



# Board Candidate Bios

VOTE FOR SIX CANDIDATES

## 2019-2020 HPTA Board Nominees

### David Chinn



David has led Monty's Plant Food Co.'s Corporate Compliance for 10 years. Monty's manufactures fertility and soil amendment products, many of which are humic based. He oversees regulatory matters and represents it at a variety of agriculture associations and governmental agencies, including a 10 year involvement with AAPFCO. Prior to joining Monty's, David practiced general business law in Louisville, Kentucky for over 20 years. As an HPTA Director, he spearheaded the work on our recent by-law changes, is shepherding our humic substances definition change through AAPFCO and has recently undertaken representing HPTA in the USDA Biostimulant Workgroup alongside two biostimulant trade organizations, USDA, FDA, EPA, and state fertilizer and pesticide regulator organizations.

### Cherie Harms



Cherie is President of Leonardite Products Inc., a processing and mining facility located in Williston, North Dakota. Her career includes several business start-ups and turn arounds. She has been instrumental in the development of the North Dakota Trade Office and serves on the North Dakota District Export Council. Cherie is currently serving as the HPTA Secretary Treasurer.

### Stu Lebo



Stu is currently Area Business Manager for AGRO Americas for Borregaard LignoTech. He received his B.S in chemistry from Shippensburg University and his M.S. and Ph.D. in wood chemistry from The Institute of Paper Science and Technology. Prior to heading the AGRO group for Borregaard, Dr. Lebo held positions as Technical Applications Manager – Oil Well Cementing and R&D Manager for Borregaard's U.S. lab. He has published several papers on lignin chemistry and lignin utilization and holds 10 lignin related patents. He is a member of The American Chemical Society and The Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry.

### John F. Lowm



In 1991, John founded the Menefee Mining Corporation in Cuba, New Mexico USA, serving as President. He is also the founder and President of Earthgreen Products Inc., established in 1993 in Dallas, Texas. A company that specialized in freshwater humic acid based products. In 1999, John founded TBNi, Inc. in Dallas, Texas. TBNi provides Menefeed Nutritional Products, an all-natural animal feed product line. John was also one of the founding members of the HPTA in 2010.

### Dan Olk



Dr. Dan Olk is a Research Soil Scientist at the USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, IA. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, University of Nebraska, Lincoln and an Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University in Ames, IA. He also coordinates the U.S. chapter of the International Humic Substances Society.



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## **Lyndon Smith**

Lyndon Smith is the President, CEO and part owner of Bio Huma Netics, Inc. (BHN). The company mines (Mesa Verde Humates) and manufactures a complete line of carbon based agricultural nutrition products for both conventional (Huma Gro) and organic (Fertilgold) farming applications, including some all natural bio-pesticides. In addition, the company produces a line of environmental products (Probiotic Solutions) for bio-remediation projects.



## **Russell Taylor**

Russell Taylor is President of Live Earth Products, Inc., which is a premium producer of humic shale derived products. He has spent 20 years in the mining, extraction, and marketing of humic acid based products. Areas of experience with humic isolates include; agriculture, turf management, organic fertilizers, animal feed and soil reclamation. His knowledge of humic acid processing and isolation has put his company on the forefront of the humic acid manufacturing industry. Russell is a Certified Crop Advisor and raises organic beef for a hobby.



## **P. Mark Turner**

Mark grew up working on the family farm as a third-generation cotton farmer in Arizona. As a young 16-year-old, he was forced into the farm foreman position on their 4,000 acre farm by his father due to employee problems with the other foreman. He learned to work with people much older than himself, and barely spoke their language. After attending Yavapai junior college in Prescott Arizona, he transferred to the University of Arizona to majored in Agronomy.

He spent 2 years with Valley National Bank of AZ, as a crop and cattle inspector for the Ag loan department and traveled across 14 different states evaluating crops and cattle operations. Because of Mark's farming background, became instrumental in helping write policy that was put into effect to help farmers.

In 1990 he started in the humate business as a broker. In 1993 Mark started "The Catalyst Product Group (TCPG)". TCPG is licensed and registered in 12 different states as a manufacture of organic fertilizers. TCPG now has 2 manufacturing plants, one in Arizona (headquarters), Idaho, and a warehouse in California.