

WVNLA NEWS

West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc. www.wvnla.org March - April 2013

Letter from the President

Members,

It is a pleasure to be part of this organization. It has allowed me to establish relationships with people in our industry with whom I otherwise might never have crossed paths. I greatly appreciate these relationships, and I respect the knowledge, dedication, and enthusiasm that our members bring to the table.

I am a volunteer with several great civic organizations. The West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association delivers a remarkable yearly Symposium, provides excellent information to our members, networks on behalf of our members, offers scholarships, and participates in annual projects that provide a better quality of life for many.

During the past year the WVNLA decided to form a stronger relationship with the West Virginia Botanical Garden. We encouraged them to pursue a long-term lease from the city for the land that they are developing. Our donation was contingent on this being fulfilled. We also asked them to seek matching funds in order to provide them with a second donation. Both of these contingencies have been met, and the WVBG is a stronger organization for it. We have appointed a liaison to their board of directors so we can share our expertise and advice.

Our summer 2012 project created a beautiful and whimsical space in a grove of hemlocks: a sign board, stone walls, and plantings along the entrance parking area. In the future I hope we can provide design work, and help with installation in areas that will not only be beautiful, but will provide a strong educational horticultural experience. Utilities are being run to the site, and plans for a small building are nearing fruition.

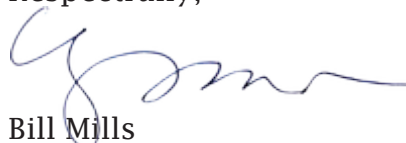
I encourage you to make the West Virginia Botanical Garden a destination so you can ↗



appreciate what has been done, and dream about its potential growth. www.wvbg.org

Please consider becoming an active member in your organization. Some of you may have interest in becoming a board or committee member. Communication has never been easier, and I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with the Board of Directors.

Respectfully,



Bill Mills
President, WVNLA

Message from the Director

It is with excitement and sadness that I announce my resignation as the Executive Director of the WVNLA. I have enjoyed representing and working for the Association over the last four years. I am proud of the Association's accomplishments over this time period and I know that it will continue to be the leading group within West Virginia and the region as it relates to the green industry.

Peace,



Beth Loflin



Tidbits, Updates, Etc.

MARCH

• Shenandoah Valley Planet Symposium
March 27, Waynesboro, VA 540-942-6735

APRIL

• Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE
Rain Gardens: Design and Installation, April 20 and 21



March Member Feature Story:

Huntington based landscape business achieves success through hard work, community, faith, and love for the outdoors. Premier Professionals Inc. is a landscaping and lawn care service located in Huntington, WV, having served the surrounding tri-state area for over a decade. They specialize in design installation, maintenance, softscapes, hardscapes, weekly lawn care services, and seasonal lawn treatments. Offering a wide range of services for both commercial and residential clients, their team of experts takes great pride in their work, with a strong emphasis on integrity, dependability, and quality. Premier Professionals has been a proud member of WVNLA since 2010.

"Our team goal, at Premier Professionals, Inc. is to provide the client with a landscape or outdoor living area that will reflect their personal taste and represent an extension of their home and property" says Michael L. Bartholomew, owner and founder of the company.

Premier Professionals provides other household services including window washing, pressure washing, gutter cleaning, and common home repairs. They are licensed and fully insured to meet most household needs.

On a commercial level, Premier Professionals is currently being featured through multiple media outlets by Marshall University for work completed at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium and the newly completed parking garage.



The business is also recognized for its strong charitable program, often giving to ministries and other organizations at both the local and state level. "While we do operate for profit, we seek first to honor God with our giving to churches and missionary causes." Premier is also known for its community mindedness through sponsorships to local schools and other community organizations.

Owner Mike Bartholomew received his 

Bachelor of Science Degree from Marshall University in Microbiology, with minors in both Chemistry and Religious Studies. He completed his graduate studies towards a M.S. degree, in Plant Physiology. His graduate research was a grant funded NASA project involving the Characterizing of Microgravity Bioreactors utilizing Medicinal Plants Cell Cultures.

Although his extensive training was gained through formal education, his hands on training began as a young boy. Raised on a 100 acre family farm, Mike grew up loving and working in the outdoors. "I was raised on a large family farm, with several acres consisting of landscaping and gardens (flowering plants, fruits and vegetables). My parents have a strong value for God's creation, and they instilled that in me early on."

