

# 5 MINUTES WITH BOB BERBEE



**By Teresa McPherson**

Bob Berbee, owner of Leo Berbee Bulb Co./Dutch Mill Greenhouse in Marysville, Ohio, is a member of the Class of 2020 of GPN Magazine's 40 Under 40.

**Could you share a little about your background?**

I was born in the Netherlands and moved to the U.S. as a baby. My first job was counting flower bulbs in our wholesale warehouse (Leo Berbee Bulb Co.) for my dad — I guess that's where it all began. I studied at Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio, and opened Dutch Mill Greenhouse in 2002. I am third-generation in our family business.

**You opened an IGC at the age of 21 — what advice would you give your 21-year-old self, knowing what you know now?**

This is only the beginning — be open to change. Don't just sell the items/plants you like — be willing to learn from your customer.

**What do you love about your job?**

Not every day is the same; it changes every day if not every hour.

**What keeps you up at night?**

Besides our kids, the weather. Our industry is so driven by weather that one cold night or rainy Mother's Day could change the whole season.

**If you weren't in this profession, what would you be doing?**

Dream: Professional golfer. Reality: An accountant or anything with numbers.

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

I like staying active, exercising, golfing, boating, spending time with my family — I have three kids, ages 7, 4 and 1.

**Favorite plant to grow? Why?**

I love growing dahlias in the summer and amaryllis in the winter. I enjoy having color in bloom year-round. ↗