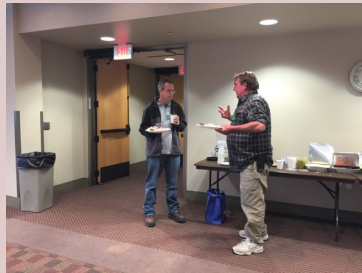


President's Message

Lawrence Williams, Manzana LLC presented a program about the basics of hiring H2A workers on Wednesday, November 13th.

Lawrence Williams is the owner of Manzana LLC, a farm labor contractor that provides farm labor services to growers around the country. He provides labor services to a wide variety of agricultural clients, including farms, nurseries, and greenhouses. In addition to recruiting domestic workers, Lawrence utilizes the H-2A non-immigrant visa program to legally bring workers from Mexico into the

United States. He has used the H-2A non-immigrant visa program since 2007 and has developed an expertise in successfully navigating it for his client's benefit. Last year his company brought over 600 workers from Mexico to conduct agricultural work.



WMNLA Scholarship Application Available Online

Attention all High School & College Students in Ottawa, Kent, Allegan, Newaygo, Muskegon and Oceana counties interested in a degree in a Green Industry field.

The WMNLA Scholarship Application through the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is available for completion online December 2, 2019 at : <http://www.ghacf.org/scholarships> Students should go to this page to see available scholarships and then go to the application tab to click the link to begin the E-grant process.

The printed and signed application, transcript and page one of the FAFSA must be stapled together and postmarked to GHACF no later than **Friday, March 1st, 2020**

For questions contact: Laurel Grevel, lgrevel@ghacf.org at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, 1 South Harbor, Grand Haven, MI 49417. 616-842-6378.

WMNLA 2019/20 Programs

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 ‘Hemlocks and Woolly Adelgid Research in West Michigan’ presented by Dr. Alexandra Locher, Forestry Dept., Grand Valley State University. at Opel Growers, 6275 Tyler St., Hudsonville MI. Lunch provided by Opel Growers

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 ‘The Oz Project’, Allsion Jesky, Hope College. ‘Legislative Updates’, Amy Upton, Executive Director, MNLA at Hope College, Maas Center, 264 Columbia, Holland, MI. (\$15 program fee for this meeting).

Wednesday, February 8, 2020, Program presented by Michigan Department of Transportation and Michigan State Police at Michigan Wood Fibers, 9426 Henry St, Zeeland, MI 49464 *Lunch provided by West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association*

All meetings eligible for CPIG Credit

Meeting time 11:30 a.m.

To RSVP: Text or call 616-402-4885, email: wmnla2013@gmail.com



WELCOME TO OPEL GROWERS

“Producing premium plants for creating beautiful places”



Opel Growers is a family owned business on 14 acres which include production and warehouse space. We specialize in supplying quality perennials to independent retailers, farm markets and garden centers throughout the Midwest.

Opel Growers produces high quality perennials, groundcover, ornamental grasses, vines and other seasonal specialty items which include: herbs, succulents, hanging baskets and we also have a huge Fall selection of mums and annual baskets to keep the color lasting.

Opel Growers are located at 6275 Tyler St in Hudsonville, MI. tours will be available after the WMNLA meeting.

"Hemlocks and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Research in West Michigan"

presented by

*Dr Alexandra Locher, Grand Valley State University
at Opel Growers, Hudsonville, MI*

"Hemlocks and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Research in West Michigan"

presented by

*Dr Alexandra Locher, Grand Valley State University
at Opel Growers, Hudsonville, MI*



Dr. Alexandra Locher, Forestry Dept., Grand Valley State University graduated with a PhD from Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in 2008, and then landed a faculty position in the School of Forest Resources at the University of Arkansas – Monticello. In 2011, Dr Locher came to Grand Valley State University where she focused her research on understanding how forest management practices impact wildlife species and communities. Dr Locher has expertise in wildlife biology and management, forest ecosystem management, and applications of geographic information systems to natural resources questions. Current projects are largely based on using remotely sensed data from satellites to model and predict characteristics of forests.

Dr Locher will be talking about some of her current projects focusing on mapping hemlock trees in west Michigan. She is actively working with the Ottawa Conservation District and West Michigan CISMA to combat the spread of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) in Michigan. Hemlock woolly adelgid is an invasive insect that feeds on hemlock trees, which eventually kills them. As hemlocks provide many ecological functions and services including carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and dune stabilization, losing them would be devastating to Michigan. Dr Locher and her students are developing models using high resolution aerial imagery to predict locations of hemlocks and facilitate early detection of HWA and rapid treatment response to ultimately conserve hemlock forests in Michigan.

Lunch is provided by Opel Growers.

Tours of Opel Growers are available following the meeting.

Wednesday, December 11th

11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

At Opel Growers

6275 Tyler St

Hudsonville, MI 49417

Please RSVP by December 6th



**WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY &
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 96
West Olive, MI 49460
616-402-4885

RSVP your attendance to WMNLA at
wmnla2013@gmail.com

**Mark your
Calendar!**

January 8, 2020
Allison Jesky, Hope College Grounds Dept.
"The Oz Project"
Amy Upton, MNLA Executive Director
'Industry Update'
At Hope College, Holland, MI

2019-20 WMNLA Board of Directors

Keith Hogan, President, Bartlett Tree Experts
Josh Roggenbuck, Vice President, Walters Gardens
Scott Jacobs, Secretary, Specialty Gardens

Christina Hipshier, Treasurer, Grand Valley State
University
Ryan Stehouwer, Member at Large, Vandenberg Hort

“WMNLA Horticulture Grant Fund

The WMNLA Education 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, the latest award was to Shettler School in Muskegon 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. Applications can be mailed to the WMNLA fund at WMNLA, PO Box 96, West Olive, MI 49460 or emailed to wmnla2013@gmail.com. An application and cover letter is available online at www.wmnla.com

Funds are available for the 2019/20 school year. Applications are available at www.wmnla.com