

Spring 2017

President's Message



WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

WMNLA Newsletter

Hello spring! Hello busy season! Hello March Madness! See you next year March Garden Day. If you follow the NCAA basketball tournament, I am sure you have seen some great basketball games and have had some late nights! My bracket surely is taking an "interesting" direction.

One thing that was not an upset was March Garden Day. It was a HUGE success! Thank you to the committee and board members for all of their hard work and volunteer time in making this event outstanding. The speakers did an excellent job teaching and keeping us informed! Here are some facts from the March Garden Day event:

Total revenue of \$11,936 (\$11,979)

Auction revenue \$3,321 (\$3,255 last year)

Total Attendance 232 (229 last year)

Recycling- Coffee cups, silverware, food scraps were all recycled.

There was one small bag of garbage from the entire event.

Just a heads up, at our next board meeting it is that time of year again when we will welcome new board members. Please take time to review the new board member's bios in the newsletter and welcome them the next time you see them. Have a great spring!

Nate Weaver, WMNLA President

Michigan Wood Fibers LLC

Contact him with comments, ideas, & questions at (616) 875-2241 or nate@michiganwoodfibers.com



West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association

March Garden Day 2017

Over 230 excited gardeners, speakers, vendors, members and volunteers participated in March Garden Day: A Celebration of Spring. March Garden Day was held Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the Grand Haven Community Center. March Garden Day is a daylong seminar featuring key note speakers, WMNLA member speakers, vendor booths, display garden and a silent auction. Profits from March Garden Day support the WMNLA Scholarship Fund and Education Fund. Monies are also available to members for CPIG and Master Gardener scholarships.



March Garden Day went 'green' this year for the first time following guidelines set by members Lee and Kay VerSchure. All lunch waste, wrappers, silverware and drinkware were biodegradable and composted by Spurt Industries. All paper and cardboard was recycled, water bottles were eliminated and replaced by water stations and biodegradable cups.



We would like to thank the March Garden Day Committee who dedicated many hours of planning to produce this annual event for the community: Lee VerSchure, Kay VerSchure, Reini Moser, Paul Kiefer, Audrey Eaton, Allison Jesky, Jude Hofmann and Pam Cater. We would also like to acknowledge the help of the many volunteers who were enlisted to help with the silent auction, act as moderators, food waste monitors, and registration hosts among many other duties. We would also like to acknowledge the board of directors (Chris Howe, Ryan Weesies, Nate Weaver, Brian Boyink, Allison Jesky and Russ Hillman) for their help moderating break out sessions and

providing support with the silent auction, and Allison Jesky for the plant i.d. quiz. Thanks also to Gardens Alive, Evergreen Acres, Hortech, Jonkers Gardens, Paul Kiefer and Walter's Gardens for providing plant material, growing space, and expertise to make the beautiful indoor landscape and auction.



Members who showcased in the Expo included Grand Haven Garden House, Bartlett Tree Experts, Landscape Design Services, Specialty Gardens, Jonkers Garden, Weesies Brothers Farms, Chips, and Blue Horizon Nursery. The Bookman and MSU Extension also had booths.



Speakers included: Susan Martin, Rebecca Finneran of MSU Extension, Eric Nelson of Weesies Brothers Garden Center & Landscape, Keith Hogan of Bartlett Tree Experts, Bev Harkema of Jonkers Garden, Paul Kiefer of Specialty Gardens, Greg Dunn of Blackbird Farms CSA, Allison Jesky of Hope College and Kathi Skorupski.



Look for more pictures on the March Garden Day Facebook page : <https://www.facebook.com/MarchGardenDay/?fref=ts>

18th Annual WMNLA Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser

SAVE THE DATE: DETAILS TO FOLLOW

The 18th Annual WMNLA
Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser
Friday, September 22, 2017
Grand Haven Golf Club
1700 Lincoln St. Grand Haven, MI 49417



There will be a lot of great golf, a great time, and all supporting a great cause!
Open to all WMNLA members, employees, friends, customers, vendors, & family. Bring the sales team!
Bring a new member! You can sign up individually or as teams of 2, 3 or 4. We'll partner individuals to make foursomes.

\$75 per person. Advance registration required by *September 17th*.

Sponsorship opportunities are available; all sponsors will receive recognition in the Golf Outing program, a company sign at the golf course, a listing in the Michigan Landscape magazine, the WMNLA website and the WMNLA newsletter. Dinner sponsorship is \$350, Lunch sponsorship is \$250 and a hole sponsorship is available at \$50.

Dinner included.

Thank you, Nate Weaver & Brian Boyink

WMNLA would like thank retiring board members, Nate Weaver of Michigan Wood Products and Brian Boyink of Gardens Alive Supply for serving on the board of WMNLA.

Nate has served on the board as an at-large member, Vice President and President for 2016-17. Nate has generously hosted the February WMNLA meeting at Michigan Wood Products the last few years. He also has provided a delicious lunch for all who attended. Nate has supported March Garden Day as a vendor and moderator.

Brian Boyink has served WMNLA as an at-large member and Secretary for 2015-16 and 2016-17. Brian has also supported the golf outing and auction and March Garden Day by supplying plants for the auction, helping to set up the landscape, and as a moderator.

WMNLA would like to thank Nate and Brian for their service and wish them well in coming years. We look forward to seeing them in the future at WMNLA event.

Thank you to all of the companies that donated plants and prizes for the 2017 March Garden Day raffle and auction





**WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY &
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

**PO Box 96
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For advertising, business news, submission of
articles and WMNLA member news:

Contact Pam Cater at
(616) 402-4885

Email: wmnla2013@gmail.com

2016-17 WMNLA Board of Directors

Nate Weaver, President, Michigan Wood Fibers
Ryan Weesies, Vice President, Weesies Garden Center & Land-
scaping
Brian Boyink, Secretary, Gardens Alive

Chris Howe, Treasurer, Hortech Inc.
Allison Jesky, Member at Large, Hope College
Russ Hillman, Member at Large, Bosch's Landscape & Lawn
Specialties

WMNLA Horticulture Education Grant Application Deadline—July 1, 2017

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 the Little Hawks Preschool at the Outdoor Adventure Center for greenhouse construction.

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 no later than July 1, 2017

An application and cover letter is available online at www.wmnla.com