

Spring 2019

# President's Message



Spring greetings everyone!

Wow, into another May already? Or should I say, into new opportunities and discovery for the season. As the weather finally breaks, the anticipation of Springtime beauty is becoming a reality.

The WMNLA welcomed the arrival of Spring by holding, yet again, another successful March Garden Day. Around 200 people attended this celebration of gardening, which raised over \$2,000 for our Scholarship and Education Fund. I would like to give a huge thank you to our March Garden Day committee members, volunteers, speakers, vendors, and silent auction donors. We appreciate your involvement and helping to make this an extraordinary and enjoyable event.

As my Presidency is coming to a close this year, I want to express my gratitude to everyone that has participated and attended our winter series of seminars. It was a pleasure to get to network with members and have the opportunity to tour local facilities. I urge you to continue attending these programs, as this is a great resource for our industry.

The next event you should definitely keep on your radar is the WMNLA Golf Outing. This fall will be the 20th Annual, certainly a milestone to celebrate! As Grand Haven Golf Club is 'under construction', a change of venue is necessary. So please, stay tuned for details!

Again, I would like to thank you all for being part of this valuable association. My involvement has been very fulfilling. Not just in the experiences, but in the relationships built.

Best wishes for a safe and rewarding season!

Your WMNLA President,  
Allison Jesky  
[jesky@hope.edu](mailto:jesky@hope.edu)  
616.218.6342



WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

WMNLA Newsletter

# West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association March Garden Day 2019

March Garden Day, Saturday, March 16, 2019, was attended by over 200 gardeners, speakers, vendors, members and volunteers. March Garden Day is a daylong seminar celebrating gardening in West Michigan, featuring speakers, vendor booths, a display garden and a silent auction. Profits from March Garden Day help support the WMNLA Scholarship Fund and Education Fund. We would like to thank the March Garden Day Committee: Christina Hipshier, Allison Jesky, Scott Jacobs, Audrey Eaton, Reini Moser, Barb Balgoyen, Jude Hofman and Pam Cater. We would also like to acknowledge the board of



directors: Keith Hogan, Allison Jesky, Scott Jacobs, Russ Hillman, Josh Roggenbruck and Christina Hipshier for their help moderating and leading breakout sessions, providing help with the silent auction, and set up and take down duties. Thanks to Scott Jacobs and Specialty Gardens for organizing the indoor landscape and silent raffle.

Thanks to Allison Jesky and Christina Hipshier for organizing the plant i.d. quiz and The Bookman for again providing a gardening book booth. A great thanks to Hortech, Northland Farms, Rosebay Nursery, Evergreen Acres, Walters Gardens and Spring Meadow for providing plant material for the indoor landscape and silent raffle. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped keep everything



running smoothly.

Members and friends who participated in the Expo included: Grand Haven Garden House, Weesies Brothers , Bartlett Tree, Chips, Jonkers Garden, Landscape Design Services, Specialty Gardens, MSU Extension and Ottawa County Parks.

This is the third year March Garden Day was 'green'. All paper, cups and food waste was biodegradable and composted by Spurt Industries. Water bottles were eliminated and replaced by compostable cups or personal water bottles.





# Thank you to Retiring Board Members Allison Jesky and Russ Hillman

WMNLA would like to thank retiring board members Allison Jesky and Russ Hillman for their service. Board members not only attend meetings but help coordinate the annual golf outing and March Garden Day which helps fund WMNLA Scholarships and Education Grants. They also plan educational monthly meetings which help meet the needs of WMNLA member businesses. They also receive and award Education Grant requests.



Allison served as a Member at Large in 2016-17, as Vice President in 2017-18 and President in 2018-19. Allison has been instrumental in planning the annual golf outing and March Garden Day which benefits WMNLA Scholarships and Education Grants. Allison has also planned and hosted educational seminars to benefit and educate members.

Russ Hillman served as a Member at Large in 2016-17 and as Secretary for 2017-19. Russ has been instrumental in helping plan the golf outing which benefits WMNLA Scholarship and Grants. Russ' experience and expertise has been an important asset to WMNLA.



## Call for WMNLA Board Members

WMNLA has openings for *two* new board members to serve the next three-year term starting in July 2019.

Finishing their terms are: **Allison Jesky, Hope College and, Russ Hillman, Bosch's Landscaping and Lawn Specialties.**

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.

**Thank you to all of the companies that donated plants and prizes for the 2018 March Garden Day raffle and auction**





**WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY &  
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

**PO Box 96  
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](mailto:wmnla2013@gmail.com)

**2018-19 WMNLA Board of Directors**

Allison Jesky, President, Hope College  
Keith Hogan, Vice President, Bartlett Tree Experts  
Russ Hillman, Secretary, Bosch's Landscape & Lawn Specialties

Christina Hipshier, Treasurer, Grand Valley State  
University  
Josh Roggenbuck, Member at Large, Walters Garden  
Scott Jacobs, Member at Large, Specialty Gardens

## WMNLA Horticulture Education Grant Application Deadline—July 1, 2019

The WMNLA Teacher Grant Program is a competitive grant program which awards up to \$500 to 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 was awarded to West Ottawa Community School first grade class for a school garden program.

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, educators 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](mailto:wmnla2013@gmail.com) no later than July 1, 2019. An application and cover letter is available online at [www.wmnla.com](http://www.wmnla.com)