

April 2015

President's Message by Matt Mellema



Just like the dog days of summer, we also have the gloomy days of winter. I hope many of you have been recharging for the upcoming season as I have been. It's hard to believe we are already done with the programs of the year. Time to get 2015 rolling.

For those of you who missed the 3 DOT officers at Michigan Wood Fibers at our February program, I hope you don't get a ticket. For those of you who attended, you know you have one free pass out there! Glad they took attendance!!! A big thanks goes out to the three officers for giving their time to help our industry be safe on the roads. Hopefully fit will be less expensive for you also. If you have any questions, Michigan State Police DOT officers are there to help with safety, give them a call.



March Garden Day: Thank you to all who volunteered time, plants, gifts, and/or knowledge. Another successful show was put on by our members. March Garden Day is a great way to show support for our communities thru outreach while raising money for our scholarships. I can't say enough thanks to the MGD committee and

the volunteers.

News from MNLA: GLTE 2016 will be in Lansing January 25-27, 2016. We thank all of the exhibitors, speakers, volunteers, staff, board, and registrants for making GLTE 2015 a big success. As we build on making next year even better, please feel free



to forward any ideas about making GLTE 2016 better to me. NO need for parking comments...we have already made the improvements.



The spring season is fast approaching. Many of us have already started working in the greenhouses. Growing the plants for you to beautify one landscape at a time. It's time to do last minute preparations before the wonderfully hectic season begins. So let's start the season off being safe and prepared.



Look for more pictures on the WMNLA Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Michigan-Nursery-and-Landscape-Association/306231832806757>)

Matt Mellema, Owner of Mellema Nursery LLC in Fremont, is the President of the WMNLA. Contact him with any comments, ideas, or questions at (231) 924-5106 or at melemam@ncats.net.

WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

WMNLA Newsletter

West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association

March Garden Day 2015

Everyone is excited for Spring's arrival in West Michigan, and getting motivated to tend to their gardens. With over 200 Michigan gardeners attending the **March Garden Day** on Saturday, March 14th WMNLA Garden Day celebrated the coming of Spring.

Lee VerSchure, Paul Kiefer, Reini Moser, Pam Cater, Audrey Eaton, Allison Jesky, and Lisa Densison, members of the Garden Day committee, planned all year to produce this annual event at the Grand Haven Community Center.

We would like to acknowledge the help of many volunteers who were also enlisted to help with publicity, photos, the silent auction donations, moderators, and . . . of course, the set up and tear down crew. A big "Thank You" goes to this team - **Mike Teunis, Gary Katerburg, Kay VerSchure, Lisa Denison, Matt Mellema, Laurel Nease, Nate Weaver, Brian Boyink** and the team of **Master Gardener Volunteers**.

We would also like to thank **Tony Hamilton** of BFN Operations, **Paul Kiefer** of Specialty Gardens, **Dirk Jonker** of Jonkers Gardens, **Gary Katerberg** of Evergreen Acres, **Spring Meadow Nursery, Walter's Gardens** and **Hortech** for donating plants, expertise and growing space to make the beautiful indoor landscape and auction.

We must thank the generosity of the speakers who gave of their time and shared their expertise: **Joseph Tychonievich** of Green Sparrow Gardens and **Chuck Martin** of Dow Gardens, **Jolene King** of Weesies Gardens, **Rob Venner** of DeGraaf Nature Center, **Barb Balgoyen** of Walters Gardens, **Dirk Jonker** of Jonkers Gardens and **Paul Surian** of Blue Horizon Nursery.

Over \$3000 was raised through the silent auction. Thanks to the generosity of our members who donated the great selection of gardening items and plants. Proceeds from March Garden Day help support the WMNLA scholarship fund and the Horticulture Education Grant Fund to support horticulture education in area high schools and technical training centers.

Thank you to members who showcased in the Expo included **Grand Haven Garden House, Bartlett Tree Experts, Landscape Design Services, Specialty Gardens, Jonker's Garden, Weesies Brothers Farms, Chips, The Bookman** and **Blue Horizon Nursery**.



WMNLA Introduces New Member Bosch's Landscape & Lawn Specialties



616.399.6861
HOME : PORTFOLIO : CONTACT US

4275 136th Ave, Holland, MI 49424
616-399-6861, FAX: 616-399-2407
Www.boschslandscape.com
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Since 1983 Bosch's Landscape & Lawn Specialties has served the West Michigan area with the finest in landscape design, lawn care, lawn maintenance and snow removal.

