

President's Message

"We all know that we cannot choose when it rains. All we can do is put on a raincoat and work away."

This perfect quote came from our 2016 scholarship recipient, Amanda Hamilton. When Amanda applied for the WVNLA scholarship, she was facing some difficult trials.



Despite that, her application evidenced her achievements and her commitment to using her talents in the green industry. I hope she is doing well and that the scholarship was a great help to her.

This past year has been marked by a series of "rainstorms" for everyone: COVID-19, employee issues because of COVID-19, financial issues, COVID-19, new rules and regulations, COVID-19, children at home, COVID-19, ice storms, COVID-19, snow, COVID-19, flooding, COVID -19, and the list goes on and on. But one thing I have not heard of is anyone quitting because of the pandemic. Instead, we have put on our raincoats and worked away.

As we start 2021, I pray for a safe and prosperous year with more sunny days and fewer rainstorms. Please remember that WVNLA has information available that can make your days sunnier! We are a great resource and we can help.

Best wishes for the 2021 season,

Stephen K. Saunders

Stephen Saunders is WVNLA's new president and the owner of Saunders Lawn Care in Huntington.

Winter Went Out With a Bang

Winter took what we all hope was its last big swing in February, hobbling growers and nurseries in the western part of the state with an ice storm that caused power outages and, in turn, ornamental stock damage. Greenhouse growers whose generators couldn't supply adequate power lost plant material to the cold temperatures.

"We lost power for 21 days," said Bill Shanklin, who, along with his wife, Debbie, operates six greenhouses in Kenna. The greenhouses supply Debbie's Corner & Greenhouse, their retail business at Capitol Market in Charleston.

"The cold hit our annuals hard," Bill added. "We'd planted up 75 to 100 flats, each with 32 plants. They were all killed."

Although the Shanklins have some generators, they weren't powerful enough to warm their six greenhouses for such an extended period of time, despite repeated purchases of propane, Bill said. Big sellers such as portulaca, lantana, and New Guinea impatiens all died in the cold.

The Shanklins replanted, but their supply of annuals will now be three or four weeks later than usual. The delay will leave them short of product for customers who are anxious to buy colorful annuals early in the season.

Kim Jackson's greenhouses near Milton lost electrical power for six days. He and his employees manned and rotated two generators through the seven greenhouses to keep them heated.

"We'd sleep a couple of hours then get up and keep things going. We managed not to lose anything," Kim said. What they did lose, however, was planting time. They've fallen behind in potting up cuttings, especially for the lush hanging baskets they offer customers. Kim anticipates they'll still be ready to go



when needed though.

"We're a little behind, but we can catch up if we have good weather," said Kim. They were also happy to see the receding of flood waters that were lapping at a corner of one greenhouse.

Although not a heated-greenhouse grower, Brett Merritt of G&G Nurseries in Lesage watched in dismay as the branches of his stock bowed under the weight of ice that encrusted them for about a week. Despite the

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Two Deserving Candidates Recieve Scholarships

WVNLA's board of directors has selected two recipients for the 2021 Marcus W. Rennix Memorial Scholarship.

Sarah Naegele

Sarah Naegele is a senior studying landscape architecture at West Virginia University. She grew up in Charleston, where she graduated from Capital High School. Her path to landscape architecture was initially sparked by a love of art.

"When I came to West Virginia University, I was undecided but had been leaning toward art or landscape architecture for my major," Sarah explained. "I had taken art classes all four years of



Sarah Naegele

high school and already knew what to expect, but I had no clue what landscaping would require. So I decided to take one of the basic classes, History of Landscape Architecture, and absolutely loved the idea of the job. It was amazing to think that my creativity could be reflected and

produced into the landscape for people to enjoy."

Summer employment with TerraCare in Charleston helped Sarah understand the type of work a licensed landscaper does. She used her auto-CAD skills for design, furthered her knowledge of plant materials, and installed beds. Her projects ranged from basic residential jobs to the elaborate flowerbeds on the State Capitol campus.

"It helped me realize that my job will have me outside as much as inside," she said.

