit Tree Pruning Course later in January.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, January 7! This is your best monthly opportunity for CEUs and a great chance to network with other tree-care professionals in the San Diego area.

The cost for this meeting is \$25 for members, and \$30 for non-members. If you bring a prospective member as your guest, they get dinner free!

Please visit our website at [ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://ptcaosd.wildapricot.org) to register, or contact our office at 714.639.6516.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

## Monthly Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday, January 7

Location: Fillipi's Pizza Grotto  
969 Mira Mesa Blvd  
San Diego, 92131

Cost: Members: \$25  
Non-Members: \$30

Register: [ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://ptcaosd.wildapricot.org)

**Executive Meeting**  
5:30 PM

*All Members Welcome!*

**General Meeting**  
6:30 PM  
*Dinner Included with meeting Price*

**Scheduled Topics**  
2019 Tour des Trees  
Bob Squibb  
12 Months of Fresh Fruit  
Ben Kotnik

## Highlights from this Issue

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Page 5 Safety Update:  
Drug-Free Workplace

Page 6 Tree of the Month:  
Montezuma Cypress  
(*Taxodium mucronatum*)



El Árbol del Tule is located on the church grounds in the town of Santa María del Tule in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. Read more about the Montezuma Cypress on page 6!

## RSVP Now for the 2019 PTCA Holiday Party

It's been another great year for the Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego! On Saturday, December 7, come and celebrate the season with friends and colleagues. This will be an evening you won't want to miss! We are thankful to Nick and Heidi Cascio for opening their home in Alpine to us for this event.

The menu will be a traditional holiday buffet and, as is our custom, this party will be BYOB! We'll have soft drinks available, so bring your favorite adult beverage, and please remember to drive responsibly. The cost is \$25.00 per person (Adults only, please).

Registration is available at [ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://ptcaosd.wildapricot.org). Directions will be sent upon RSVP.

Have questions or comments? Contact Heather Crippen at [heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us), or by phone at 714.639.6516.

**We'll see you on  
Saturday, December 7!**

When: 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Where: Alpine, CA  
(Directions given at registration)

**Please RSVP by 11/30**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Bishop  
Chuck Morgan  
Mike Poffenberger  
Pete Ryken  
Jim Thompson

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Vacant  
Vice President: Miguel Sibrian  
Secretary: Ricardo Aguilar  
Treasurer: Brad Brown  
Education Chair: Dan Simpson  
Hispanic Chair: Miguel Sibrian  
Membership: Gabe Jarvis  
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Mahoney

## CONTACT OUR OFFICE

714.639.6516  
[ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)

## WEBSITE

[ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://ptcaosd.wildapricot.org)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rose Epperson, CAE  
[repperson@wcainc.com](mailto:repperson@wcainc.com)

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Heather Crippen  
[heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us)

Kathleen Mahoney  
[kathleen@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:kathleen@epicentermgmt.us)

## MAILING ADDRESS

Epicenter Management  
PO Box 796  
Orange, CA 92856

## MEMBERSHIP

Heather Crippen  
714.639.6516  
[heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us)

For membership applications  
Please make request via e-mail  
[ptca@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:ptca@epicentermgmt.us)

## About the PTCA of San Diego

**OUR MISSION** is to improve our community's quality of life by making our urban forest safer and more beautiful through education and proper tree care.



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**EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS** are held on the first Tuesday of each month. During the summer months, arboricultural tours ("Tree Walks") are featured throughout San Diego County.

We are in the process of selecting a new meeting location. Until a permanent venue has been chosen, we will meet at Filippi's Pizza Grotto (Scripps Ranch), located at 9969 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego.

We are having a special for meeting attendance for October and November, 2019. The cost to attend general meetings is \$10. Summer Tree Walks are free of charge.

Information for upcoming meetings is available at our website at [www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org), and in our monthly newsletter.

CEUs are available!

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**PTCA ANNUAL SEMINAR & FIELD DAY** is held every August, featuring industry experts bringing the latest research and information to San Diego's historic Balboa Park.

Cosponsored by the Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego and City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, this is your best local opportunity to get information or training in your field of tree care.

## Have an event for our calendar?

Submit it to:

[kathleen@epicentermgmt.us!](mailto:kathleen@epicentermgmt.us)

## Interested in Advertising?

Please Contact:

[heather@epicentermgmt.us](mailto:heather@epicentermgmt.us)

**VISIT US ON THE WEB!**  
[ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://ptcaosd.wildapricot.org)

## 2019 Fruit Tree Pruning Seminar

Come join us at The Stein Family Farm in National City on Saturday, January 18 for this hands-on demonstration and in the field practice to increase your skills and knowledge of deciduous fruit tree pruning. Workshop leaders Kurt Peacock, Dave Ephron, and Tom del Hotal will be available to answer your most stumping fruit tree pruning questions.

