

**A Message from our President ~ by Scott VanWyk**

Well, Arbor Day is now just past, closing out a VERY wet April. What will May bring? Certainly additional challenges of some sort. Perhaps more weather-related obstacles to interrupt our days, or maybe we will be required to navigate the conundrum of labor shortages. Good thing our AGRLP membership enjoys a good challenge, and is very capable of problem-solving!

Speaking of Arbor Day, the weather was fantastic for both the Friday & Saturday events at Martin Luther King Park! This was a great opportunity to partner with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks to support the Mayor's Greening Initiative. Friday featured a community planting of 350 trees in and around MLK Park, while Saturday showcased a residential tree giveaway of 100 trees. The Friday event was covered by the news, and on both days Mayor Rosalyn Bliss was in enthusiastic attendance. Although AGRLP had a somewhat light presence, we made the most of it & promoted our fine Association.

This Saturday we will celebrate Party for the Planet AGRLP-style by handing out 500 white pine seedlings at John Ball Zoo. This is another opportunity to become involved and furthermore, to give back to the community. Opportunities like these help our membership bond together as we seek to educate & serve the public. Ask a volunteer—you will find that the time goes quickly. It truly is gratifying to volunteer time & expertise when the recipients are so grateful.

Enough of the plug for volunteers—for now. Everyone, have a safe season 'out there' and let's show our pride as we embody the professionalism of the Green Industry in West Michigan!

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**AGRLP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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The AGRLP Annual Meeting was held on December 15. Adam Boonenberg from Thornapple River Nursery and Drew Somsel from Twin Lakes Nursery were nominated to the 2017 AGRLP Board. A special THANK YOU to the retiring board members, Julie Drews from Woodland Tree Services and Rob Nelson from Katerberg VerHage.

The AGRLP Board of Directors for 2017:

President - Scott VanWyk - Bartlett Tree Experts

Vice President - Ben Kloosterman - Kloosterman Landscaping

Secretary/Treasurer - Shannon Fischer - Harder & Warner Landscaping

Directors At Large:

Jason Mulder - Everett's Landscape

Carol Ditkof - Larry's Lawn Service

Adam Boonenberg - Thornapple River Nursery

Drew Somsel - Twin Lakes Nursery

Karla VanderBaan - Office Manager



*Spring*

*2017*

**Newsletter**

*Upcoming Events:*

*WhiteCaps Meet & Greet ~*

*Thursday, June 8*

*Summer Field Day*

*Friday, July 28*

*Scholarship Golf Outing*

*Friday, August 4*

*AGRLP: PO Box 455*

*Grandville MI 49468*

*Ph: 616-531-1370*

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## NEW AGRLP MEMBERS

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**Welcome!** to our new Members:

- ~ H & K Landscaping (Jan. 2017)
- ~ Capsure Insurance Group (Nov. 2016)

## Pesticide Training

We have been hearing a lot about the pesticide test being hard to pass now days. Here is the link to the training program site through MSU.

[http://www.ipm.msu.edu/pesticide\\_education\\_safety/seminars](http://www.ipm.msu.edu/pesticide_education_safety/seminars). In the winter there are exam review specific classes that you can go to and then take the tests right on site after the review class.

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## WINTER AWARDS BANQUET

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The AGRLP Winter Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, February 16 at The Bluff Banquet Center in Grand Rapids. The AGRLP members enjoyed some great food, awards ceremony and our entertainment was The Williams Family.

The night would not be complete without honoring some of our very talented members. Congratulations to our landscape award winners: Harder & Warner Landscape & Rosemont Nursery.

Awards were given for "Unique Features" to AGRLP Winter Awards Banquet ~ Congratulations to our Award Winners: Unique Features Bruce deWit - Rosemont Nursery "Vozza Residence" Richard Angell - Harder & Warner "Meyers Residence" Ada, MI Archie Warner - Harder & Warner "Japanese Zen Garden - Kramer Residence" Grand Rapids.

\$2000 were given out to a local student in the green industry. Congratulations to our scholarship winner Josh Nieuwsma. Josh is a senior at Michigan State University.





## HOME SHOW

**AGRLP Grand Garden at the West Michigan Home and Garden Show** - The AGRLP once again built the center Grand Garden at the 2017 West Michigan Home & Garden Show. The Home and Garden Show was held at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids on Thursday, March 2 - Sunday, March 5. This year's Home and Garden Show's theme was "Celebrating Michigan". Our Grand Garden designer this year was Mark Witte from Witte Lawn Maintenance. Great job Mark, thank you!

The Grand Garden theme this year was "A Celebration of Michigan". The Grand Garden reflected on the history, natural beauty, and on the fastest growing industries in our wonderful state. The garden represented the native natural woodlands, the power and majesty of the Tahquamenon Falls; the invention of the automobile, the rapid growth of the craft brewery industry, especially in "Beer City", USA (Grand Rapids!) The Grand Garden celebrated Michigan by focusing on native plants and their varieties and cultivars, using stone harvested from the soils of Michigan, and pavers and wall blocks manufactured in Michigan. Special features in the garden were, a classic Ford Model T, (representing auto industry) native woodland field, a Tahquamenon water feature, hops, beer tap water feature, bar space, an outdoor kitchen, and also taxidermy animals (squirrels, skunk, badger, rabbit and ducks) .

Special thanks to: Bakhuyzen Landscape, Gilmore Car Museum, Great Lakes Landscape Supply, Hard Topix, Homelife Outdoor Living, Kent Career Tech Center - Agri Science, Koetje Landscaping, Mast Mini-Barns, Kenney Outdoor Solutions, Michigan Wood Fibers, Outback Casual Living & Fence, Quality Draft Systems, Rosetta of Michigan, 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.



## AGRLP MONTHLY EDUCATION MEETINGS

On January 12, the AGRLP held their Monthly Educational Meeting along with the Home Show Auction. Mark Witte, of Witte Lawn Care is this year's Grand Garden Designer. Mark gave an overview of the 2017 Home Show Grand Garden followed by the auction. Rich Lohman a business coach, speaker and trainer with "WhooHooing" was the guest speaker. The meeting was held at BFG Supply in Grand Rapids.

The March Monthly was our Compliance Meeting at Hanley Church in Grandville. Michigan State Officers and Jennifer Reay educated the group on rules and safety.

The April Monthly Meeting was held on April 20 at Hoekstra Equipment. Emily Huening, Education/Certification Director at MNLA, spoke to the group on "Growing Your Professionalism".



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## 2017 ARBOR DAY

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The AGRLP celebrated Arbor Day on April 25 and 26. We participated with the Grand Rapids Friends of Park in a tree planting at Martin Luther Park in Grand Rapids. 365 trees were planted. The group from the AGRLP planted 5 apple trees with Hope Network group. It was a very rewarding, touching time. Also planted a tree with the TLC Church of Grand Rapids group and one other tree in the neighborhood. On Saturday a group from the AGRLP was there to educate on tree planting. 100 trees were given out to Grand Rapids residents.



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## Party for the Planet

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On Saturday, May 6, the AGRLP participated in the "Party for the Planet" at the John Ball Zoo downtown Grand Rapids. The AGRLP handed out 500 White Pine seedlings.



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## HOME SHOW AUCTION BULBS

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Year after year Larry's Lawn Care purchases the bulbs at the Home Show Auction. Here are some pictures of the bulbs that were in the past Home Shows and now planted in a field near the Ditkof's home.