In her recommendation letter, Sarah's landscape architecture advisor, Lisa Orr, spoke highly of her academic performance, as well as her potential.

"Sarah was a talented designer even at an early stage in her academic career," Lisa said. "I expect her to be an accomplished professional in the field after she graduates."

The news that she was a scholarship recipient surprised Sarah.

"When I received the email letting me know that I had received the Marcus W. Rennix Memorial Scholarship, I was very shocked. I do not think it quite set in until I received the letter a few days

later. I did not stop smiling the whole day, it was such an honor," she said.

After her graduation in May, Sarah hopes to return to TerraCare. An avid hiker, she hopes to one day design trails for state or national parks.

"I would love to come back to West Virginia and be able to design something new and unique, to leave my own mark on these beautiful mountains," she said.

Jacob Riggelman

Jacob Riggelman is a junior studying horticulture at West Virginia University. He grew up in Buckhannon, where he enjoyed working in vegetable gardens at an early age. When he was 16, he started his own lawn care and landscape business in his hometown.

After Jacob graduated from Buckhannon-Upshur High School in 2018, he decided to further his education in horticulture. He attended WVU Potomac State College in Keyser, where he earned an associate's degree in horticulture in the spring of 2020. The following semester, he enrolled at WVU in Morgantown, where he is on track to earn a bachelor's degree in horticulture in 2022.

"I was very excited about this program, as it is what I am very passionate about," he said.

Jacob's advisor and instructor at Potomac State, Donna Coffindaffer, said that he is not only an excellent and devoted student, but that he also seeks experiences outside the classroom to further his education.

"He worked with our sustainable agriculture coordinator, Corey Armstrong, and our farm supervisor, Andy Walker, to gain hands-on knowledge of greenhouse work, high-tunnel production, maple syrup production, and general

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Jacob Riggelman

Please Welcome Our New WVNLA Members

Hadley's Lawn Care

Active member

Shawn Hadley
84 Plummer Drive
Leon, WV 25123
shawnhadley72@gmail.com
304-389-8468
Fertilization and weed control.

Harmon Vegetation Management

Active member

Edward Harmon
2187 Middle Fork Drive
Charleston, WV 25314

304-550-6645

harmonvmllc@gmail.com

Landscape and vegetation management.

Perfect Lawn & Landscape

Active member

Corey Price
P.O. Box 503
Crab Orchard, WV 25827
304-552-6506
corey_19@msn.com
Landscape design and construction, lawn and landscape maintenance, hardscape design and installation, lighting and irrigation.

Ball Seed Releases 2021 Landscape Solutions Resource

Just in time for spring, the landscape division of Ball Seed has released its 2021 THRIVE Landscape Solutions brochures. These helpful resources put expert regional plant advice into the hands of greenhouse growers, who, in turn, help their landscape customers build top-performing designs.

The brochures showcase dozens of new and tried-and-true varieties, while offering the best recommendations to achieve planting success across North America. Five regions, selected by Jeff Gibson, Ball Seed's landscape business manager, are targeted:

- Midwestern & Northeastern U.S. and Eastern Canada
- Southeastern U.S.
- Southwestern U.S.
- U.S. Golf States
- Western U.S. and Western Canada

Also included in each regional brochure are top tips for landscape planting success and a "What to Order When" calendar to help landscapers work effectively with their growers.

"The key to quality landscape design is putting

the right plant in the right place," said Gibson. "I'm thrilled to collaborate with our regional sales teams and experts at Ball Seed to give greenhouse growers a customized tool to share with their clients for landscape installation success."

Contact your Ball Seed sales representative or Ball ColorLink associate at 800-879-BALL to request regional copies of 2021 Thrive Landscape Solutions, or browse them all online and download digital copies at balllandscape.com/thrive2021.

WINTER

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extreme challenges of running a business without power for 12 days, Brett considers himself fortunate.

"The plants all recovered. We had very little damage," he said.

As everyone ramps up for the busy spring season, memories of the wintry storm will fade, and high hopes for a productive season will replace them.