We will meet at 8AM for coffee and light refreshments, kicking off with a discussion of tools and their care/usage, as well as proper pruning techniques. Kurt will go over the status and needs of deciduous fruit at the Stein Farm

After a brief overview of the "must do" tasks and timing to insure best care for and results from your fruiting trees and shrubs, attendees will work hands-on pruning the trees at the farm until 2 PM. Included discussion topics are fertilization, insect and disease identification and IPM.

**Why You Should Attend the Pruning Seminar:****1. Increase your skill set.**

The pruning styles are distinctly different than landscape trees.

**2. Edible landscaping is a growing sector of tree care.**

You can make good money if you understand edible landscapes, especially with annual pruning required of deciduous fruit trees.

**3. Earn Five CEUs.**

5 CEU's are awarded to attendees who are certified Tree Workers and /or Arborists.

**4. Support the PTCA.**

You will be raising some money to support the PTCA.

**5. Get your hands dirty.**

Learning during the Fruit Tree Pruning Seminar is hands-on, supplemented with support material you can refer to, reinforcing what's taught during the seminar.

**6. Support the Stein Family Farm, a Staple of our Community.** Help support the non-profit Stein Farm to continue to serve San Diego region.

Interested in joining us on January 18? Registration is open NOW at our website, [ptcaosd.wildapricot.org](http://ptcaosd.wildapricot.org). The cost of the meeting is \$75/person, and registration includes lunch, refreshments, handouts and 5 CEUs for Arborists & CTWs.



Questions? Call or email  
Kurt Peacock at 619-992-8508 or [kpeacock1963@gmail.com](mailto:kpeacock1963@gmail.com).

## Call for Volunteer Assistance:

**PTCA South County Arbor Day Coordinator**

As many of you know, I have been the Coordinator for PTCA's South County Arbor Day Workday for the last nine years. While I have enjoyed this duty, I must step aside for personal reasons, and would like to kick off the process of finding a new Coordinator.

The job requires a few hours work in the months before the event to locate a deserving Workday recipient (typically a non-profit or underfunded entity with a tree inventory needing overdue care). In the past we have worked with the Boy and Girl Scouts, botanical gardens/arboretums, local schools, and other deserving causes. The Coordinator then recruits donations of people and equipment from member companies to complete required/requested work, usually performed the last Friday in April (National Arbor Day). The recipients agree to provide snacks and lunch for all the workers.

Please contact me if you are interested. This is an important part of what PTCA does for the community. It is, in fact, our only current public outreach/engagement activity aside from the booth during the San Diego County Fair.

GET INVOLVED! Become an active participating member, not just a passive one. Please contact me at [kpeacock1963@gmail.com](mailto:kpeacock1963@gmail.com) or 619.992.8508.

-Kurt Peacock, Peacock Consulting

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

## SDRUFC 2019 Awards Ceremony

Join the San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council at our annual awards and holiday celebration! The SDRUFC will recognize local professionals and community members for their contributions to urban forestry, innovation, education, Arbor Day celebrations, tree health, tree watering, and Council leadership.



This year's awards celebration will be held at Emiliano's Mexican Restaurant (6690 Mission Gorge Rd, STE E, San Diego; [www.emilianosrestaurant.com](http://www.emilianosrestaurant.com)).

Tickets are \$30 at the door and include the buffet. Alcohol can be purchased separately at the bar.

If you would like to pay online, please visit our event page on Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.com/e/san-diego-regional-urban-forests-council-meeting-and-awards-celebration-tickets-79587627737](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/san-diego-regional-urban-forests-council-meeting-and-awards-celebration-tickets-79587627737)

Award Nominations are open! Please vote for your favorite candidate by visiting our website at [www.sdrufc.com](http://www.sdrufc.com). Keep in mind, the polls close November 29!

We hope to see you there!

## 2019 November General Meeting Minutes

### Executive Committee Present:

Miguel Sibrian (Vice President), Ricardo Aguilar (Secretary) Bradley Brown (Treasurer), Dan Simpson (Education Chair), Delia Juncal (Epicenter Management).

