

April 2014

## West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association March Garden Day

Everyone is excited for Spring's arrival in West Michigan, and getting motivated to tend to their gardens. With over 200 Michigan gardeners attending the **March Garden Day** on Saturday, March 15th—the WMNLA Garden Day celebrated the coming of Spring.

**Lee VerSchure, Paul Kiefer, Reini Moser, Pam Cater, Audrey Eaton, Allison Jesky, and Lisa Densison**, members of the Garden Day committee, planned all year to produce this annual event at the Grand Haven Community Center.

We would like to acknowledge the help of many volunteers who were also enlisted to help with publicity, photos, the silent auction donations, moderators, and . . . of course, the set up and tear down crew. A big "Thank You" goes to this team - **Lynne Boezaart, Mike Teunis, Tony Hamilton, Gary Katerburg, Kay VerSchure, Lisa Denison, Matt Mellema, Laurel Nease**, and the team of **Master Gardener Volunteers**.

We would also like to thank **Tony Hamilton** of BFN Operations, **Paul Kiefer** of Specialty Gardens, **Dirk Jonker** of Jonkers Gardens and **Gary Katerberg** of Evergreen Acres, for donating plants, expertise and growing space to make the beautiful indoor landscape and auction.

We must thank the generosity of the speakers who gave of their time and shared their expertise: **Roy Diblik** of Northwind Perennial Farm, **Rebecca Finneran** of Kent County MSU Extension, **Pam Cater, Dirk Jonker** of Jonkers Gardens, **Jan Landry and Cindy Murphy** of Huntree Nursery, **Carol DeVries, Heidi Grasman** of Garden Crossings, **Edward McKee** of Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park and **Sarah Koert**.

Over \$2900 was raised through the silent auction. Thanks to the generosity of our members who donated the great selection of gardening items and plants. Proceeds from March Garden Day help support the WMNLA scholarship fund and the Horticulture Education Grant Fund to support horticulture education in area high schools and technical training centers.

A thank you to members who showcased in the Expo included **Grand Haven Garden House, Bartlett Tree Experts, Landscape Design Services, Specialty Gardens, Jonker's Garden, Weesies Brothers Farms, Garden Crossings, The Bookman, Blue Horizon Nursery and Kent County Master Gardeners**.



*Photos courtesy of  
Audrey Eaton, Garden Games and  
Pam Cater*

WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

WMNLA Newsletter

West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association

# March Garden Day Photos



*Are you Looking  
For Trees?*

GLO has been growing and timely delivering a broad selection of Michigan hardy, specimen quality, shade, flowering and evergreen trees at great prices for 27 years!

**Great Lakes  
Ornamentals, LLC**

2117 Blue Star Hwy  
Fennville, MI 49408  
(269) 543-8211  
Fax: (269) 543-4691



greatlakesornamentals.com

Please Call us for a  
Price quote and  
Availability Today!

Remember... Northern Grown is Northern Hardy!

# President's Message by Paul Kiefer



## *Spring Is (sort of) In The Air!*

What a winter this has been! We've had solid snow cover from Thanksgiving through today (March 27 as I write). At my house, there's still an 8' mountain of snow in our front yard where the road commission pushes snow at the end of our cul-de-sac. I've had to shovel the roof on our house several times to reduce the snow weight and to keep ice dams from forming on the eaves. Our small snowblower was woefully underpowered for the snow that continuously covered our driveway. But despite the relentless winter, there are indeed subtle signs of spring. For example, the flower buds on our 'Arnold's Promise' witchhazel are just starting to crack open and show color. Daffodils planted along the foundation on the south side of our house are starting to push up and are now 1/2" tall. I saw my first robin a few days ago, and am now seeing more. There are definitely more birds singing early in the morning than there were a month ago. Because of this season's harsh winter, I think all of our green industry businesses are poised to do exceptionally well this spring. Everyone seems to be sick of winter and wants to get outside to enjoy their yards, gardens, flowers, trees, lawns, and outdoor spaces. Hopefully we can all capitalize on the excitement for spring that a long winter brings.

Those who attended WMNLA's March Garden Day got an early taste of spring back on March 15. I personally would like to congratulate everyone (too many people to list!) who participated in planning and helping on the day of the event to make it such a great day. The turnout was big (over 200 attendees), and all the attendees I spoke to gave positive feedback and seemed to have a great time. The speakers were excellent, the vendor booths looked great, and the overall atmosphere was buzzing with excitement for spring. On top of that, we raised over \$3000 for the WMNLA Scholarship Fund and Horticultural Grand Fund. These funds provide scholarships for local students in the green industry and grant money for local schools to provide curricula related to the green industry. In essence, March Garden Day is not only an event that showcases our membership to the general public, but also an event that helps nurture our future leaders and encourages students to study in fields related to plants and the environment. The March Garden Day Committee is already starting to plan next year's event, so if you have any feedback or would like to get involved, please contact myself or Pam Cater as we welcome your input and participation. Again, congratulations to everyone for a great job on this year's March Garden Day!

### *Paul Kiefer*

*Paul Kiefer owns Specialty Gardens LLC in Grand Haven and is the 2013/14 President of WMNLA. Contact him with comments, ideas, or questions at (616) 502-9815 or [specialtygardens@charter.net](mailto:specialtygardens@charter.net).*

---

## **Thank you to the following companies for donating plants and prizes for the 2014 March Garden Day raffle and auction**

Bartlett Tree Experts  
The Berry Family Nursery  
Blue Horizon Nursery & Gardens  
The Bookman  
Pam & Rick Cater  
Evergreen Acres  
Frederick Meijer Garden & Sculpture Park  
Garden Crossings  
Grand Haven Garden House  
Great Harvest Bread Co

Hope College  
Huntree Nursery  
Jonker's Garden  
Landscape Design Services, Inc  
Mellema Nursery  
The Olive Oil Store  
Tractor Supply Co  
Weesies Brothers Farm  
Walter's Garden





**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)

**2013-14 WMNLA Board of Directors**

Paul Kiefer, President, Specialty Gardens  
Matt Mellema, Vice President, Mellema Nursery  
Tony Hamilton, Treasurer, Berry Family Nursery  
Lisa Denison, Secretary, Landscape Design Services

Mike Teunis, Member At Large, BFG Supply  
Dirk Jonker, Member At Large, Jonker's Gardens  
Jon Mellema, Member at Large, Forever Green Sod, LLC  
and Shoreline Landscape and Maintenance

## WMNLA Horticulture Education Grant Application Deadline—July 1, 2014

The WMNLA Teacher Grant Program is a competitive grant program which awards up to \$500 to high school 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 given to Montague Area Public Schools FFA in 2013/14.

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 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, 2014

An application and cover letter is available online at [www.wmnla.com](http://www.wmnla.com). Contact Jon Mellema at Shoreline Landscape & Maintenance at 231-924-5307 for more information.