SCHOLARSHIP

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farm tasks," Donna said. "These have enhanced his education with practical knowledge that will serve him well in any future work. The work ethic that Jacob brings to each task is far beyond the normal college student."

Today, Jacob mows some 15 yards and usually completes at least one landscape job a week. During

the school year, he travels from Morgantown on weekends and some evenings to meet his customers' needs. After graduation, he plans to grow his business and hire employees. He hopes to start a greenhouse for growing bedding and vegetable plants, and for propagating fruit trees.

"I would like to thank the West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association for this scholarship. I intend to dedicate my future to making our world more aesthetically pleasing and more sustainable," Jacob said.

Sound Disease Management Controls Black Spot of Rose

By Adam Champ

Black spot is an important disease of roses worldwide and ubiquitous in gardens throughout the Mountain State. Here in West Virginia, black spot is the single largest impediment for gardeners in growing healthy, beautiful roses.

Diplocarpon rosae is the fungal pathogen responsible for this disease. Roses that are repeatedly and severely infected are unattractive, lose their vigor, and are predisposed to other pests and winter injury.

The symptoms of black spot are dark brown/purple-to-black lesions on leaves. The lesions are roughly circular, but they can be irregularly shaped. They usually have fringed margins. In the right environmental conditions, small fruiting structures called *acervuli* develop in the lesions and produce a



type of spore called *conidia*. The lesions will enlarge and coalesce, blighting the entire leaf. Infected leaves turn yellow and defoliate. The disease usually begins lower on the shrub and spreads upward. This is due to the natural microclimate, which limits air flow and leads to an increase in moisture and humidity at the base of shrubs.

The pathogen overwinters in fallen leaf litter and diseased canes from the previous growing season. This is the primary inoculum, which serves as the first infection source of the growing season. Once infected, spores produced from fruiting structures in the lesions will produce secondary infections throughout the remainder of the growing season.

Spores are windblown or rain splashed onto new foliage. Black spot can spread fast under ideal environmental conditions. Temperatures ranging from 65 to 85°F and prolonged periods of moisture are required for spore germination and infection.

There is a wide degree of susceptibility among

types and cultivars of roses. Generally, many of the shrub roses exhibit a higher degree of resistance than other types of roses, with hybrid teas being among the most susceptible. However, there are cultivars within all types that show some level of resistance. A simple internet search will uncover many varieties you can try. It is important not to confuse resistance with immunity. A resistant cultivar merely resists disease. There is no standardized threshold to declare a cultivar resistant. Some cultivars may exhibit strong resistance, while others may be less so, especially if conditions are conducive for disease development. The breeding of resistant cultivars is an important tool for rose cultivation and reducing fungicide use in the future.

There is a plethora of fungicides registered for black spot control. Some commonly used are chlorothalonil, captan, mancozeb, thiophanate-methyl, propiconazole, and myclobutanil. It is important to rotate modes of action to prevent the pathogen from becoming resistant and to retain the effectiveness of the fungicide. You may find the FRAC number on the product label, which signifies the mode of action in which the fungicide belongs. Adding a sticky adjuvant to the spray solution will aid control by allowing the fungicide to better adhere to the waxy cuticle of rose leaves. Once infected, roses will need to be treated for the rest of the growing season at intervals directed on the label. Always read and follow all directions on the pesticide label!

Cultural controls are also important in combatting black spot. Any cultural control that reduces moisture and humidity will help make the environment unfavorable to the fungal spores and to subsequent infection. Proper spacing, sun exposure, pruning, and weed control will result in improved air flow between and through shrubs, reducing humidity.

Avoiding overhead irrigation and irrigating in the morning to promote faster drying of foliage will help control black spot and many other diseases as well. Mulching will allow for better moisture retention in the soil, which alleviates the need to irrigate daily. It also helps prevent unwanted weed growth, which reduces air flow and competes with the rose shrub for resources.

Raking fallen leaves in autumn and pruning diseased canes in winter will help reduce the primary inoculum source in the spring. Infected foliage may also be pruned out during the growing season to reduce secondary inoculum. In addition to

Please see **BLACK SPOT** on next page.

