

## **ROASTERS GUILD 2010-2011 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

### INCUMBENT SEATS:

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**Connie Blumhardt – *Roast Magazine, Director of Coffee***

Roasters Guild member category: Publisher



Connie Blumhardt is founder and publisher of the award-winning Roast magazine. She has spent 13 years working in the coffee industry. Although an acclaimed magazine publisher, she possesses a wealth of knowledge regarding coffee and coffee roasting. On a daily basis, Connie serves 1000's of roasters bringing to the Roasters Guild and amazing bird's eye view of the roasting community. With her position as publisher, Connie can help navigate the RG to help fulfill the needs of roasters across the world. "It is my pleasure to serve the roasting community and the members of the Roasters Guild simultaneously", Connie Blumhardt, Publisher, Roast magazine.

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**Brett Struwe – *Caribou Coffee, Director of Coffee Operations***

Roasters Guild member category: Roaster



I started at Caribou Coffee in 1994 as a barista and within a year was managing one of our coffee shops. I soon started roasting our 25-kilo machine roasted coffee for 3 years. I moved into roaster management in 1998, eventually earning my current position as Director of Coffee Operations. I manage coffee production quality standards, personnel, costs and volume forecasting, while executing various marketing coffee projects and creating coffee specifications. I also source some green to further my understanding about origin and facilitate relationships with green coffee suppliers.

## NON-INCUMBENT SEATS:

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### **John Gaberino – Topeca Coffee, Owner/Roaster** Roasters Guild member category: Roaster

John Gaberino went to undergrad at Loyola University in New Orleans where he obtained a bachelors degree in Computer Science in 1998. Upon graduating he followed his now lovely wife to El Salvador, her home country. Learning Spanish quickly, he began working as an IT manager for Unilever in El Salvador. Margarita and John married in 1999 and moved back to John's home town of Tulsa Oklahoma in 2000. He continued to work in the computer science field working for a technology startup until 2002 when he enrolled in the MBA program at OSU.

Upon completion of his MBA in 2003 he and his brother-in-law started what is now one of the only family owned Seed-to-Cup coffee companies in the US. Every day since then, every 80 hour work week, has been dedicated to creating a sustainable coffee business that is free from the volatilities of the commodities market. Through vertical integration John and his family hope to create a company able to stand the test of time.

John has been an active member of the SCAA and the Roasters Guild since 2005. He has attended a number of certification courses, SCAA conferences, and Roasters Guild retreats as part of his endless quest for more knowledge about coffee.

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### **Philip Hand – The Supreme Bean Coffee, Owner/Roaster** Roasters Guild member category: Roaster



Philip has been in Specialty Coffee for over 17 years as a consultant, retailer and wholesale coffee roaster. As a member of both the Roasters & Barista Guild, he is knee-deep in coffee every single day. In 1993, Philip founded Equator Coffee House in Pasadena, CA. In 1994, The Children's Hospital of Los Angeles opened up the opportunity to house a specialty coffee cart and kiosk where Philip founded Aromas Coffee Cart and Kiosk. One year later he founded The Supreme Bean Coffee in North Hollywood, CA and currently is responsible for green sourcing, roaster operations, sales and training. With many accolades for quality achievement as a journeyman roaster, Philip has had the opportunity to establish roasting facilities and roasting protocols worldwide. In addition, this opportunity has led him to develop numerous industry contacts as also a green coffee buyer. This upcoming year, Philip will begin two new projects in Morocco and Russia.



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**Mike Love – Coffee Labs, Co-Owner**

Roasters Guild member category: Roaster



A retired chef of 15 years, is originally from Southern Florida where he schooled himself as a Chef. Mike is an owner, roaster and barista. Mike owns Coffee Labs Roasters in Tarrytown, which was opened in May 2003.

Currently, Mike runs the Roasterie for retail and wholesale production of Coffee Labs Roasters. He was accepted as a Cup of Excellence judge for 2009. Coffee Labs Roasters is an active member of the SCAA and the Roasters Guild.

I feel that I can offer the REGC the experience of 9 yrs. of my time roasting and always in the pursuit of continuing knowledge as the craft of Coffee Roasting progresses. Actively sponsor, participate, and help organize each year for the Northeast Regional Roasters Group for the last 3 yrs. Teaches Coffee education classes at Westchester Comm. College. NY

Currently Mike Love is a 6-time champion barista winner. He has competed as a barista all over the U.S. and internationally. 07' winning team member at the RG annual retreat.

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**Launtia Taylor – Probat Burns Inc., Specialty Sales & Marketing Director**

Roasters Guild member category: Manufacturer

Launtia is responsible for the Specialty Coffee Roasters Sales and Marketing for Probat Burns Inc. North America. As part of the North American Management team, her responsibilities include interfacing with the various coffee and trade organizations within the region, including the SCAA/Roaster's Guild.



Her passion for coffee began in her very early years growing up in the coffee & cocoa growing region of Jamaica, on her family's coffee plantation; this explains her dedication and keen interest in the industry's sustainability and her support for issues at origin.

As a long standing Member and supporter of the Guild we have been able to accomplish a great deal by providing the tools and support for new and existing Members, this we know is a continuing process. This level of involvement has also helped me to continually improve my roasting capabilities. We certainly plan to carry on this tradition as long as our support is needed.



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**Chris Wade – Coffee Bean International, GreenCoffee Quality/Coffee Buyer**

Roasters Guild member category: Roaster



Coffee roasting is something Chris loves to do. Chris has been a roaster for over ten years now, starting off as a small micro roaster on the Oregon Coast. There, Chris did everything from taking orders from customers to roasting and packaging to deliveries. Chris moved on to work at Coffee Bean International (CBI) where he currently holds the position of Green Coffee Quality / Green Coffee Buyer. CBI has been a really supportive company that values training and being involved in the world of coffee. Through them he has learned a lot and knows that he is encouraged to get involved within the industry. Chris has also had the opportunity to spend more time at origin, visiting farms and mills as well as getting involved with cupping events. Chris has volunteered at most of the Roasters Guild and SCAA training events for the past few years and enjoys being in an industry where knowledge sharing is both open and fun.