### Joint meeting between Board and Executive committee called to order at 5:32 PM

- Reviewed October PTCA Minutes.
- Brad Brown shared the updated expense sheet, for year to date.
- Group discussed some of the PTCA bylaws and how to approach updating them.
- Brad Brown brought up the Balboa Park Conservatory group is looking for donations to help with the planting and maintenance of new trees. Brad suggested PTCA donate to help with that effort. The Executive Committee all approved to donate \$2,000.00 from the PTCA.

### Executive Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

### Member Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

- Brad announced that the PTCA will be donating \$2,000.00 for the Balboa Park Conservation group to help with the planting of new trees at Balboa Park.
- Mike Poffenberger announced the Holiday party will be held December 7th at the home of Nick & Heidi Cascio in Alpine. Registration is available at [ptcasandiego.org](http://ptcasandiego.org).
- Kurt Peacock announced the 11th Annual Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop will be January 18th, 2020 at the Stein Family Farm.
- Brian Bishop calls on the PTCA to host the annual Arbor Day at Quail Gardens in Encinitas for 2020.

### Speakers:

#### **Brian Bishop (Bishop Tree)**

- Brian shared his insights on the ancient Tule Tree. He shared pictures and details about his trip to Oaxaca, Mexico to visit the Ancient Tule tree.

#### **Bob Walton (Holstead Tree Service)**

- Bob discussed the common Elm Anthracnose and how it can develop to canker. He brought in some samples of cankered wood.

#### **Alfred Alyeshmi (Albartis Chemical)**

- Alfred shared research, information and examples regarding the treatments for Xylella on Olive trees.

### Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Meeting took place at Filippi's Pizza Grotto, Scripps Ranch, 9969 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego, on November 5, 2019.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Ricardo Aguilar.



### INDUSTRY NEWS

## CPP SoCal Summit in Arboriculture Opportunities

California State University, Pomona, is pleased to announce that they are hosting the 2019 Southern California Summit in Arboriculture Opportunities (SCSAO) on Friday, December 6, 2019.

The SCSAO's cornerstone program's purpose is to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of opportunities in the Agricultural subdiscipline of Arboriculture.

This will be an interactive, hands-on experience for students in keeping with the Huntley College of Agriculture's 'Learn by Doing' educational tradition.

## General Meeting Summary

At our November meeting, we saw some new faces as well as a few familiar faces from the past. We had a packed meeting room, despite some heavy traffic impact.

Attendees were greeted and entertained with our usual repeating slide show of information that shares details of our future meeting subjects as well as interesting photos and tree lore. And then the tech gremlin arrived! While loading the various flash drives of presentations, there were several glitches that were resolved through the efforts of several members. Thank you to all, especially Ricardo Aguilar, who had a spare laptop on hand.

We started with Brian Bishop, of Bishop Tree Service, who spoke about his experience of visiting Oaxaca, Mexico and his meeting the Ancient Tule Tree. His photos gave us some perspective on this heritage tree. Plus he shared names and details on key arborist individuals he met there. These folks have moved arboriculture in Mexico to the University level. That alone was very inspirational, as was seeing one of the Hispanic women who is a climbing arborist. It really emphasized the international side of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Brian shared his feeling about meeting the ancient

Tule Tree and also an adjacent specimen that is known as the great grandson tree. This nearby tree is not as thick but is nearly as tall. Brian shared his personal impressions about how he felt in meeting the tree. He even shared his effort to connect with the tree. That came when he stood close to the protective barriers and was able to stand among the foliage and emerging cones. He said he just had to take more than a few deep breaths of pollen and aromas to savor the full experience of meeting this tree! Thanks, Brian.

Bob Walton, of Homestead Tree Service, was next with his presentation on Chinese Elm Anthracnose, *Stegophora ulmea*, and a large Chinese elm. The specific tree specimen involved was a 25 inch diameter Chinese Elm, *Ulmus parvifolia*. The tree had failed at ground level in its residential setting. Cause of failure was the fungus which had reduced root anchorage. This is not a sudden disorder but one that develops in time and persists over many years. The open lesions which can form on the trunk and limbs never close. Just like annual growth rings, each year there is a new ridge of damaged tissue along the margins. Humid air in the spring season is when the fungal spores begin to infect new foliage. Symptoms can be present all year long. Treatment options are limited and details can be found on the UC IPM link below.

