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February 2013



WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

WMNLA News

President's Message



By Jon Mellema

Jon Mellema, Forever Green Sod, LLC and Shoreline Landscape & Maintenance, is the 2012/13 President of WMNLA. Contact him at Jon.mellema@sbcglobal.net (231) 924-5307

As I gaze out over the lake in front of my house, I am blest to see the sun glistening off the fresh blanket of snow that has fallen the last few days. Many of us have been waiting for these white pennies that fall from the sky, while others of us wish they would stay where they come from. Regardless of which end of the perspective you're on, I think we can all agree that it is much needed moisture, which we severely lacked this last season. It also gives a refreshing look to the gray landscape that we have been viewing thus far this winter.

As we have begun this new year, some of us may be looking for a refreshing look to the upcoming season. Some set goals at the turn of the new year; some will attain them, and some will reset those goals for next year when they find the piece of paper they wrote them on at the end of the season. Maybe you set your goals after listening to the seminars at these years Great Lakes Trade Exposition. As I sat in the seminars, I saw many of our members listening and learning along with me. It was very encouraging to see so many trying to better themselves and their businesses. It can only make our industry stronger in the coming years.

Speaking of the GLTE, hopefully you were able to attend and witness the 6 booths of the 2013 Landscapers Challenge. WMNLA's team performed extremely well, although not well enough to repeat. A big thank you to all of our members that stopped by to offer support, criticisms (although those people didn't offer to jump in and help), and the most important thing...their supervisory skills.

Be sure to attend February's membership program, where Greg Winchel, co-owner of Winchel Irrigation LLC, will be speaking on irrigation technology. Regardless if you are a contractor or a grower, Greg has some new and interesting things you may want to hear to save not only water, but also your money.

Enjoy the snow while it lasts!

Jon Mellema

MARCH
Garden
DAY
PRESENTED BY WMNLA
presented by
West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association
date
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
location
Grand Haven Community Center
421 Columbus St., Grand Haven

This day-long seminar for gardeners features **Jeff Epping**, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Garden in Madison, Wisconsin, and **Chuck Martin**, Curator of Woody Plants at The Dow Garden in Midland, Michigan.

Epping will present two programs: *"Sustainable Gardens: Designs and Plants for Greener Gardens"* and *"Small Trees with Big Impact"*.

Martin will present *"Shrub Roses: A New American Love Affair"*

Breakout topics include: *Seasonal Surprises: Adding Color with Bulbs; Let's Get Vertical; 25 Deer Resistant Plants We*

Use Every Day; Rain Gardens; Bees and Other Pollinators; Propagating Azaleas for the Home Gardener. Attendees earn 5 points toward Master Gardener re-certification. Registration, including lunch, is \$45; \$50 at the door.

At **Grand Haven Community Center**, 421 Columbus, Grand Haven. Pre-register at *Grand Haven Garden House* or *Jonker's Gardens* in Holland, or download registration forms at www.wmnl.com

MARCH GARDEN DAY FEATURED SPEAKERS

Chuck Martin has been happily traipsing off to work as the Curator of Woody Plants at The Dow Garden in Midland, Michigan since 1994. Chuck started his journey at MSU where he earned a bachelor's degree in ornamental horticulture. After working as a garden caretaker on a private estate, Chuck went on to earn a master's degree in ornamental horticulture at the University of Wisconsin. An internship at the Arnold Arboretum took him to Boston, MA., before he returned to earn an MBA from Northwood University. Chuck's area of expertise includes: woody plants, perennials, Michigan's native plants, invasives, pruning, grounds maintenance, and rose care and culture. Chuck is happy to share his knowledge, and pens a weekly column on plants for the Midland Daily News.

Jeff Epping has served as Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Gardens in Madison, WI since 1994, overseeing horticultural operations and garden designs for the display gardens which showcase the best garden-worthy plants for the region. Epping and his staff practice sustainable gardening, and their commitment is reflected in Olbrich's environmentally friendly and award winning gardens.

Epping holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in ornamental horticulture from the University of Wisconsin. Before coming to Olbrich, Jeff worked at the Chicago Botanic Garden. An avid traveler, Jeff has studied and photographed gardens, throughout the U.S., U.K., Thailand, and the south of France. He regularly lectures on the topic of landscape plants and design for northern gardens. Many of his photos have appeared in regional journals, professional horticultural publications, and nationally recognized gardening books.

Need Money for College!?!

Know a promising Horticulture Student who needs assistance for college tuition?

The WMNLA **Scholarship Application** can help. Instructions for completing and submitting are available at www.ghacf.org/scholarships/application.htm.

Deadline for submitting your completed application is **March 1, 2013.**

Please call Barb Post at (616) 842-6378 with questions about your scholarship application.



Winter Pruning Workshop

02/28/2013

9:00am - 4:00pm

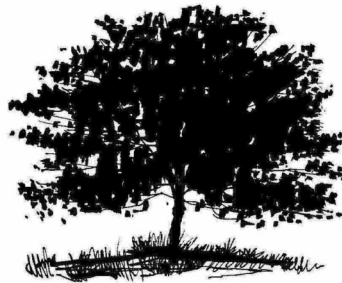
Hope College - Holland, MI

Taught by: Dr. Robert Schutzki, Michigan State University

Pruning Clinic.

Make hay even when the sun isn't shining! Learn to make informed pruning cuts to maintain the structural integrity of trees and shrubs when the leaves are gone. An outdoor lab consists of a diverse group of plants for pruning practice.

