



Interiorscape Hall of Fame



Joan Archibald

1999 Allied Trade Professional

Joan Archibald (nee Holopter) was born in Pennsylvania but grew up primarily in Missouri. She graduated from Missouri Western State College in 1980, with a BS in Physical Education. She chose this major because she loves the great outdoors. It was during the summer of 1979, that she got a job working for a little nursery and landscape company in St. Joseph, Missouri laying sod and doing general landscape work. She thought it sounded like fun and found a new career.

After graduating, Joan headed over to Dallas, Texas to get a few miles closer to the coast. There she worked for a nursery, but in the following year moved to Southern California. Then in 1981 she got a job with Plant Friends as a horticultural technician and the following year was hired on at Nurseryland to assist with retail sales and buying. She quickly proved her abilities and in 1983, a local wholesaler offered her a job where she stayed for four years and learned that aspect of our industry.

In 1987, she left this position to start her own company and shortly thereafter, Environmental Industries called her up. After meeting, they offered her a newly created position to start a wholesale division to serve not only their sister companies but also the interior and exterior landscape community called Environmental Landscape Products. They hired Joan to set up the interior side and manage its day to day operations. She did such an outstanding job that they promoted her to Branch manager in 1995 to manage the complete company. In 1997, Joan saw a tremendous potential for another company supplying containers from around the world and started Garden Art International. This division of ELP has grown very quickly under her leadership. In the words of Stuart Sperber, president of Environmental Landscape Products, Inc. and Garden Art International, "Since 1987, Joan has built the interior foliage department of Environmental Industries, Inc. into the resource of choice for interiorscapers and architects. We owe our success, in large part, to her energy and drive."

However, Joan's hard work in her professional life is mirrored in her giving of her time to other causes. She joined the Professional Interior Plantscape Association (PIPA) board in 1987 as the allied trade representative and for several years was the director of public relations, a position which involved much hard work and creativity, especially in regards to the annual awards banquet and competition. "I joined PIPA to be more in touch with the industry and its people. I found both aspects to be a challenge at times, but always rewarding," said Joan. She was then elected Vice President of PIPA, being the first allied trade to hold an executive board position.

She was instrumental on the Ad Hoc committee for the merger of all the regional committees to form CIPA and was the driving force behind the first CalScape Expo held

at Buena Park in 1991. As the first CalScape Expo Trade Show Chair she orchestrated CIPA's first successful event with 42 booths and over 400 attendees.

In 1994, she took a break from the Association and shortly afterwards was married to her husband Scott. However she continued to be actively involved on the local level, sponsoring local CIPA chapter meetings and exhibiting at CalScape Expo. In 1997, she was the first person to offer to jump at the CalScape Expo Bungee Jump, helping the PCAC fundraiser bring in over \$6,000.

Joan currently serves on the CIPA Board as Allied Trade South representative. She faithfully attends the meetings and supports the organization with her time and efforts. Another industry organization that gained her attention was the Plants for Clean Air Council. In keeping with her environmental concern, Joan makes an effort to ride her bike to work. Joan has also been very active in the Special Olympics, working on the 'Pot-a-Plant' booth for the past ten years.