Reference more info at:

[ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/DISEASES/chiracnose.html](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/DISEASES/chiracnose.html)

Our third speaker was Alfred Alyeshmi of Abatis Chemical. This was planned for last month but due to some software problems we were not able to complete the presentation. Alfred presented some details on his successful treatments of Olives that had Xylella. He discussed some of the biology of the Xylella pathogen and shared the results of lab tests that influenced the chemical applications. The photos he provided showed improved condition of the subject trees.



Elm Anthracnose lesions; note the progression of annual ridges (left) and the black spots on the leaves (right).



### SAFETY UPDATE

## Drug Free Workplace - Is it Possible?

One in four workplace injuries arise out of drug or alcohol abuse. Operating with a drug free workplace has become a hot topic, particularly with the legalization of recreational cannabis in eleven states across the country. No matter the stance you take on the topic, the question we all want to know the answer to is "How will this impact my business?"

Depending on your company's operations, you may be subject to differ-

ent standards in regards to substance abuse. For example, if you travel across state lines, you are subject to Federal laws and regulations in which case there is a Zero Tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol. The same goes for any tree services falling under DOT regulations, as the DOT took its stance stating "Marijuana is still illegal under federal law, meaning all "safety sensitive" employees who are subject to federally-mandated drug

testing are still prohibited from using the drug. This group of employees includes anyone who operates commercial vehicles, including train engineers, pilots and school bus drivers."

When looking at the state regulations, tree care companies are in an entirely different situation. Make sure to check with your state and verify its stance on the topic.

*Continued on Page 7*

## **Montezuma Cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*)**

After Brian Bishop's presentation on the Ancient Tule Tree of Oaxaca, I thought I would share details of the Montezuma Cypress, *Taxodium mucronatum*, as our tree of the month.

This is an ancient species and although listed in the Selectree database, it is not terribly common in our area. It is native to Mexico and the south coastal area of Texas. Prior listing



has it in the family Taxodiaceae but it is currently listed in the Cypress or Cupressaceae family.

Soil preferences are for clay, loam and sand, and ranges from wet to dry. This riparian species is considered drought-tolerant when mature, but it will need adequate water when it is installed and during the time it is establishing its root system. It can grow to over 60 feet with more than a 25 foot canopy spread. It will need room to grow.

Longevity is rated at well over 50 years, but site conditions can affect that figure. This is usually an evergreen conifer but its linear light green foliage will turn brown in extreme cold weather so if that happens just give it time to recover before starting your saw.

The specimen Brian presented is known as El Arbol del Tule and is located on the church grounds in the town of Santa Maria del Tule in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. This tree is considered to have the thickest trunk of any tree in the world, and in 2001 it was placed on a UNESCO list as a tentative World Heritage site. When it was measured in 2005 it had a circumference of 137

feet and a diameter of 46 feet. The next closest tree species in trunk size was a giant sequoia with a 29 foot diameter. The height of the Tule tree was measured with a laser and recorded as 116 feet. Estimates of this tree's age range from 1,200 to 3,000 years old. The best scientific estimate is based on known growth rates and is 1,433- 1,600 years old. That seems to match with a local Zapotec legend about the tree being planted by Ehecatl, the Aztec wind god, on a sacred site. This also refers to that sacred site later being claimed by the Roman Catholic Church.

Anyway you look at it, this is a special heritage tree with a long history and it is admired by all who visit it from far and near. One unique aspect are the many images of different animals that can be seen in the shapes on the gnarled trunk. The elephants and jaguars are just a few and result in the nickname 'Tree of Life'.

**FYI: There is a *Taxodium mucronatum* in Kuru-vungna Springs in West Los Angeles that is registered as a California Big Tree. It measures 73 feet high, with a trunk circumference of 239 inches and a crown spread of 78 feet. This will be easier to visit than making the long trip to Oaxaca!**



## **Save the Date!**



## Drug Free Workplace - Is it Possible?

Although some states say implementing a drug free workplace is up to the employer, here are my three reasons you should have one.

### Your Safety Culture

Creating a drug-free policy at work is fairly straightforward. The easiest way to approach it is making it synonymous to your alcohol policy. Just as it seems ridiculous to think of an employee op-

erating a 23 ton grapple truck after consuming alcohol, we don't want anyone operating while being under the influence of marijuana. In doing so, you exemplify the importance of your employees along with others who would potentially be at risk.

### Insurance Availability & Discounts

We recently attended the Ohio Tree Care Conference and had the opportu-

*By Malcolm Jeffris, ArboRisk Insurance*

nity to sit in on a presentation regarding Ohio worker's compensation. Ohio employers are eligible for up to 10% rebates on their worker's compensation costs if they implement a drug-free safety program, the same goes for employers in Washington. Here in California, we have seen insurance companies require a drug-free workplace program from insureds in order to renew their policies. Check with your insurance carrier to learn about possible discounts from implementing a drug-free workplace policy.

