

# Inspiring Healthy Living by Growing Fruits and Vegetables

Tim Blank, President, Future Growing, LLC

Raised in a rural farm community in the western Dakotas, Friday morning guest **Tim Blank** grew up loving “the land we all steward,” as he puts it. Combining a passion for agriculture and science, he graduated in 1992 from Valencia College with a degree in Horticulture and Greenhouse Management.

In 1993, Tim took the first step toward what was to become his life’s work when he was hired by Walt Disney World in Florida as an advanced intern at Epcot Center’s *Living with the Land* pavilion. Taking visitors on a boat ride through the American plains, the rain forest, and the African desert, *Living with the Land* explores how innovative technologies permit more efficient food growth, while preserving the environment. The ride culminates in a futuristic world of plants growing without soil, a world that quickly became Tim’s domain.

“The *Living with the Land* pavilion and I were a perfect match,” Tim smiles. “After six months as an intern, I spent the next six years conducting research in every horticultural discipline imaginable – all in the controlled agricultural environment of *The Land*.” He also served as a research liaison for the Department of Energy and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) partnership with Walt Disney World.

In 2000, Tim accepted the position of Chief Horticulturist and Greenhouse Manager of the *Living with the Land* pavilion. As Greenhouse Manager, he was responsible for four hydroponic bio-domes over a two-acre area, consisting of tropical, temperate, productive, and innovative greenhouses. As Chief Horticulturist, he managed a team of scientists and horticultural interns.

Tim co-authored several academic papers pertaining to the extensive collaborative research at *The Land*. He traveled in the U.S. and abroad, sharing the research being conducted at Disney, while also bringing back the latest horticultural technologies and concepts to *The Land*.

In 2005, Tim left Disney to launch a one-of-a-kind company called Future Growing, where he still serves as President today. “Future Growing is dedicated to reintroducing healthy food to the American family,” Tim explains. “We’ve developed a vertical growing system called the Tower Garden® that allows people to grow their own nutritious, tasty fruits and vegetables.

“With the Tower Garden®, people produce healthy and nutritious food with a fraction of the effort and natural resources and in a fraction of the time required by conventional gardening,” Tim says of his proprietary growing system.

Join us Friday morning as Juice Plus+® Senior Vice President John Blair and Future Growing President Tim Blank discuss our common cause of reintroducing healthy food to the American family, and how the Tower Garden® is going to help us do that.

In addition to his responsibilities as President of Future Growing, LLC, Tim also serves as President of Green Earth Building Group, LLC, a company dedicated to creating green communities and commercial buildings that feed themselves.

