



**Tim Hodson,**  
Editorial Director

# Weather or Not You Realized It – Winter is Over

**E**ven though Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog's Day this year and predicted six more weeks of winter, meteorological winter actually concluded at the end of February. Suddenly, according to the meteorologists, spring is already here even if the calendar (and Phil) says it doesn't start until March 20.

While this winter hasn't been the warmest on record it has been one of the mildest in recent memory. As this issue went to press in late February, in Chicago, record keepers told us this has been the 10th warmest winter ever, while Washington, D.C., was experiencing its fifth warmest winter.

It will be interesting to see how the warmer temperatures and lack of precipitation will impact gardeners this spring. Will it get them outdoors a little sooner? I know in my backyard, the warm temps have tricked many plants into peeking out earlier than normal this year and I have already been able to already do some spring cleanup before President's Day!

How did the warmer winter impact your business? How were your heating costs impacted? Were you able to do things this winter that you couldn't normally do during previous winters?


Drop me a line at [thodson@sgcmail.com](mailto:thodson@sgcmail.com) and let me know how Old Man Winter treated you this year.

## Are You California Bound?

Are you headed to California Spring Trials this month? If you are, be on the lookout for Team *GPN* as we make our way up the coast. We'll be starting down south on Saturday, March 24.

If you can't make it to Spring Trials this year, be sure to follow us on [www.CaliforniaSpringTrials.com](http://www.CaliforniaSpringTrials.com).

Each day, we will be posting photos and commentary on the new introductions, displays and marketing/merchandising programs that we see at all of our stops.

And be sure to tune in to Hort TV next month to check out videos from many of the breeders and exhibiting companies. 



*A distant memory from  
Winter 2011*

(847) 391-1019  
[thodson@sgcmail.com](mailto:thodson@sgcmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/thodson/](http://www.facebook.com/thodson/)  
[www.twitter.com/gpnmag](http://www.twitter.com/gpnmag)

### EDITORIAL

Editorial Office	847.391.1019
Tim Hodson <i>thodson@sgcmail.com</i>	Editorial Director
Jasmina Radjevic <i>jradsjevic@sgcmail.com</i>	Managing Editor
Pete Mihalek <i>pmihalek@sgcmail.com</i>	Retail Editor
Kelsey Hiebert <i>khiebert@sgcmail.com</i>	Graphic Designer
Todd Loesch <i>tloesch@sgcmail.com</i>	Director of Custom Media
Jim Barrett	Consulting Editor

### ADVERTISING

Sales Office	847.391.1056
Bob Bellew <i>bbellew@sgcmail.com</i>	Vice President, Group Publisher
Amanda McAdam <i>amcadam@sgcmail.com</i>	Integrated Media Consultant
Kimberly Sammartino <i>ksammartino@sgcmail.com</i>	Integrated Media Consultant
Donna Aly <i>daly@sgcmail.com</i>	Classified Advertising Manager
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### STAFF

Circulation Office	847.391.1042
Doug Riemer <i>driemer@sgcmail.com</i>	Director of Audience Development
• For list rental information, call John Ganis at 914.368.1024	
Sandi Stevenson <i>sstevenson@sgcmail.com</i>	Director of Creative Services and Promotions
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