



WMNLA Golf Outing—Raises \$3,000 for the WMNLA Scholarship Fund

The 8th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser was a successful event for the WMNLA Scholarship Fund. 66 golfers participated, some as new members and new teams! The weather was brutal—cold and gusty, typical for Michigan in September. Of course, the camaraderie is priceless, the dinner great, and the golf is always good fun.

With generous support from



Team West Olive Nursery and **John Deere Landscapes** were in a tee-off shoot out at the putting green at the 19th hole to break their tie at 9 under, with West Olive Nursery commanding the winning putt. Last place was **Gary Katerberg & friends** at 4 over, for a second year in a row, but who's counting?



WMNLA is truly grateful for the generous support from this year's Event Sponsor **Earth Service & Supply of Wyoming**, and our Hole-In-One Prize Sponsor, **Lemmen Grand Auto of Coopersville**, who sponsored a free one-year, 12,000 mile lease on a new car to a hole-in-one winner on tee #17. Unfortunately, **Lee VerSchure of Westview Farms**, our witnessing official saw no one lucky enough to drive the car home.

Over 50 businesses, both in and outside of WMNLA, supported the event and the scholarship fund through hole sponsorships, cash prizes, and raffle gifts. Proceeds are placed into the scholarship fund. This year, WMNLA is very fortunate to be able to grow the Scholarship Fund to over \$13,000!

A Huge Thank You goes to **Mike Mattson of Grand Haven Garden House** for organizing the event this year and for the last three years. He has done an outstanding job! Thank you to all who supported the event with hole sponsorships and raffle gift donors. A thank you goes to **Jimmy TenBrink of Earth Service & Supply** supporting this event with their sponsorship.. Next September we hope to see everyone out there again! Thank you for all your support!

President's Message

It is hard to believe that fall is among us with the warm temperatures we are experiencing. What a blessing and a curse. For most of us hopefully some extended sales from the nice weather, but the warm weather means we have to continue to irrigate. I am not complaining, for soon the harsh winter winds will blow.

Well, before I get too much farther wrapped up in the weather, let me take a moment to thank all of you who participated in the **Golf Outing**, whether sponsoring holes, prizes, or braving the *windy winter weather* out on the course. We had a great turn out and raised over \$3000 for the scholarship and our programs. I would like to personally thank **Mike Mattson, Laurel Nease, Lee VerSchure**, and current board members for all the hard work and help that they put into this year's Golf Outing.

As the growing season is slowing down, the WMNLA programs are just beginning. A nice start to the season with the program being held somewhere new, with a great Bar-B-Que planned for lunch. Our first program will be on **Wednesday Oct. 10 at Earth Service & Supply---** starting at a new time of 10:00 a.m. I hope to see all of you there.

I wish all of you a great fall. Take some time to enjoy the fall colors in this beautiful state of Michigan and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Matt

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

THANK YOU to the WMNLA Golf Outing Sponsors

Earth Service & Supply
Event Sponsor

Lemmen Grand Auto

Hole-In-One Sponsor

D. Baker & Son Lumber Company
R.E. Barber Ford—Rob Hilbink
Bos Sprinkling
Joe Danicek Boulevard Used Cars
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City Farmer
Clearbrook Golf Club & Restaurants
Clover Bar
Comerica Bank
DeeLite Restaurant
Double L Enterprise, Inc.
Dykstra Landscape Services, Inc.
Eastern Floral & Gifts
Evergreen Acres
Frederik Meijer Gardens
Frens Nursery LLC
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Snug Harbor Restaurant
Tip A Few Tavern
Terra Verde Golf Course
True Value Allendale
Vandenberg Bulb Inc.
Vriesland Growers Co-Op, Inc.
West Michigan Tree Services
Zelenka Nursery - Joe Eveland
Zelenka Wholesale Center

Congratulations to First Place
Winners West Olive Nursery
Second Place John Deere Landscapes





WMNLA Scholarship Fund Grows

WMNLA hosts two fundraising events to directly benefit the scholarship fund, in fall with the Golf Outing and in spring with March Garden Day.

This is an excellent opportunity for student employees/interns to apply for their college education in the green industry. The Scholarship Committee is looking for 2-3 top applications for 2008.

The deadline is **March 1, 2008** through the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. Applications are available online at www.ghacf.org.

WMNLA Scholarship Fund History:

	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Awards</u>
April 2007	\$15,330.88	\$3,000
April 2006	\$9,848.65	-
April 2005	\$8,387.96	\$2,000
April 2004	\$8,716.63	\$4,500
April 2003	\$5,114.00	\$3,750
April 2002	\$3,398.17	\$1,300

WMNLA Member News—Walters Gardens Make Switch to Elle Plugs

In their ongoing efforts towards sustainability, **Walters Gardens, Inc.** has made the transition from growing perennial liners in plastic pots to growing in more environmentally responsible Elle Plugs.

