

A Message from our President ~ by Scott VanWyk

Well, it's that time of year again!

As I write this, preparations for the West Michigan Home & Garden Show are well underway. Grand Garden designer Jeff Stap of Katerberg & VerHage and a crew of dedicated Association volunteers are busily transforming an empty unattractive convention floor space into a truly attractive landscape setting showcasing the talents and creativity of our Association members. Meanwhile, other of our AGRLP members are also readying their own Show spaces. In all, it is a busy yet highly-anticipated kick-off to our Spring season.

While we are indebted to the planning and efforts Jeff has made in 'leading the charge', we also acknowledge this is a group effort. Our Association is only as strong as the sum of its parts. So for those looking to become involved, let's be intentional about our membership in this fine organization. Many hands make light work, and the benefits of involvement are tangible. First, our Association will be made stronger. And then, lasting friendships are made as together we tackle Association projects or Committee assignments, or as we enjoy Association outings such as the Whitecaps meet-and-greet or the Scholarship Golf Outing.

I believe everyone has a voice and something to contribute. Are you on board?

AGRLP Annual Meeting & 2016 Board Members

The AGRLP Annual Meeting was held on December 10. Jeff Stap from Katerberg VerHage presented his Home Show Grand Garden Design "Art in the Garden". The "Home Show Auction" was held at that time. Amy Frankmann gave an MNLA update to the group. We also voted in new board members, we welcome to the AGRLP board, Carol Ditkof (Larry's Lawn Service), Shannon Fischer (Harder and Warner) and Ben Kloosterman (Kloosterman Landscaping). A special "Thank You" to the retiring board members, Nick Heyboer (Heyboer Landscape), Jim Steketee (Steketee Turf) and Bill Pringle (DeVries Landscape). Your dedication to the AGRLP is greatly appreciated!

At the January AGRLP Board meeting, Scott VanWyk (Bartlett Tree Experts) was nominated President, Rob Nelson (Katerberg VerHage) was nominated Vice President, Julie Drews (Woodland Tree Services) was nominated Treasurer and Jason Mulder (Everett's Landscape) board representative.

2016 AGRLP Board



SPRING 2016

Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

March Monthly Meeting

"Compliance Meeting"

Wednesday, March 23 -

11am @ BFG Supply

AGRLP Adopt-A-Road

Spring Clean-up

44th St between Shaffer &

East Beltline (M-37)

If you are in the area

stop & pick-up some trash!

Arbor Day ~

(details coming soon!)

April 2016

Party for the Planet

May 7 John Ball Zoo

WhiteCaps Meet & Greet

Thursday, June 9

AGRLP: PO Box 455

Grandville MI 49468

Ph: 616-531-1370

NEW AGRLP MEMBERS IN 2015

Welcome! to our new
Members:

- ~ Garden Goddess, LLC (Ada)
- ~ Bakhuyzen Associates LLC (Grandville)
- ~ Weed & Feed Lawn Care (Byron Center)
- ~ Red Cedar Insurance Agency (Grand Rapids)
- ~ Pro-Mow Lawn Care & Landscaping (Byron Center)

Thank you to Rep Ken Yonker (R) 72nd District for his efforts and taking leadership to correct contract indemnification language here in Michigan. Rep Yonker was the founder of Yonker's Landscaping in Caledonia. Kevin Gilbride with the [Accredited Snow Contractors Association](#) and industry members lobbied for legislation that would improve conditions regarding the insurability of snow contractors in Michigan. In New Jersey only 2 insurance companies remain that will cover snow contractors. Michigan is headed down that same path as insurance companies pull out from insuring this industry. If HB5230 passes the snow contractor will still be liable for his negligence, but not need to be bound by big box store contracts for things like a slip and fall if it happens in a bathroom in July. These types of lawsuits are happening across the country, making snow contractors undesirable to insurance companies. HB5230 places liability with the appropriate party. Let's thank Rep. Ken Yonker for introducing this bill, and for his efforts to hopefully pass this common sense reform. His work will benefit the many companies in AGRLP who provide snow removal service.

