AmericanHort Town Hall: Management Lessons from a Pandemic: 
What I learned about management, leadership, and myself 

Tuesday July 14 11:30 AM ET - Main Stage Auditorium

Panelists:

- Jeremy Deppe, Spring Meadow Nursery, MI
- Rob Lando, AgriNomix LLC, OH
- Ann Tosovsky, Home Nursery, IL

A panel of front-line leaders discuss what they learned and how they led their company through the challenges of the spring. Employee health questions, supply chain disruptions, and daily business uncertainty helped hone new management skills and develop businesses.

Jeremy Deppe, Spring Meadow Nursery, MI

Jeremy toiled for many years on the family farm; it was his 2nd home growing up! Desperate to leave dirt and plants behind, Jeremy ventured into the big city to get an accounting degree. He swore to his parents that he was never coming back, but also explained he wanted to be just like them. Jeremy was proud of his parents’ accomplishments and too wanted to own and operate a family business. Eleven years later Jeremy returned to Spring Meadow Nursery on a one-year trial. That was over 15 years ago! Surprisingly, it was discovered that the apple does not fall far from the tree and it was a blast to work together as a family. Jeremy’s wife, Daniela, has also joined the family business. The goal has always been to build a business that we would want to work for; that rewards the team for their accomplishments and provides work/life balance. We don’t run Spring Meadow Nursery with a fluffy mission statement, but we do utilize a list of 43 beliefs that have contributed to our success and that will continue to drive us forward. Those 43 beliefs are wrapped up in a saying “It’s a good start.” Humbled by the success of Spring Meadow Nursery; it has been important to put business and life into perspective and when we view life from “It’s a good start……”, somehow the view changes for the better!

Rob Lando, AgriNomix LLC, OH

Rob Lando recently served as a member on the AmericanHort Finance Committee. Rob’s Oberlin, Ohio-based company, Agrinomix, is North America’s largest supplier of automation to nurseries and greenhouses. He and three grower partners formed AgriNomix in 1994 to provide local sales and service for high-tech, Dutch-made automation. While continuing to do so, the company has become a sizable domestic designer and manufacturer as well. Rob became sole owner of the business in 2002.
Ann Tosovsky is the president of Home Nursery, a Midwest family owned wholesale nursery grower, which supplies independent garden centers, landscape contractors and distribution centers throughout the Midwest. Ann grew up working in the family business and returned to Home Nursery after graduating from Eastern Illinois University with a bachelor’s degree in business. Ann is the first female to lead Home Nursery, becoming president in 2012. It is a third-generation business that will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2021.

Ann’s volunteer efforts are both professional and personal. She served as president of the Illinois Green Industry Association in 2009-2010. She has served as the Advisory board chair of The Gardens at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) and currently holds a board position. She is a past president and active member of the Edwardsville Rotary Club, amongst other local board positions she holds in her community.