

January 2015



WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

# WMNLA News

## President's Message

How beautiful is a fresh white blanket of snow that materializes across Michigan's Landscape? I am enjoying this winter season off (okay maybe just seasonably relaxed), as it has allowed me time to look more closely at how fast the scenery changes. From winter green (brown) grass to several inches of snow covering the fields; From ducks and Geese swimming freely in the open water to ice fishing on the lakes (not very successful yet); From bare branches to wet snow clinging onto every inch of the branch. Well... and this was all in the first 4 days of January. What a wonderful place we work and live in.

A New Year! What does this mean? New beginnings, new resolutions (never going to keep), new equipment, new business strategies, new customers, new challenges, new relationships, and/or new employees? Well maybe some of us will have all of these, many will have a few, hopefully, all of you will have at least one of these. New Year means a time to reflect on the past about what worked, but most importantly what did not work and try to improve on these.

As the WMNLA 2014-15 season is now midway thru, I encourage anyone that has entertained the idea of becoming a board member to step forward. Maybe this is your New! Let me tell you a little bit about being on board: It requires a small amount of time throughout the year. The board is there to make our industry better. It focuses on educating not only our members, but other industry individuals

and consumers. For myself, I have gained new friendships both personally and professionally that have and will continue to aid in making my business more successful. The WMNLA is in good standings financially. Many of you have assisted in making this all possible. The goal of the WMNLA is to improve upon the professionalism of its members while contributing to the quality of life. Jump on Board and see for yourself how you can improve our WMNLA.

The January meeting will be on Obamacare/Affordable Care Act. This will be very informative on what we have been told (correctly or incorrectly) so we don't make any mistakes or are misled. This is a **NOT TO MISS** program as we all prepare for the upcoming 2015 season. Enjoy the start of the New Year and I will see you all there on January 14.

**Matt**

*Matt Mellema, Owner of Mellema Nursery LLC in Fremont, is the President of the WMNLA. Contact him with any comments, ideas, or questions at (231) 924-5106 or at [mellemam@ncats.net](mailto:mellemam@ncats.net).*

## WMNLA Scholarship Application Available Online

Attention all High School & College Students in Ottawa, Kent, Allegan, Newaygo, Muskegon and Oceana interested in a degree in a Green Industry field..

The WMNLA Scholarship Application through the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is available for completion online at : <http://www.ghacf.org/scholarships.htm> Students should go to this page to see available scholarships and then go to the application tab to click the link to begin the E-grant process.

The printed and signed application, transcript and page one of the FAFSA must be stapled together and postmarked to GHACF no later than March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. All of these instructions are on the online application also. For questions contact: Barbara Post, Director of Donor Services and Scholarships, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, 1 South Harbor, Grand Haven, MI 49417. 616-842-6378.

# March Garden Day Saturday March 14, 2015

## *A Celebration of Gardening!*

*Sponsored by the West Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association*

*Grand Haven Community Center*

*421 Columbus St., Grand Haven MI 49417*

*Saturday, March 14, 2015*

### **8:00 Registration and Check In**

View exhibits, indoor gardens and Silent Auction.

### **9:00 Session 1**

*“Mother Nature’s Calendar in Your Own Backyard” with Elly Maxwell.* Elly is the Dow Gardens entomologist. She grew up in Michigan, received a B.S. degree from Michigan State University and a M.S. degree from Auburn University, both in Entomology. She is responsible for pest control and education, as well as the seasonal butterfly display at the Dow Gardens. There is a science to coinciding biological events, termed phenology. Phenology is useful to the backyard gardener. We’ll learn the scientific basic of some of these rules of thumb along with gaining some appreciation of common backyard Michigan critters.

### **10:30 Session 2**

*“Captivating Combinations” with Julia Hofley* Julia is a freelance garden writer, she has written for Michigan Gardener and Fine Gardening. She is a member of the Michigan Regional Lily Society (MRLS), Hardy Plant Society (HPS), North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS), American Conifer Society (ACS) and Garden Writers Association (GWA). Julia will share head-turning combinations of all plant types, both in containers and garden beds. The focus on color, texture and form will encourage you to try combinations that captivate all season long.

### **11:45-1:15 Lunch Break/Break Out Sessions**

*“Shade Gardening” with Jolene King,* Advanced Master Gardener, Michigan Certified Nurseryman, employed at Weesies Garden Center.

*“Golden Conifers,” with Paul Surian,* Co-owner and head propagator Blue horizon Nursery

*“All about Orchids” with Dirk Jonker,* Jonker’s Garden

*“Fun with Succulents” with Barbara Balgoyen,* Technical Customer Support and Web Marketing Consultant, Walters Gardens

*“Michigan Native Wildflowers,” with Rob Venner,* director of the DeGraaf Nature Center

### **1:45 Session 3 :**

*“Fall Finale in the Garden” with Julia Hofley* Celebrate the seasonality of Michigan with autumn’s flower bounty in your beds and borders. Learn more about plants that peak in the fall and instead of a melancholy ending to your garden season, go out with an unforgettable fall finalé.