Southern Nursery Association Ceases Operation

After canceling its annual conference, the Southern Nursery Association (SNA) announced that the board of directors has made the difficult decision to cease operation of the 121-year-old organization. Since the conference is the main source of income and since membership is declining, the board decided that the association cannot be sustained.

Founded in 1899, the SNA, a non-profit 501(c)6 trade association representing the horticulture industry in the southeastern U.S., accomplished many achievements in fulfilling its mission “to unite and advance the horticulture industry through educational, research and marketing efforts.” West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association was a long-time member of SNA and benefitted in years past from SNA’s support.

The SNA produced a trade show from 1950 – 2009, the SNA Research Conference from 1955 to 2020, and the SNA Plant Conference from 1991 to 2020. In addition, the association hosted a State Officer’s Conference to encourage the exchange of information and learn about various issues affecting the industry throughout the region. Through a collaborative effort with industry researchers, the SNA produced The Best Management Practices (BMP) Guide, designed to help growers identify and promote exceptional management practices, methods and procedures.

In an effort to preserve the 121-year legacy of the SNA, two existing Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) Funds (the SNA Fund and the SNA Golf Classic Fund) will be combined (totaling approximately \$300,000) and renamed the Southern Nursery Association Legacy Fund.

Past SNA Executive Vice Presidents Danny Summers (1989 – 2006) and Karen Summers (2012 – 2020) have volunteered to maintain the sna.org website to house SNA’s history and the Best Management Practices: Guide for Producing

Nursery Crops. Additionally, an SNA Facebook page will be maintained.

The Sidney B. Meadows Scholarship Endowment Fund, created by SNA in 1989, will not be impacted by this move. The Fund is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable corporation fully independent of the SNA and will continue its efforts to award academic scholarships to horticulture students throughout the southeastern U.S.

SNA’s leadership urges former members to continue SNA’s mission to protect and advance the industry by becoming active members of their state horticulture association and AmericanHort.

Pesticide Course and CPH Exam in July



WVNLA offered a Pesticide Applicators Recertification course in February at the Embassy Suites in Charleston, with full COVID safety measures in place.

WVNLA will offer a **Pesticide Recertification** course on **July 14** at Glade Springs Resort near Beckley. Registration information will be sent to all association members closer to the event date. The **Certified Professional Horticulturist** exam will also be offered on **July 14** at Glade Springs. Register for it online at wvnla.org.

BLACK SPOT

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removing diseased canes, a goal of annual maintenance pruning should be to shape the interior part of the shrub to allow for better air flow. All pruning should be done in dry weather, and equipment should be sterilized frequently to prevent the spread of various diseases.

Black spot is not an easy disease to control, so an “all of the above” approach is recommended.

Fungicide treatments and the use of resistant varieties alone will not overcome poor cultural practices. In summary, black spot is a common and destructive disease of one of our most popular horticultural plants, but incorporating sound disease management practices into your landscape will go a long way toward keeping your roses healthy and happy!

Adam C. Champ is a Plant Regulatory Officer II with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. Email him at achamp@wvda.us.

WVNLA NEWS

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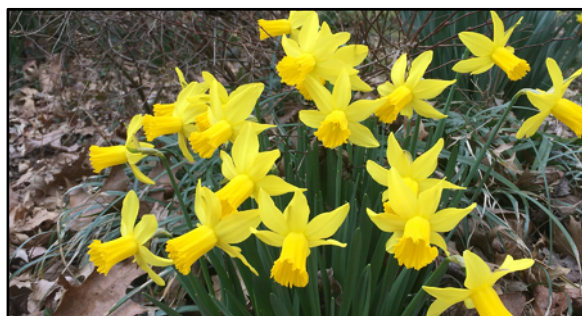
WVNLA Dates to Note

WVNLA Board Meeting, May 27, 10 a.m.
Charleston

Cultivate 21, July 10-13, Columbus, OH

WVNLA Pesticide Applicators Recertification,
July 14, Glade Springs Resort

Certified Professional Horticulturist exam,
July 14, Glade Springs Resort



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