

### ***A Message from our President ~ by Drew Somsel***

An Important Message from the President of AGRLP.

The leaves have dropped, snowflakes are beginning to fly and we're driving to work in the dark. So, it's safe to say that winter is upon us. The past year has flown by, with more work than you know what to do with and phones still ringing. I know this is a problem that many, if not all of us, have experienced. It's easy to become overwhelmed. However, when we reflect on 2008 and the immediate years after, we should consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have so much work available to us.

One thing that I have noticed in my three year tenure as a board member, is how we are able to work together to benefit our industry, regardless of the fact that we may be competitors. Don't get me wrong, we're not sharing price sheets, but none of us want to see the others fail. A great example of this is the Home and Garden Show. The event requires many different companies to work together toward the common goal of presenting the industry to the community. This level of teamwork and cooperation cannot be said of many industries and is a great attribute for our local industry to possess. I commend every member for demonstrating that level of passion and professionalism.

I would like to pass along a reminder for those wishing to become more involved, and an invitation to any of your motivated coworkers who are interested in supporting the industry. Please feel free to contact Karla, or any board member, regarding your interest in serving on the board or participating in AGRLP events. It's easy to let our busy schedules take priority, but volunteering at events is extremely beneficial to the relationships we have with each other and our community. These events give us a chance to show off our industry knowledge, as well as educate and learn from the public. Please keep this in mind when you see email reminders in the spring of our upcoming events.

It has truly been a pleasure serving as your president this year. I have enjoyed meeting many new people and hope to remain involved and meet many more!

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### **Grandville Christmas Parade**

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On Friday, December 6 the AGRLP participated in the Grandville Christmas Parade. Drew Somsel drove the Advance Tree Transplantings 90" Tree Spade Truck with a real decorated tree on it. We handed out 500 hot chocolate packets with our logo and website.



# **AGRLP 2019 Year-End Newsletter**

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*Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!*

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## NEW AGRLP MEMBERS in 2019

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Welcome to our new members  
in 2019:

Walden Design  
Professional Hydroseeding  
Burnips Equipment  
Greenleaf Outdoor Services  
Grow the Bench  
Tuff Turf Molebusters

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## Party for the Planet

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On April 27 the AGRLP participated in the "Party for the Planet. We handed out 450 Balsam Fir seedlings at the John Ball Zoo.



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## 2019 Fall Radio Campaign

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The AGRLP Marketing Committee ran a 6 week ad on WJQ 99.3.

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## Grandville Fall Festival

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The City of Grandville has a fall festival. Here's the AGRLP scarecrow! Thank you to Adam and Elaine Boonenberg from Thornapple Nursery for creating this years scarecrow.



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## Winter Awards Banquet ~ 2019

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On February 21st the AGRLP held their annual Winter Awards Banquet. The banquet was at The Bluff Banquet Center in Grand Rapids. Our Landscape Award Winners were Richard Angel from Harder and Warner and Bruce deWit from Rosemont Nursery. We gave out 2) \$1000 scholarship to Brad Koetje and Abigail Denner. Then we all had a great time playing a Trivia Game!



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## Summer Field Day

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On July 26 the AGRLP held their Summer Field Day at Calvin University. 5 recertification credits were earned. Guest speakers were John Stone, Lauren Walsh and Kevin Frank. We had 146 people attend the class. During the lunch break our vendor members held a trade show where each attendee had a punch card to fill out that put them in a drawing for 1 of 3 \$100 gift cards. Schondelmayer Bar-B-Q provided a great lunch.



## Scholarship Golf Outing

On August 2 the AGRLP held their annual Scholarship Golf Outing. We had 56 golfers and earned \$2,366 for our 2020 Scholarships. The winning team was from Eco Green Supply. Longest Drive award went to Chase Kuiper and the Closest to the Pin Award went to Seth Bykerk.

A Special THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS:

EVENT SPONSORS: B & B TRUCK EQUIPMENT & MASON LAWN AND SNOW

PLATINUM SPONSORS: Allendale True Value, Eco Green Supply, Michigan Wood Fibers, Unilock, Burnips Equipment

GOLD SPONSOR: Michigan Turf and Ornamental

SILVER SPONSOR: MNLA



## WhiteCaps Meet and Greet

On June 7 the AGRLP had a great night at the WhiteCaps Meet and Greet Baseball Game. Over 200 tickets were sold for the game. A HUGE THANK YOU to our vendor member sponsors, because of their sponsorship we were able to sell the tickets at a discounted price! Everyone enjoyed an all you can eat for 1 1/2 hour dinner. Thank You to our Platinum Sponsors: B & B Truck Equipment, Ebling & Son, Eco Green Supply, Hoekstra Equipment, Michigan Wood Fibers. Gold Sponsors: Plant 1, BFG Supply.



## Annual Meeting

The AGRLP Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, December 12 @ Hanley Church. The 2020 Proposed Budget was passed. Julie Drews (Woodland Tree Services) and Amy Harrison (Frederik Meijer Gardens) were voted in for the 2020 AGRLP Board of Directors. Amy Upton gave an MNLA update.

Thank you to our retiring board members, Drew Somsel (Twin Lakes Nursery) and Adam Boonenberg (Thornapple River Nursery). We appreciate your 3 years serving on the AGRLP board.

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## Winter Learning Series

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Three Winter Learning Series classes were held again this year. 2 being full day classes for 8 recertification credits and one 1/2 day class for 4 credits. Both full day classes were sold out this year! The classes were held at Hanley Church in Grandville. John Stone led all three classes. Guest speakers were Ana Heck (MSU MPI), Lauren Walsh (MDARD) and Deb McCullough (MSU Entomology).



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## Home Show

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The West Michigan Home and Garden show was held February 28 - March 3. The AGRLP once again created the Grand Center Garden. This year's Grand Garden designer was Matt Baumbach from Pro-Mow Lawn Care and Landscape. The name of the garden was "A Place to Come Together".



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## AGRLP Monthly Meetings ~ 2019

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AGRLP October Monthly meeting at Hoekstra Equipment. Our speaker Bill Drews from Woodland Tree educating our members. Thank You, Bill and Thank You, Hoekstra Equipment.

Our September Monthly Meeting was with WZZM's George Lessen's. He gave his prediction for the 2019-2020 Winter. Thank you, GreenMark Equipment for hosting this meeting.

Our April Monthly Meeting was held at Allendale True Value & Rental. Thank you for hosting. Our speakers were MNLA's Amy Upton and Emily Huening.

On March 23 we held our Compliance Meeting at Hanley Church. The AGRLP offered 2 recertification credits in either 3A, 3B, 6 or Commerical CORE. Our speakers were a State Trooper and MDARD's Lauren Walsh.