2016 WINTER AWARDS BANQUET

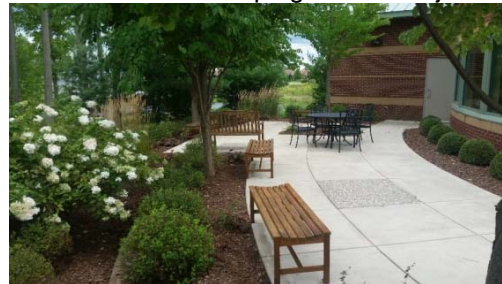


The Winter Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, February 18 at The Bluff Banquet Center in Grand Rapids. The AGRLP members enjoyed some great food, awards ceremony and our entertainment was "The Murder Mystery Company". It was a fun night knowing "there was a murderer among us". By using our detective skills some groups were able to figure out who was the murderer.

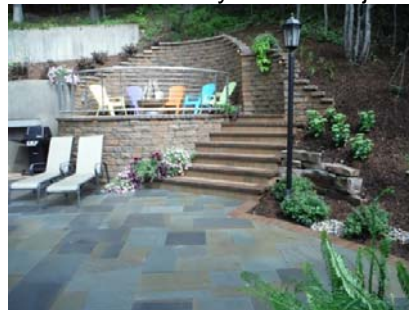
The night would not be complete without honoring some of our very talented members. Congratulations to our landscape award winners: Harder & Warner Landscape, Sneller Landscaping & Rosemont Nursery. Harder & Warner Landscapes Richard Angel received the Landscape Award on his landscape project at the Eagin Residence. Jeff Sneller from Sneller Landscaping received the award for Landscape Maintenance at the Cancer Center at Metro Health. Bruce deWit from Rosemont Nursery received the Unique Feature award for his project at the Emerald Lake Cottage.

Also \$2000 were given out to local students in the green industry. Congratulations to our scholarship winners Ben Leonard and Josh Nieuwsma. Ben and Josh both attend Michigan State University.

Snellers Landscaping Award Project



Rosemont Nursery Award Project



Harder & Warner Award Project



2016 WEST MICHIGAN HOME & GARDEN SHOW

The 2016 West Michigan Home & Garden Show was held at the DeVos Place, Thursday, March 3 - Sunday, March 6. This years theme was "Art in the Garden". Our Grand Garden designer this year was Jeff Stap from Katerberg VerHage. Great job Jeff, thank you!

The Grand Garden was divided into five separate gardens, each showcasing a different sculpture. Visitors were shown how to use sculpture within different garden settings. The different gardens were; contemporary garden, patio garden, water garden, rustic garden and woodland/flower garden. The sculptures ranged from grand, elaborate pieces to more simple and rustic. Plants were also showcased to show their sculptural qualities. The weeping white pine, chamaecyparis, birch, and Seven Son's Flower were given prominent spots to show off their forms.

Special thanks to: Bakhuyzen Landscape, Belgard Hardscapes, Dr. Nick Kroeze, Easy Pro Pond, Great Lakes Landscape Supply, Heyboer Landscape, Jack Hillman, Kent Career Tech Center, Koetje Landscaping, Kenney Outdoor Solutions, Katerberg VerHage, Michigan Wood Fibers, Ron Lichtenstein Gallery 154, Rosetta, Sam Soet, Superior Groundcover, Unilock, Witte Lawn Maintenance & Wolf Kubota. And a special THANK YOU to all our great talented members who volunteered their time creating the grand garden.



MONTHLY MEETINGS & 2015 WINTER LEARNING SERIES

The January Monthly Educational Meeting was hosted & held at Hoekstra Truck Equipment. Darlene Regula from the Michigan Dale Carnegie spoke to our group on "Employee Engagement and Why it Matters".

The 2015 Winter Learning Series was a great success. John Stone led the two full day classes and the one half day class. The three classes had a very high attendance. Guest speakers were, Jennifer Reay & Julie Yocum (MDARD), Deb McCullough (MSU Entomology) and Megan Milbrath (MSU Entomology). All three classes were held at the Hanley Church in Grandville. Eight credits were earned at the full day classes and four at the half day classes. Credits available were in Commercial Core, Private Core or categories 2, 3A, 3B, 5 and 6.