

Summer 2015



WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

WMNLA News

The 16th Annual WMNLA Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser



Friday, September 11

Grand Haven Golf Club

1700 Lincoln St, Grand Haven, Mi 49417

Sign-In at 10:00 a.m.

Shotgun Start at 11:00 a.m. Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

This year's Event Sponsors are **Eco Green Supply of Wyoming** and **Forever Green Sod of Fremont**. Sponsorships are also available for the first time for lunch and dinner, as well as hole sponsors.

There will be a lot of great golf, a good time, and all supporting a wonderful cause!



Event Sponsored by



Open to all WMNLA members, employees, friends, customers, vendors, & family. Bring the sales team! Bring a new member! You can sign up individually or as teams of 2, 3 or 4. We'll partner individuals to make foursomes.

\$75 Per Person – Includes Hot Dog Lunch, Chicken and pulled pork dinner, 18 holes of golf, power cart, and an all-round great time. **Advance Registration Required by September 6th.**

Dinner includes a cook-out after the tournament of chicken and pulled pork. Spouses and non golfers welcome to **"dinner only"** for **\$25**. Cash bar available.

To donate prizes for the raffle (golf shirts, golf outings, restaurants, etc) Contact Mike Teunis at (616) 366-2916 or mike.teunis@bfgsupply.com

Sponsorship Levels

All sponsors will receive recognition:

in the Golf Outing Program

A Company Sign at the Golf Course

In the Michigan Landscape magazine

On the WMNLA Website

In the WMNLA Newsletter

Dinner Sponsor \$350

Lunch Sponsor \$250

Hole Sponsor \$50



President's Message

As another term on the board comes to an end, I am happy to say that the WMNLA continues to grow and be a successful part of our industry. What a great association to be a part of!

I hope everyone has had a great start to the year. I hear that most are busy, booked and overbooked most of the summer like we currently are. Despite the busy schedule, don't forget to spend some time with your families. We all too often get caught up in our work taking for granted our family. I often think about my motto; Plant a seed today for the future of our tomorrow. I love working in the garden. This past holiday weekend I got to spend some valuable time working in the garden "weeding" with my family. The questions that arise from include: Why does that plant look so funny? Why are there so many bugs that like to bug me? What is a kohlrabi, do we eat that? Wwwwhhyyy are there soooo many weeds? As you can tell I have been too busy to keep up on the weeds, but teaching our kids that from one tiny corn seed a big stalk will grow and produce one or two ears of sweet corn amazes them. They however are quick to point out and not impressed that we don't plant any weed seeds but they grow faster than the corn. They know that hard work pays off as we ate the lettuce, peppers, radishes and spinach or maybe it's treating them to ice cream at our local ice cream shop as a thank you for working in the garden. Family is very important and sharing our passion with them is a vital role in continuing the professionalism of our industry.

As I sign off I would like to thank the current and past board members that have served with me. Also to Pam Cater who plays a key role as our association administrator in organizing and keeping everything flowing smoothly. She does a lot of behind the scenes work which often goes unnoticed. What a great group of individuals working to obtain one goal, "Bring awareness to the public about professionalism of our association in the industry." The current board is working hard to make another great golf outing, great educational programs, and another great March Garden Day. If you have ever thought about what does the board due in its meetings or what can I do to help? Come to a board meeting, or better yet dedicate yourself to serving on the board in helping our industry.

So to all of you "Thank you and Goodnight"

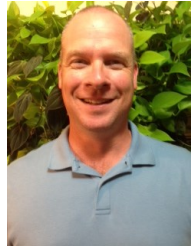
Matt Mellema

Matt Mellema, Owner of Mellema Nursery LLC in Fremont, was the President of the WMNLA for 2014-2015 season. Contact him with any comments, ideas, or questions at (231) 924-5106 or at mellemam@ncats.net.

WMNLA Introduces New Board Members

Chris Howe MCN

Asst. Gen. Mgr.
Hortech Inc.
PO Box 533
Spring Lake MI 49456
Chris@Hortech.com
[616-842-1392](tel:616-842-1392)



Chris Howe, MCN is Assistant General Manager for Hortech Inc. Hortech Inc. is a wholesale grower of vines, ferns, ground cover, and ornamental grasses. In addition, Hortech Inc. subsidiaries LiveRoof and LiveWall provide vegetated roof and wall systems respectively. During his nearly 30 years with Hortech Inc. Chris has been directly involved in business

planning and development including; financial management, sales, production, plant culture, lean systems, research and development.



