



# President's Message

Anyone else waiting for leaves to fall? Seems like every lawn and landscape contractor I talk to has been on the edge of their seats waiting for trees to turn and drop their leaves. I know we are. Mix that in with, what seems like, rain every day that makes it even harder to plan those fall clean ups. Record low temperatures last week have wreaked havoc on the irrigation contractors trying to get those shut down also. If you have a few clients with broken backflow preventers, trust me, you are not alone. One of our suppliers can't even keep the parts stocked because they have had such a call for repair kits. But it's these fun challenges in this business that we all love and help us grow as service providers....right?

With winter right around the corner I'm sure many of you have some of the same concerns as we do in our business. Yes, we are thinking about snow removal, salt orders, etc., but the real challenge is with employees. Getting

good employees and keeping them is a huge concern in the green industry. It's on every business owner and managers mind. Amy Frankmann, Director of the MNLA, was at our last meeting and gave us some updates on the things MNLA is doing in this respect, especially with unemployment concerns. She also touched on continuing education and I urge you to check out their website. They are working hard for our industry and it shows!

On that note, I will end in saying that our next meeting will be all about Employee Retention. Stan Moore will be speaking on this issue and I bet you, your business partners, and even managers could all get something out of this talk. We would love to see you there.

Ryan Weesies  
President  
Weesies Brothers Garden Centers and Landscape



**December Meeting Location**  
**Maas Center**  
**Hope College**  
**264 Columbia, Holland, MI**

## WMNLA Scholarship Application Available Online

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

The WMNLA Scholarship Application through the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation will be available for completion online December 1st at : <http://www.ghacf.org/scholarships.htm> 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 March 2nd, 2018 All of these instructions are on the online application also.

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

## WMNLA Master Gardener Education Scholarship Fund

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

**To apply for the WMNLA Master Gardener Scholarship contact Pam Cater at: [wmnla2013@gmail.com](mailto:wmnla2013@gmail.com).**

## March Garden Day Expo Registration for March 10, 2018

WMNLA will host the Annual **March Garden Day Expo** to the gardening public of West Michigan on **Saturday, March 10** at the **Grand Haven Community Center**.

This day long event allows WMNLA a great opportunity to market our professional members to consumers in advance of the Spring season.

Over 250 people attend this event from Ada to Zeeland, Allegan to Whitehall, and Allendale to West Olive and all locales in between. Proceeds go to support the **WMNLA Scholarship Fund** and the **Horticulture Education Grant Fund**.

A Standard Booth space of 10'x 10' is available. **Early Bird registration cost is \$60 before February 1, 2018, after this date the cost is \$75.** Reserve your space early and take advantage of the "early bird" price.

Exhibitor move in will be on Friday, March 9, from 1-5:00 PM and Saturday March 11, from 7-8:00 AM. Tear down will be at 3:30 PM on Saturday.

Contact **Pam Cater, [wmnla2013@gmail.com](mailto:wmnla2013@gmail.com).**  
**Or call 616-402-4885 to reserve your space.**



## "Staff Retention" with Stan Moore, Senior Educator, Michigan State University Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at Hope College



Improving Staff Retention requires that employees want to work for your farm or business. Becoming an "employer of choice" will require owners and managers to improve upon their employee management skills for current workers, and to improve upon their hiring practices to bring the best people on board. During this session, you will learn key areas of employee management that you can improve upon, that will also improve the opportunity for your employees to become more engaged and productive, and ultimately want to work for your business.

Stan is a Senior Educator at Michigan State University and offers a variety of educational programs in northwest lower Michigan and the eastern UP. His special interest areas are: Labor Management, Nutrition, Forage Production, and Canola Production and use on dairy farms, Stan can be reached at:

[moorest@anr.msu.edu](mailto:moorest@anr.msu.edu)

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Michigan State University Extension

# WMNLA 2017/18 Programs

**Wednesday, December 13, 2017** Stan Moore, Michigan State University, Senior Educator 'Staff Retention', at Hope College, Holland, Mi.

**Wednesday, January 10, 2018** Rick Lohman, Business Coach, Trainer, Speaker; Woohooing.com at Hope College, Holland, MI.

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018**, Mike Bryan Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; 'Green Industry Specific Updates' at **Michigan Wood Fibers, 9426 Henry St, Zeeland, MI 49464** (Lunch provided by Michigan Wood Fibers)

All meeting eligible for CPIG Credit

Meeting time 11:30 a.m. at The Grand Haven Community Center, 421 Columbus, Grand Haven, Michigan. (October and November), Hope College, Holland, MI (December and January)

Cost: \$15.00 person,

Employee special: Send 3-4th employee eats free



**The Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association is proud to present the 2018 Great Lakes Trade Exposition!**

**January 22-24, 2018  
Lansing, MI**

**Information and Online Registration  
available at [www.GLTE.org](http://www.GLTE.org)**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension**

## Michigan State University Extension Upcoming Events

*January 9, 2018* Worker Protection Standards and Respirator Fit Workshop

*February 9, 2018* Pesticide Applicator Manual Review

*March 28, 2018* Pesticide Applicator Manual Review

All meetings are at the Ottawa County Cooperative Extension office at the Ottawa County Complex, 12220 Fillmore, West Olive. For further information contact MSU Extensions at 616-994-4540



**WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

P.O. 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



**January 10, 2018**  
*Rick Lohman,*  
*Woohooing.com*

**2017-18 WMNLA Board of Directors**

Ryan Weesies, President, Weesies Brothers Garden Center & Landscaping

Allison Jesky, Vice President, Hope College

Russ Hillman, Secretary, Bosch's Landscape & Lawn Specialties

Chris Howe, Treasurer, Hortech, Inc.

Christina Hipshier, Member at Large, Grand Valley State University

Keith Hogan, Member at Large, Bartlett Tree Experts

**“Staff Retention”**  
*presented by Stan Moore, Senior Educator,*  
*Michigan State University*

**Wednesday, December 13**

**11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.**

**At The Maas Center**

**Hope College**

**264 Columbia Ave**

**Holland, Mi**

**Reservations for lunch necessary**  
**by Friday December 8**

**RSVP by**  
**December 8th**  
Let us know you are coming so our hosts can prepare!  
**WMNLA member businesses & staff are welcomed!**  
**RSVP to Pam Cater at**  
**(616) 402-4885 ❖ wmnla2013@gmail.com**