We are a full service company and offer you reliable, one-stop shopping for all your property care needs. We have been recognized as an **Award Winning Landscape Company** by the MNLA (Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association). Our business philosophy is to develop relationships with our clients by being honest and open, while at the same time being sensitive to the needs and opinions of those we serve.

Thank you to the following companies for donating plants and prizes for the 2015 March Garden Day raffle & auction

Bartlett Tree Experts
The Berry Family Nursery
Blue Horizon Nursery & Gardens
The Bookman
Pam & Rick Cater
Chips
Evergreen Acres
Grand Haven Garden House

Great Harvest Bread Co
Hope College
Hortech
Jonker's Garden
Landscape Design Services, Inc
Mellema Nursery
Michigan Rag Co.
Morning Star Cafe
Mulch Pro
Spring Meadow Nursery
Two Tonys Restaurant
Weesies Brothers Farm
Walter's Garden
West Michigan Tree Services

Call for Board Nominations

We need to elect *two* new board members to serve the next three-year term starting in July 2015.

Finishing their terms are **Matt Mellema , Mellema Nursery and Lisa Denison of Landscape Design Services**

Our goal is to have balanced representation from the green industry

Contact one of the current board members if you have interest in serving on the WMNLA Board of Directors or if you have any suggestions for nominees that you think would serve WMNLA well.

WMNLA Master Gardener Scholarship

Congratulations to Kathy Wells, the first recipient of the WMNLA Master Gardener Scholarship. The Master Gardener Scholarship was started this year to provide a tuition supplement to members, or employees of members who successfully complete Master Gardener Training.

Kathy home educated her children and enjoyed growing her gardening skills during those years. She began working at Berens Nursery in Holland when her children graduated from school. Kathy began contract gardening with Perennial Palette, working on some lovely properties. At the same time, a few friends asked Kathy to work with them on redesigning their foundation plantings. The process: presenting ideas, refining them according to clients tastes, creating the garden itself, and then coaching them on caring for this new place they love - was a delight! Last fall, Kathy enrolled and completed Master Gardener classes in Ottawa County.

"I learned so much from the Master Gardener Class and feel even better prepared for this coming season. Thank you for supporting me in my endeavor to help people create beautiful places in their lives" Kathy Wells



**WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY &
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

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West Olive, MI 49460**

For advertising, business news, submission of
articles and WMNLA member news:

Contact Pam Cater at
(616) 402-4885

Email: wmnla2013@gmail.com

2014-15 WMNLA Board of Directors

Matt Mellema, President, Mellema Nursery
Dirk Jonker, Vice President, Jonkers Gardens
Mike Teunis, Treasurer, BFG Supply

Lisa Denison, Secretary, Landscape Design Services
Brian Boyink, Member At Large, Berry Family Nursery
Nate Weaver, Member At Large, Michigan Wood Fibers

WMNLA Horticulture Education Grant Application Deadline—July 1, 2015

The WMNLA Teacher Grant Program is a competitive grant program which awards up to \$500 to high school programs in the WMNLA serviced counties of Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Allegan and Newaygo during the school year.

This program was launched in 2010 with the latest award of \$500.00 from the Horticulture Grant Projects given to Montague Area Public Schools FFA in 2013/14.

Applications are reviewed on a competitive basis. Projects that closely match the criteria detailed below will be selected for funding. Grant requests for up to \$500 may be submitted for projects and activities that enhance classroom learning and which require funds beyond those available through normal school resources.

Grant Criteria

- ◆ Support education in the greenhouse, nursery or landscaping area.
- ◆ Emphasize the critical need for the special projects to be funded.
- ◆ Include the intended outcome of the project, as demonstrated in student learning.
- ◆ Principal approval must be obtained for each grant request to ensure an alignment of the project with focal areas and goals of the school.

Grant funds will not be awarded for basic classroom materials, field trips that are not part of a planned educational unit or program, professional development conferences or supplies for student award programs.

Please assist the WMNLA Fund Committee by making this grant application information known to your classroom teachers and FFA coordinators as soon as possible.

Applications can be emailed to the WMNLA fund at WMNLA, PO Box 96, West Olive, MI 49460 or emailed to wmnla2013@gmail.com no later than July 1, 2015

An application and cover letter is available online at www.wmnla.com