Through a lot of self-education and some professional training from outside landscape contractors, Mike became familiar with lawns, plant material, and proper maintenance techniques. "Each year would bring new opportunities to expand or re-design, simply for aesthetics, or for the need to manage a portion of land more adequately. Although I did not realize it as a young man, God had placed a love in me...to make things look good!"

The company began as a sole proprietorship in 2000 to provide income while Mike completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Marshall. At that time, the concentration was on residential household needs such as pressure washing, window cleaning, gutter cleaning, lawn care, and landscape clean-up work. Having a substantial business in tact at the end of his studies, Mike incorporated the business, and Premier Professionals was born in 2005. Today, the company maintains crews to facilitate these same needs, but is primarily a design-to-build, fully licensed and contracted landscaper. Their focus today is on both residential and commercial clients.

While Mike has a hands-on role in all aspects of the business, he has a dedicated staff. Melissa Gandy is the office administrator with over a decade of experience, mostly working with V.A. medical centers in Florida. Project manager, Matt Green, has many years of experience in both personnel and business management while employed with companies in Louisville, KY and throughout the Huntington and Teays Valley areas.

Contact: 304-617-0152

premierprofessionals@hotmail.com

3328 River Avenue, Huntington, WV 25705

www.premierprosinc.com





Bill Mills, Beth Loflin, Patrick Biafore, Mark Springer & Brett Merritt at MANTS

2013 MANTS Show

The Mid Atlantic Trade Show continues to be the premier trade show for the private green industry. While other trade shows struggle, MANTS maintains a successful three-day event, featuring businesses that represent nurseries, landscape and garden items, light equipment and other allied industry products. A vendor waiting list still exists for businesses who want to participate at MANTS.

Many thanks go to Vanessa Finney and Kelly Finney of the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association who devote much time and effort towards organizing and managing the trade show.

The photos accompanying this article, below and to the left are of your Board of Directors attending the event and some of the dramatic, colorful displays throughout the exhibition hall. As you can see, show vendors pulled out all of the stops with over the top presentations featuring new products and old standbys creatively shown.



Gardening Trends

Gardening trends are directly related to the economy and locations. The United States is seeing shifts in how people garden and how owners are using their green spaces. With smaller yards and limited amount of time, Americans want to creatively garden in the least amount of time.

Interest in incorporating fruiting plants into an existing landscape is hotter than ever. Other countries have practiced this type of creative thinking for hundreds of years and now more Americans are stepping up to this concept. Grape vines, blueberry and raspberry bushes and fig trees are some easy fruitful plants to incorporate into an existing planting bed.



Lawn space is dwindling because of past weather conditions, lawn weeds, insects, animal pests and summer burn out. Instead of lawns, homeowners are turning to groundcovers, ornamental grasses, wildflower patches, and several varieties of no-mow grass varieties.

Since yard space has reduced in size for the typical homeowner, so has the mature size of plants. Dwarf forms of plants, particularly evergreens, are in high demand. Plants with ↗

mature height and width that maintain a compact form are popular with homeowners.

Interest in sensing plants continues to grow. Fragrant plants such as traditional lilacs, Tall Phlox, Dianthus, Mockorange, Viburnums and Old Fashioned Roses awaken fond memories of grandma's garden. Textural plants such as ornamental grasses, Lamb's Ear, Lychnis, Mahonia and Hollies add a sense of contrast to the sense of touch.

Sounds provided by plants in the landscape awaken memories from the past. Tree foliage and ornamental grasses from a gentle breeze provide a sense of peace to a garden space.

Plants with year-round foliage continue to be in high demand. Existing landscapes that need a boost from the "tired appearance" can be made over easily by adding plants such as Dwarf Nandina, Variegated Bloodtwig Dogwood, Serviceberry, and Willowleaf Cotoneaster are just a few plants in the high demand category.



Flowers combined with contrasting colors are still a trend with Americans. Combinations of purple and oranges, chartreuse green and magenta with lemon yellow will be planted in containers and placed on porches, window boxes, and existing flower beds.

Continual trends of smarter gardening practices will only increase. Composting, recycling/upcycling materials and mulching will be undertaken by new gardeners who want to soften their footprints on Mother Earth.



Symposium 2013 Recap

by Bill Mills

The WVNLA's Winter Symposium, *Premium Plants*, was held at the Summit Conference Center this past January 17th. This was the first year that the Symposium was moved to a one day format. This new format was well received and did not diminish the overall quality and depth of the presentations. The evaluations that were submitted were very upbeat.