## **March Garden Day Expo Registration for March 14, 2015**

WMNLA will host the Annual **March Garden Day Expo** to the gardening public of West Michigan on **Saturday, March 14** at the **Grand Haven Community Center**.

This day long event allows WMNLA a great opportunity to market our professional members to consumers in advance of the Spring season.

Over 250 people attend this event from Ada to Zeeland, Allegan to Whitehall, and Allendale to West Olive and all locales in between. Proceeds go to support the **WMNLA Scholarship Fund** and the **Horticulture Education Grant Fund**.

A Standard Booth space of 10’x 10’ is available. **Early Bird registration cost is \$60 before February 1, 2015, after this date the cost is \$75.** Reserve your space early and take advantage of the “early bird” price.

Exhibitor move in will be on Friday, March 13, from 1-5:00 PM and Saturday March 14, from 7-8:00 AM. Tear down will be at 3:30 PM on Saturday.

Contact **Pam Cater**, **wmnla2013@gmail.com**. Or call **616-402-4885** to reserve your space.

# WMNLA Welcomes New Member Blue Horizon Nursery

Rare Conifers and Plants of Distinction



[www.bluehorizonnursery.com](http://www.bluehorizonnursery.com)

09721 59th St. – Grand Junction, MI – 49056

Wed – Sun 10 am – 6 pm (269) 998-8165

Blue Horizon Nursery and Gardens, established in 2003, provides the highest quality rare plants to the enthusiast and the novice. Located near the Michigan lakeshore, surrounded by orchards, vineyards and blueberry farms and less than 10 minutes east of South Haven, Michigan, the nursery is nestled on a 56 acre parcel of land with over 10 acres of native wetlands in addition to a 1 acre pond.

We propagate most of our plants through grafting and rooted cuttings in addition to growing them from seed.

Paul Surian and Bill Snyder, the nursery founders are collectors, always seeking out the newest plants with the most extraordinary characteristics. We continue to share the best of our collections as they prove their merit. One such introduction is 'Copper Harbor'. Discovered by Blue Horizon Nursery, this unique juniper is brilliantly gold in summer becoming metallic copper colored in winter. Available nowhere else in the world!

We also have several acres devoted to display specimens of our plants. During the growing season, we are open from Wed. thru Sunday and other times by appointment. Additional information including many of the plants that we offer for sale may be found on our website at [www.bluehorizonnursery.com](http://www.bluehorizonnursery.com) or by contacting us by phone at [269.998.8165](tel:269.998.8165).



## Call for Board Nominations

We need to elect *two* new board members to serve the next three-year term commencing in June 2015.

Finishing their terms are **Matt Mellema**, Mellema Nursery and **Lisa Denison**, Landscape Design Services.

Our goal is to have balanced representation from the green industry. 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.

## WMNLA 2014/15 Programs

**Wednesday, January 14, 2015** "Health Care/Obama Care and Small Business", Meeting time 11:30 a.m. at The Grand Haven Community Center, 421 Columbus, Grand Haven

Cost: \$15.00 person,

Employee special: **Bring a potential new member and you both eat free (Reservation required by Friday, January 9th)**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2015**, "Michigan Department of Transportation: Regulations/Question & Answer" at Michigan Wood Fibers, 9426 Henry St, Zeeland, MI, 49460 (Lunch provided by Michigan Wood Fibers)

All meetings eligible for CGIP Credit





**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

**Mark Your  
Calendar!**

**Wednesday February 11th,  
2015**  
**“Michigan DOT Regulations:  
Questions & Answers”**  
*Michigan Wood Fibers*

**2014-15 WMNLA Board of Directors**

Matt Mellema, President, Mellema Nursery  
Dirk Jonker, Vice President, Jonker's Gardens  
Lisa Denison, Secretary, Landscape Design Services

Mike Teunis, Treasurer, BFG Supply  
Brian Boyink, Member at Large, Berry Family of Nurseries  
Nate Weaver, Member at Large, Michigan Wood Fibers

**“Health Care/Obama Care for the Green Industry”**  
*Presented by Dave Young, Account Executive*



Dave Young has been a Benefits Account Executive for 30 years. Dave has extensive experience in the design and implementation of creative benefit strategies.

Dave is a State of Michigan Licensed Producer of life, accident, health and variable annuities. Dave is also a Lighthouse Insurance Group shareholder and has 11 years in senior sales and account management for a leading

West Michigan managed care company.

Dave is also an agent advisory council member for Delta Dental and a member of the West Michigan Association of Health Underwriters, the Employer's Association of West Michigan and the Grand Haven Rotary.

**CGIP credits can be applied for WMNLA programs.**

***Wednesday, January 14***  
***11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.***  
***At The Grand Haven  
Community Center***  
***Woodbine Room***  
***421 Columbus***  
***Grand Haven***  
***\$15 per person,***  
***includes lunch***  
***Bring a potential new***  
***member and lunch is free for***  
***both of you***  
***Reservations required by***  
***Friday, January 9, 2015***

**RSVP by January 9th**  
**Let us know you are coming so our hosts can prepare!**

**WMNLA member businesses & staff are welcomed!**

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