Ryan Weesies

Weesies Brothers Garden Center &
Landscaping
10126 Walsh Rd
Montague, Mi 49437
231-894-4742
ryan@weesies.com



Ryan is one of 3 owners at Weesies Brothers Garden Center and Landscaping and runs the landscape department of the business. He is a 4th generation owner at Weesies which has been in business for 105 years. Weesies has 4 retail garden centers and a wholesale department that sells to landscapers and independent garden centers all over the midwest. The landscape department services both commercial and residential along the lakeshore and consists of all aspects of the green industry. Ryan has ben married to his Wife Lindsey for 10 years and has a son Evan (5) and a daughter Giana(2). His son was born very premature and because of that, Ryan is very much involved with the March of

Dimes and is the Chair of the Lakeshore March for Babies. Ryan is very proud to able to carry on his family business and genuinely loves his work.



. WMNLA GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION FORM

Company : _____

Company Contact: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email _____ Fax: _____

Dinner Sponsor @ \$350 _____

Lunch Sponsor @ \$250 _____

Hole Sponsor @ \$50 _____

Golfers \$75 per player

Player #1 _____ \$ _____

Player #2 _____ \$ _____

Player #3 _____ \$ _____

Player #4 _____ \$ _____

Dinner only @ \$25 _____

Total _____

Payment Information

_____ Check enclosed _____ Amount

Please make out to WMNLA

_____ Please Bill

_____ Visa/Mastercard (will pay at golf outing)

Please send checks to WMNLA, PO Box 96, West Olive, MI 49460/ Fax: 616-846-6591

Thank you for supporting WMNLA Scholarship, Horticulture Grant and Master Gardener Scholarship Funds.

2015/16 WMNLA Scholarship Award



Rachel M Grinwis was awarded the 2015 WMNLA Scholarship Award. Rachel is student at Michigan State University majoring in Horticulture with a track in Landscape Design and Construction Management. Rachel has a wide range of experience with a west Michigan tree nursery and was involved in all aspects of the business, from bidding and installing landscape jobs to harvesting and preparing plant material for Christmas season sales. Rachel

has also been involved in a research projects for Muskegon Conservation District, including a project planting and monitoring trees used to clean heavy metals from the environment.

Rachel has finished spring semester at MSU with a 4.0 grade point average and currently has an internship at MSU with Bert Cregg involving tree research. We are pleased to award this Scholarship to Rachel and wish her success at her studies at Michigan State University.





**WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY &
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 96
West Olive, MI 49460

RSVP your attendance to WMNLA at
wmnla2013@gmail.com

Register Today!

**WMNLA Scholarship Golf
Outing**

September 11, 2015

At the **Grand Haven Golf Club**

2015-16 WMNLA Board of Directors

Dirk Jonker, President, Jonker's Gardens
Nate Weaver, Vice President, Michigan Wood Fibers
Brian Boyink, Secretary, Berry Family of Nurseries

Mike Teunis, Treasurer, BFG Supply
Ryan Weesies, Member at Large, Weesies Farm & Garden Center
Chris Howe, Member at Large, Hortech

WMNLA Scholarships & Horticulture Grant Fund

**WMNLA Horticulture Educational Grant
Program**

**WMNLA Master Gardener Education
Scholarship Fund**

The WMNLA uses this Fund to award annual grants to youth programs offered by area high schools to promote awareness of the horticulture industry. This competitive grant program awards grants of up to \$500 to horticulture educational projects offered by teachers in our serviced counties; Ottawa, Allegan, Muskegon, Oceana and Newaygo during the school year. Applications are reviewed on a competitive basis.

The WMNLA Grant Fund has special interest in projects & activities designed to give students a better understanding of the green industry, specifically, greenhouses, nursery and landscaping.

The advisory committee has reserved \$1500 to be awarded annually. 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.

**Funds are available for the 2015/16 school year.
Applications are available at www.wmnla.com**

WMNLA has established a new fund to provide scholarships for employees of WMNLA members who successfully complete the Master Gardener Training Program.

Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who attend Master Gardener classes and pass the final exam.

The available fund monies for the year will be divided between successful applicants, not to exceed \$300 per employee.

**To apply for the WMNLA Master Gardener
Scholarship contact Pam Cater at:
wmnla2013@gmail.com.**

*Currently, the WMNLA Scholarship Fund balance is \$14,760.02
and the Horticultural Education Fund balance is \$8,312.93*

*In 2014 the WMNLA Board invested \$3,000 of the proceeds
from the March Garden Day and Golf Outings into the Scholarship
Fund and the Horticulture Education Grant Fund.*