January often brings in unpredictable weather. All of the speakers made it in time for their presentations, but winter weather here in West Virginia sent many of our southern residents scampering to hit the roads home in the afternoon.

The speakers all felt very positive about how they were treated and, as always, leave West Virginia knowing that our state presents a cutting-edge seminar.

Kelly Norris presented the key note presentation with his characteristic enthusiasm. Kelly was just mentioned in *Organic Gardening Magazine* in an article entitled "The New Generation of Horticulturalist", as well as a cover article in *The Iowan Magazine*.

Emma Seniuk stepped in at the last minute for Bill Thomas, the Director of Chanticleer, who was suffering with the flu. One would never have known that Emma had never spoken on behalf of Chanticleer before, as her presentation was so gracious, inspired, passionate and knowledgeable.

All of the speakers brought their personal expertise and depth of knowledge to provide a very stimulating presentation. The middle of winter is always a good time to be recharged with new visions and new knowledge.

Everyone enjoys the time to talk with other members from across the state.

I attend seminars across this continent, and many of them are excellent. The WVNLA can be very proud to be among the best of them.

The West Virginia
Nursery & Landscape
Association, Inc.



www wvnla org

Curb Appeal Plants

Consider suggesting new curb appeal plants to your clients. Adding new attractive plants will not only bring attention to their landscape, it will illustrate your experience and knowledge of how to enhance their personal space.

Adding one small flowering tree, five bright-colored foliage plants, a mass of summer-blooming perennials, or cluster of containers filled with overflowing annuals can achieve instant curb appeal.

An excellent way to add interest to a residence is by planting topiary evergreens or espaliered trees in the ground or a seasonal hardy container. The container can be placed along a front walk or near a corner of a driveway.

Simple architectural elements such as a colorful gate, a section of fencing with climbing roses, or an antique wheel barrow adds a touch of curb appeal.

Consider using chartreuse foliaged plants in several locations. These colorful zinger plants will catch notice in window boxes, planting beds and again in containers. Below are some suggestions:

Golden Spirit Smoketree

Euphorbia

Elephant Ear

Chartreuse Reindeer Moss

Donald Gold Monterey Cypress

Zinnia Envy

Rudbeckia 'Green Wizard'

Heuchera 'Lime Marmalade'

Heuchera Key Lime Pie

Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'

Aquilegia vulgaris "Woodside Gold"

Deschampia flexuosa, Wavy Hair Grass

Aruncus dioicus, Goat's Beard

Sources: (Meadowbrook Nursery, Sandysplants.com, Willoway Nurseries)



New Members/ Returning Member

The West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association welcomes the following new members:

TallyHo Landscaping, Lewisburg, WV

Rudy Horst

TallyHo Landscaping offers the following services: arborist, landscape nursery, landscape construction and maintenance.

304-646-2622 rbhorst@gmail.com

RSG Landscaping & Lawn Care, Inc. Concord, VA
Ronnie Guthrie

RSG Landscaping and Lawn Care offers landscape construction and maintenance.

434-993-2753 rguthrie@rsglandscaping.com

Merchant Services, Irvine, CA

Scott Norris

Merchant Services offers ecommerce solutions and credit card processing

949-861-4000 Scott.Norris@merchantsvcs.com

West Virginia Geotextiles, Parkersburg, WV

Vernon Criss

304-485-0466 atlastowing@frontier.com

West Virginia Geotextiles is a wholesaler for landscape fabrics ↗

Returning Member

Halian & Associates, McHenry, MD

Brian Branthoover

Halian & Associates offers landscape architect design services and landscape construction

Email Addresses

We want to make it as easy as is possible to contact your organizational leaders. If you do not have email capabilities, we will be pleased to pass along any letters sent to Board members. Here are email addresses for everyone on the Board of Directors.

Patrick Biafore patrick@biafore.com

Bill Mills terraSalis@gmail.com

Mark Springer Mark@lavalette.net

Tim Forren forrensoil@aol.com

Steve Saunders saunders801@aol.com

Chris Chanlett cchanlett@gmail.com

Norman Cole III thecoles1@suddenlink.net

Scott Barnitz scott.barnitz@bobsmarket.com

John Jett john.jett@mail.wvu.edu

Bud Cottrill wvgardening@yahoo.com

Beth Loflin, Director wvnlassoc@gmail.com