### Productivity

A WCF insurance company study shows employees who have substance abuse issues are twice as likely to change employers three or more times in a year. The average cost to account for the lost productivity, new training, and risk of higher claims adds up to about \$35,000 per year in expenses to the employer. Minimizing these expenses will have a direct impact on increasing your bottom line.

Employers have many resources that will assist in building a drug free workplace, for example: Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) offers a free document on their website that will serve as a good starting point. To view the site, click [here](#):

• [www.shrm.org/resourcesand-tools/tools-and-samples/policies/pages/cms\\_019908.aspx](http://www.shrm.org/resourcesand-tools/tools-and-samples/policies/pages/cms_019908.aspx)).

Personalize your program to your business's location and operations, and have each employee sign off stating they have read and understand the policy.

If you are unsure of what guidelines your business may be subject to, contact our office as helping implement drug and alcohol policies is part of our Thrive program. Building and believing in this policy will help increase your bottom line and most importantly ensure that you are doing everything you can to make sure each employee gets home safe at night.



# WINTER SERVICE INSPECTIONS

A worker wearing safety glasses and a RDO Equipment Co. shirt is performing a winter service inspection on a piece of heavy machinery, likely a brush chipper or stump cutter. The machine is yellow and black, with the RDO logo on the side. The background shows a workshop with various tools and equipment.

**\$99 - Brush Chipper inspection | \$40 - Stump Cutter inspection**  
Receive your inspection for **FREE** with any parts or labor work over \$1,000!  
Offer valid through March 31, 2020.

STOP IN OR CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Lakeside, CA  
10108 Riverford Road  
619-270-4300

Oxnard, CA  
701 Rice Ave  
805-366-0070

Rancho Dominguez, CA  
1300 Kona Drive  
310-223-2400

Riverside, CA  
20 Iowa Ave  
951-778-3700



RDOVermeer.com

## LOCAL CALENDAR

### Upcoming Industry Events

#### December 2-6, 2019

Irrigation Expo  
Las Vegas, NV  
[irrigation.org](http://irrigation.org)

#### December 6, 2019

2019 Southern California Summit in Arboriculture Opportunities  
CalPoly Pomona  
[www.cpp.edu/~agriscapes](http://www.cpp.edu/~agriscapes)

#### December 7, 2019

PTCA Annual Holiday Party  
Alpine, CA  
[www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org)

#### December 18, 2019

STS Scholarship Awards  
and Officer Installation  
Pomona, CA  
[www.streettreeseminar.com](http://www.streettreeseminar.com)

#### January 17, 2020

WCISA Spanish Committee  
Regional Conference  
Los Angeles, CA  
[www.wcisa.net](http://www.wcisa.net)

#### January 18, 2020

PTCA Fruit Tree Pruning Seminar  
San Diego, CA  
[www.ptcasandiego.org](http://www.ptcasandiego.org)

#### February 3-4, 2020

TRAQ & Renewal  
Irvine, CA  
[www.wcisa.net](http://www.wcisa.net)

#### February 9, 2020

TCIA Winter  
Management Conference  
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico  
[www.tcia.org](http://www.tcia.org)

#### February 26, 2020

ASCA Consulting Academy 2020  
Sacramento, CA  
[www.asca-consultants.org](http://www.asca-consultants.org)

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### TCI EXPO 2019 Was The Biggest Event To Date!

Thank you for making TCI EXPO 2019 the biggest event in TCIA history!

TCI EXPO, the world's largest tree care industry and trade show, just wrapped up and it was our biggest show ever! Held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, TCI EXPO 2019 drew more than 4,000 tree care professionals from across the globe for three days of business, safety and arboriculture workshops and seminars. While there, they also had the chance to see live tree climbing demonstrations; engage in networking opportunities; compete

in skills competitions; visit the brand-new Unboxing Ring; and the chance to visit our 250 plus exhibitors showcasing the latest tree care products and services.

You can view photos from TCI EXPO 2019 on the TCIA Facebook page.

Join the Tree Care Industry Association in Baltimore, Maryland, next year for TCI EXPO 2020! It will take place from October 29th to the 31st so mark your calendars. Next year will be even bigger! With more vendors, more space, and even more fun, it is no surprise that the tradeshow floor is already sold out!