Elle Plugs consist of a biodegradable paper sleeve vacuum filled with soilless growing media. The paper is air, water, and root permeable, allowing the roots to be bathed in oxygen which is essential for the roots to grow strong and fast. Trials have demonstrated that Elle Plugs finish as fast or faster than traditional plugs, resulting in a quicker turnaround time for both Walters and their customers. They also transplant quicker and easier than traditional plugs with

less disturbance to the roots.

Walters has already received a tremendous amount of positive feedback over their new Elle Plugs. The majority are most impressed by their environmental friendliness; people feel good

about not having to dump any plastic pots in the landfill and they like that the trays are recyclable. Larger growers with

transplanting machinery appreciate that Elle Plugs are automation ready. And retailers understand the importance of the uniform crop that Elle Plugs deliver, noting the effect of fewer markdowns on their bottom line.

Walters Gardens, Inc. offers three sizes of Elle Plugs: 65mm/20 per tray, 50mm/30 per tray, and 35mm/72 per tray. Hundreds of varieties of new and classic perennials are available, including a special line of vernalized and non-vernalized hostas. All varieties offered in 35mm Elle Plugs, as well as new introductions and hostas of all sizes, are virus-indexed. For a complete availability and more information about Elle Plugs, visit www.waltersgardens.com.





WEST MICHIGAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

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West Olive, MI 49460

For advertising, business news, submission of articles and WMNLA member news:

Contact Laurel Nease at

(616) 847-8955

Email: nease@triton.net



Mark Your Calendar!

November 7 -

“Weeds, Bugs & Diseases”

featuring panelists-

*Jim TenBrink of Earth Service & Supply,
Vic Foerster of West Michigan Tree Service, &
John Winham of Windscaapes Ornamentals.*

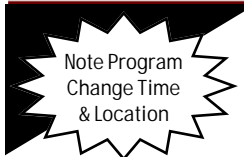
2007-08 WMNLA Board of Directors

Matt Mellema, President; Mellema Nursery
Tom Czerniak, Vice President; Landscape Solutions West
Jim TenBrink, Treasurer; Earth Service & Supply

Tom Carmode, Secretary; Frens Nursery
Kyle Lohman, Member At Large, Double L Enterprises
Ken Stanton, Member At Large; GVSU Facility Services

“Keeping It Legal—Trucking Regulations & Licensing Approval”

Presented by Ron Edwards of Fleet Compliance Group & Glenn Kuyers of Earth Service & Supply.



Note Program
Change Time
& Location

*Wednesday,
October 10*

10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

*Onsite at Earth Service & Supply,
3423 Lousma Dr SE, Grand Rapids*

*\$12 per person, includes
BBQ lunch*

*❖ Employee Special—Send 3,
4th employee free ❖*

Directions:

From US-131 S take exit 81 for 28th St/M-11 toward Wyoming. Turn left at 28th St SW/M-11. Turn right at Madison Ave SE. Continue on Roger B Chaffee Memorial Dr SE. Turn right at Lousma Dr SE. to Earth Service & Supply.

From US-131 N take exit 80 for 36th St. Turn right at 36th St SW. Turn left at Division Ave S. Turn right at 32nd St SE. Turn right at Roger B Chaffee Memorial Dr SE. Turn right at Lousma Dr SE to Earth Service & Supply.

Ron Edwards, a Management Training Specialist at the Michigan Center for Truck Safety, will review the new requirements from the MI Dept. of Transportation. He is regarded as an expert in State and Federal truck safety regulations, by the industry and the regulatory community and received a special commendation from the US DOT, Federal Highway Administration for his years of service to the trucking industry.

Mr. Edwards currently conducts safety workshops, seminar and presentations, and provides various onsite safety training services for motor carrier throughout the state. He has written an auditing guidelines program for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that is considered as a model for privatizing the Federal Safety Review process.

Glenn Kuyers, Logistics Manager for Earth Service &

Supply, brings over 9 years of transportation experience as a driver trainer and manager.

Registration & welcome start at 10:00 a.m. The program begins at 10:15 a.m. with a break for lunch at 12:30. At 1:15, Mr. Kuyers will present pre & post trip vehicle inspection and record keeping, including a “walk around inspection”.

RSVP by October 5

Let us know you are coming so our hosts can prepare!

WMNLA member businesses & staff are welcomed!

**Contact Laurel Nease at
(616) 847-8955**

nease@triton.net

to make your reservation or

**Fax your RSVP to
(616) 844-9443.**