

Spring 2016

# President's Message



WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

## WMNLA Newsletter

Hold on, spring has sprung with full force and it is time for another wild ride. A busy spring is something we all look forward to for the health of our business, but sometimes it is difficult to hold on and keep the course we would like during these next few months. It's our hope that everything goes smoothly as planned and all our hard work and preparation pays off. Chances are we will have a monkey wrench or two thrown into our perfectly thought-out plans. When this happens "manure" will hit the fan, the spring rush will relentlessly push forward, we will be faced with more problems, our customers' needs will increase, our lives will become a sleepless blur, and just before it feels like our wheels are going to fall off.....it's over. Isn't this industry fun!? Fun may not be the best way to describe it this time of year, but it is exciting and can be rewarding. Luckily we all have been through this before and we know that regardless of what gets thrown at us we will all survive this spring, at least after the dust settles. Good luck to everyone, WMNLA board as well as myself wishes everyone a smooth as possible and successful season.

Speaking of surviving this spring, granted I do so, it will be my last season as the President of the WMNLA. I would like to thank Pam Cater for all the help she does for our organization, and all the hard work the board has done to keep the WMNLA a financially sound and successful organization. Also, a special thanks to Mike Teunis who will be finishing his services on our board. We have a few new board members ready to fill Mike's and my vacancies, and we look forward to seeing what they will have to offer to move the WMNLA into the future. Stay tuned, there will be more to come in this space about our new board members and the exciting things they will have planned for the future.

*Dirk Jonker*

Dirk Jonker, Jonker's Garden

WMNLA President *Contact him with comments, ideas, & questions at (616) 392-7234 or [info@jonkersgarden.com](mailto:info@jonkersgarden.com)*



# West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association March Garden Day 2016

March Garden Day 2016 was celebrated Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Haven Community Center, Grand Haven, Michigan. Over 200 enthusiastic gardeners attended to hear keynote speakers; Janet Macunovich and Greg Afman entertain and educate listeners with their garden expertise and knowledge. Gardeners enjoyed the indoor landscape designed by *Paul Keifer* of Specialty Gardens with hundreds of plants and bulbs donated by *Evergreen Acres* and *Zelenka Farms*.

Breakout sessions included: *Zandra Talley*, 'The 'Chicken Whisperer' and *Jolene King* of Weesie Farms: 'Perennials: Divide and Conquer'. *Lori May* of Hortech educated gardeners about living walls, and *Ruth Zwald*

discussed the medicinal uses of three common herbs. *Greg Afman*, of the Richard and Helen DeVos Japanese Garden educated our gardeners about Japanese design and conducted a breakout session to give us all a taste of bonsai. *Janet Macunovich* enlightened gardeners about smarter ways of gardening with plants that are classic in any design. She also entertained gardeners with her hilarious garden experiences.

A portion of profits from March Garden Day support the WMNLA Scholarship Fund and the WMNLA Education fund, which benefits teachers and schools involved in horticulture. It also funds the Master Gardener Fund, which helps employees fund their Master Gardener education.

WMNLA would like to thank the following vendors and contributors who helped make March Garden Day possible: *Bartlett Tree Services*, *Grand Haven Garden House*, *Jonkers Garden*, *Landscape Design Services*, *Michigan Wood Fibers*, *Blue Horizon Nursery*, *The Bookman*, *Michigan Rag Company*, *Holland Community Theatre*, *Weesies Garden Center*, *West Michigan Tree Services* and *Ace Hardware of Spring Lake*.

WMNLA has the greatest appreciation for the March Garden Day Committee who plans and prepares for this event: *Lee Ver Schure*, *Audrey Eaton*, *Paul Keifer*, *Pam Cater*, *Lisa Denison*, *Allyson Jeske* and *Reini Moser*. Last but not least: WMNLA thanks the many volunteers who help everything run smoothly.



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



# 17th Annual WMNLA Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser

## SAVE THE DATE: DETAILS TO FOLLOW

The 17th Annual WMNLA  
Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser  
Friday, September 23, 2016  
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, Dirk Jonker & Mike Teunis

**Thank you to all of the  
companies that donated plants and prizes for the  
2016 March  
Garden Day raffle and auction**

WMNLA would like thank retiring board members, Dirk Jonker of Jonker's Garden and Mike Teunis of BFG Supply for serving on the board of WMNLA.

Dirk has served on the board as an at-large member, Vice President and President for 2015-16. Dirk has been a presenter at March Garden Day as well as a vendor. Dirk was instrumental in supporting and finding recipients for the WMNLA Education Fund with a donation to the Little Hawks Preschool and the Outdoor Discovery Center. We will miss Dirk's dedication to WMNLA, his leadership style and sense of humor.

Mike Teunis has served WMNLA as an at-large member and Treasurer for 2014-15 and 2015-16. Mike has also been the coordinator of the WMNLA Golf Outing for 2014, 2015 and will serve again this year. Mike has been instrumental in upgrading the WMNLA website and providing technical support.

WMNLA would like to thank Dirk and Mike for their service and wish them well in coming years.





**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)

**2015-16 WMNLA Board of Directors**

Dirk Jonker, President, Jonker's Gardens  
Nate Weaver, Vice President, Michigan Wood Fibers  
Brian Boyink, Secretary, Zelanka Farms

Mike Teunis, Treasurer, BFG Supply  
Chris Howe, Member at Large, Hortech, Inc  
Ryan Weesies, Member at Large, Weesies Farm & Garden Center

## WMNLA Horticulture Education Grant Application Deadline—July 1, 2016

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](mailto:wmnla2013@gmail.com) no later than July 1, 2016

An application and cover letter is available online at [www.wmnla.com](http://www.wmnla.com)