

President's Message



WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

WMNLA News

HELP WANTED- Anyone have a job opening? Do you have enough employees for your work load? Or is your work load to employee ratio off by a long shot, like most of us. Are you not taking on jobs because you know you don't have the man power to do the job sufficiently? This can be viewed as a good thing but does get spun into a hot topic. Seems we are all blessed with work.

To keep it simple, let's focus on the landscaping businesses. There have been massive improvements in the landscaping services market, however, there are still many challenges, such as finding, training, and managing employees. Better education should be the focal point of these challenges, as well as knowledge, training, and experience because contractors have become more selective and concerned about the inability to find good educated workers. How many new careers are choosing the green industry each year?

A past recipient of the WMNLA Horticulture Grant was approved to a teacher, for which the funds went toward the works of a greenhouse for the students. What if little Jonny thought that this was the greatest thing since peanut butter? Now we have opened the mind of a young individual, who may of not at that time thought about the green industry as a career but was introduced to it. He may not make a career decision at that time, however it's important to open the minds and opportunities to individuals of all ages that have that

interest. Could that individual grow up and become your next right hand person, foreman or great employee? Who doesn't need that right about now? This is what WMNLA is trying to work for. How can we make it easier to get people into our industry? The WMNLA is in search of individuals and organizations that could benefit from a scholarship that relates to the green industry.

Please think about spreading the word about the WMNLA to others. As a board, we would really like to see an increase in the membership roll and there is no better way than word of mouth. It costs \$125 annually to be a member. Seems like a small investment in our industry. The payback could be limitless. Add in the networking that happens at the monthly meetings and I feel there is value in spending that hard earned money to be a member! If you have the names of an individual or company who you think I should contact about joining, please drop me an email – we would be happy to contact them on your behalf.

Now is the time to apply for a grant request for Horticulture Education. Forms and information can be found online (www.wmnl.com). I also encourage you to sign up for our golf outing! It will be a fun event and another opportunity to support our industry. Hope to see you there!

Nate Weaver
President
Michigan Wood Fibers LLC

Be a Hole Sponsor for \$50 at the WMNLA Golf Outing on September 23rd at the Grand Haven Golf Course. (Reserve by September 16th)

Hole Sponsored by
Your Business
Your Phone
West Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association

The 17th Annual WMNLA Golf Outing & Scholarship Fundraiser



Friday, September 23

Grand Haven Golf Club
1700 Lincoln St, Grand Haven, Mi 49417

Sign-In at 10:00 a.m.

Shotgun Start at 11:00 a.m. Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

This year's Event Sponsors are **Eco Green Supply of Wyoming and Forever Green Sod of Fremont. Sponsorships are also available for the first time for lunch and dinner, as well as hole sponsors.**

There will be a lot of great golf, a good time, and all supporting a wonderful cause



The Golf Outing is 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 – Includes Hot Dog Lunch, Chicken and pulled pork dinner, 18 holes of golf, power cart, and an all-round great time. **Advance Registration Required by September 16th.**

Dinner includes a cook-out after the tournament of chicken and pulled pork. Spouses and non golfers welcome to **"dinner only" for \$25**
Cash bar available.

To donate prizes for the raffle (golf shirts, golf outings, restaurants, etc) Contact Mike Teunis at (616) 366-2916 or mike.teunis@bfgsupply.com



Sponsorship Levels

All sponsors will receive recognition:

in the Golf Outing Program

A Company Sign at the Golf Course

In the Michigan Landscape magazine

On the WMNLA Website

In the WMNLA Newsletter

Dinner Sponsor \$350

Lunch Sponsor \$250

Hole Sponsor \$50

WMNLA GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION FORM

Company : _____

Company Contact: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email _____ Fax: _____

Dinner Sponsor @ \$350 _____

Lunch Sponsor @ \$250 _____

Hole Sponsor @ \$50 _____

Golfers \$75 per player

Player #1 _____ \$ _____

Player #2 _____ \$ _____

Player #3 _____ \$ _____

Player #4 _____ \$ _____

Dinner only @ \$25 _____

Total _____

Payment Information

_____ Check enclosed _____ Amount

Please make out to WMNLA

_____ Please Bill

_____ Visa/MasterCard (will pay at golf outing)

Please send checks to WMNLA, PO Box 96, West Olive, MI 49460

Thank you for supporting WMNLA Scholarship, Horticulture Grant and Master Gardener Scholarship Funds.

WMNLA 2016/17 Programs

Wednesday, October 12, 2016 George Lessens, Chief Meteorologist WZZM Channel 13 Weather, 'Past and Present Weather Trends including WZZM's Long Range Forecast', at the Grand Haven Community Center, Grand Haven, Mi.

Wednesday, November 9, 2016 Amy Frankmann, Executive Director MNLA ; 'Updates within the Green Industry', at the Grand Haven Community Center, Grand Haven, Mi.

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 Speaker To Be Determined, at Hope College, Holland, Mi.

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 Rick Lohman, Business Coach, Trainer, Speaker; Woohooing.com 'Is Your Chemistry Right for the Results You Want to Generate?' at Hope College, Holland, MI.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan State Police; '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



WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 96
West Olive, MI 49460
616-402-4885

RSVP your attendance to WMNLA at
wmnla2013@gmail.com

Register Today!

WMNLA Scholarship Golf Outing
September 23, 2016
At the **Grand Haven Golf Club**

2016-17 WMNLA Board of Directors

Nate Weaver, President, Michigan Wood Fibers, LLC
Ryan Weesies, Vice President, Weesies Farm & Garden Center
Brian Boyink, Secretary, Zelenka Farms

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

WMNLA Scholarships & Horticulture Grant Fund

WMNLA Horticulture Educational Grant Program

WMNLA Master Gardener Education Scholarship Fund

The WMNLA uses this Fund to award annual grants to youth programs offered by area schools to promote awareness of the horticulture industry. This competitive grant program awards grants of up to \$500 to horticulture educational projects offered by teachers in our serviced counties; Ottawa, Allegan, Muskegon, Oceana and Newaygo during the school year. Applications are reviewed on a competitive basis.

The WMNLA Grant Fund has special interest in projects & activities designed to give students a better understanding of the green industry, specifically, greenhouses, nursery and landscaping.

The advisory committee has reserved \$1500 to be awarded annually. 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.

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

Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who attend Master Gardener classes and pass the final exam.

The available fund monies for the year will be divided between successful applicants, not to exceed \$300 per employee.

To apply for the WMNLA Master Gardener Scholarship contact Pam Cater at: wmnla2013@gmail.com.

Currently, the WMNLA Scholarship Fund balance is \$11,685.90 and the Horticultural Education Fund balance is \$7,688.00

Funds are available for the 2016/17 school year. Applications are available at www.wmnla.com