Approved for 6 CGIP Recertification Credits.



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- ◆ **We offer a broad selection.**
- ◆ **Our prices are competitive.**
- ◆ **We deliver to the jobsite on time and at your convenience.**
- ◆ **We welcome you to "tag your own".**
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availability today!**



Quality Workmanship

Announcement of Board Nominations

We will elect *three* new board members to serve the next three-year term commencing in June 2013.

Finishing their terms are Jon Mellema of Shoreline Landscape & Maintenance and Forever Green Sod LLC and Jeff Rylaarsdam, Eco Green Supply.

There is also a two year term available to replace Kurt Gernaat, Commerce. We would like to have a former board member fill this spot.

Our goal is to have balanced representation from the green industry. Currently, there is a need for representation from the Wholesale, Retail, or Service & Landscape Maintenance segments.

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.

Deadline for nominations is February 28 2013.



2013 Membership
online at
www.wmnl.com

Silent Auction Items Needed for March Garden Day

Over 200 people attended the March Garden event last year, raising over \$3,000 for the **WMNLA Scholarship Fund & Horticulture Education Grant Funds** through the Silent Auction.

This is an excellent opportunity to advertise your business and create excitement for the Spring Gardening Season!

If your business would like to donate plants, tools, gift packages, or an unique one-of-a-kind item for the event, please contact **Lisa Denison** at **Landscape Design Services**, ldenis@LandscapeDS.com or 616-928-9283.

WMNLA Presents

March Garden Day



Saturday, March 16, 2013

Grand Haven Community Center
421 Columbus Street, Grand Haven

\$45.00 in advance / \$50.00 at the door
Registration includes lunch. Space limited to 300 people.

sponsored by



8:00 Registration & Check-in Visit Exhibits

9:00 Session 1 Sustainable Gardens: Designs and Plants for Greener Gardens

Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanic Gardens, Madison, WI

Green or sustainable gardens are good for the environment and they're good for us. People want beautiful gardens even when resources are tight, and gardens that require less time, water, and chemicals can still be beautiful. 'Green' horticulture requires creating a sustainable garden design up-front by carefully analyzing site conditions and selecting appropriate plants. Jeff will share the greener garden ideas he and his staff have created at Olbrich, as well as ideas he's gleaned from gardens around the country.

10:30 Session 2 Shrub Roses: An American Love Affair

Chuck Martin, Curator of Woody Plants at The Dow Garden in Midland, MI

Roses have been appreciated by mankind since prehistoric time. America continues its love affair with roses, but concerns over the environment raise questions about the intensely-needy hybrid varieties. In the last decade gardeners are moving away from these varieties, and are taking advantage of lower maintenance shrub roses. Chuck will discuss how to maintain and use shrub roses in your landscape.

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|---|---|
| 1. Seasonal Surprises: Adding Color with Bulbs
by Allison Jesky, Hope College | 4. Rain Gardens
By Ken Stanton, Grand Valley State University |
| 2. Let's Get Vertical
by Barb Balgoyen, Walters Garden | 5. Bees and Other Pollinators
By Rick Cater, formerly Hidden Grove Greenhouse |
| 3. 25 Deer Resistant Plant we Use Everyday
by Dale Kwekel, Grand Haven Garden House | 6. Propagating Azaleas for the Home Gardener
By John Migas, Woodlands Nursery |

11:45—1:15 Breakout Sessions & Lunch—Choice of Breakout Session

1:45 Session 3 Small Trees with Big Impact

Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Garden, Madison, WI

Small scale trees, with their year-round beauty and structure, are key players in any well-designed garden. Whether you're after beautiful flowers, fruit, bark, form or fall color, there is a tree to fit your needs. Jeff will help you sort through the top performing small-scaled ornamental trees for Midwest gardens, and illustrate great plant combinations you can emulate in your own garden.



**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

www.wmnla.com

**Mark Your
Calendar!**

March Garden Day

March 16, 2013

At the Grand Haven Community Center

Register today! \$45 Advance Registration

\$50 at the door

2012-13 WMNLA Board of Directors

Jon Mellema, President, Forever Green Sod, LLC &
Shoreline Landscape & Maintenance
Paul Kiefer, Vice President, Specialty Gardens

Jeff Rylaarsdam, Treasurer, Eco Green Supply
Lisa Denison, Secretary, Landscape Design Services, Inc.
Kurt Gernaat, Member At Large, Fire Chief, Blendon Twp.
Tony Hamilton, Member At Large, Berry Family of Nurseries

**WMNLA Membership Program—
“Irrigation Technology”**
presented by Greg Winchel,

**Wednesday, February 13
11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.**

**At The Grand Hall
Harbourfront Place,
Grand Haven**

**\$12 per person, includes
lunch**

**Employee Special—Send
3,
4th employee free**

New Irrigation Practices

Greg Winchel, owner Winchel Irrigation

Greg has thirty years' experience working in the irrigation industry. He will show us new irrigation technology and products that will help both us and our customers reduce and conserve water, while at the same time improve the health of our lawns and landscapes. Greg will also discuss new and improved ways to irrigate nursery stock.

RSVP by February 9

Let us know you are coming so our hosts can prepare!

WMNLA member businesses & staff are welcomed!

**Call Pam Cater at (616) 402-4885-or RSVP to
wmnla2013@gmail.com**

