

President's Message

I cannot believe it is already fall. I guess this year has been so busy and challenging that I have missed summer. As I was looking through emails I ran across one from Marty Grunder and The Grow



WVNLA President
Steve Saunders

Group, reminding me to start budgeting for 2022. This got me thinking ahead to our Winter Symposium on January 26. If you have not yet

planned on coming, you need to because you do not want to miss Marty Grunder, Rick Darke and Carol Reese. They are national speakers addressing the issues that speak to us. It really is noteworthy that a small organization such as ours is bringing in such heavy hitters.

The Winter Symposium provides a great opportunity to really interact with them in a more intimate setting than they usually appear. Plus, the price is incredible. Just \$50 (WVNLA member price) for a full day of Marty Grunder. Unheard of! He headlines huge events such as NALP (National Association of Landscape Professionals), New England Grows, and Grow!

Marty's The Grow Group website captures him better than I can: *As comfortable on stage as he is on a job site, he has delivered more than 550 talks and motivated audiences of all shapes and sizes, from a small gathering of 20 to a stadium of 9,000. Everything our*

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Biltmore Horticulture Wows Tour Group

In the late 1880s, when Frederick Law Olmstead, our country's father of landscape architecture, was laying out Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina, owner George Vanderbilt asked him to design not only a bucolic oasis with views of the scenic Smokey Mountains but also a working estate with an eye toward preservation and management. Before Vanderbilt approached him, Olmstead had already designed New York's Central Park and Boston's Emerald Necklace. As it turned out, Biltmore would be his last and largest project. Today, Olmsted's vision still guides every plan made and species planted on the estate.

On August 27, WVNLA members and guests, and WVU professors and students toured Biltmore's grounds in the capable hands of the

estate's lead horticulturist, Parker Andes, and his colleague Bill Quade. We gathered early on a foggy morning at the appointed spot, just left of the chateaulike "house," to meet Parker, a WVU landscape architecture graduate who has been with Biltmore for more than 20 years. As he greeted us, Parker pointed to what is normally the "million-dollar view" of distant mountains that first inspired Vanderbilt to build his estate



The formal walled gardens dazzle with seasonal color and lead the way to the conservatory in the background.

there, but it was hidden by a bank of fog. Even the house, with its massive dimensions, could not be seen from the front lawn. Yet, the dense coverage proved to be a blessing that morning, as the temperatures would later touch the 90s.

For our tour, we split into two groups to cover the grounds more expediently. The first stop for our group was a graveled aisle along what used to be a swimming pool. This area is covered with an arbor of vining wisteria. The enormous,

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BILTMORE

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gnarled trunks at the base of the plants spoke of their age. Some of them were original plantings. We walked past statues representing the four seasons and then emerged into the Shrub Garden, which leads to the formal walled gardens fronting the glass conservatory.

The walled gardens contain plants either listed by Olmsted or deemed acceptable substitutes. Olmsted's original design for this space featured vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees to supply the estate's needs, but Vanderbilt wanted nothing so pedestrian in full view of his guests. So Olmsted altered his design of the area to include ornamental plants and foliage that pleased the eye. Today, gardeners experiment with showy plants to see which ones will thrive in these gardens, before using them in the formal beds. The lower half of the walled gardens features 50 varieties of roses planted at the end of the nineteenth century, plus modern varieties, including the All-American.

We then moved on to the conservatory, a place originally intended to harbor tender plants and citrus trees. Today it is a showplace of tropicals. The lush displays of exotic flowers and showy foliage contain neither a dead leaf nor a fading bloom to mar the view. An H-gauge train runs



The pools in the Italian Garden reflect sections of the mansion.

above visitors' heads on trellises and tracks formed of natural twigs and branches. The train makes stops at lovely miniature replicas of Biltmore and its surrounding structures.

Later, our group made its way through greenhouses and staging areas, where the unseen work of the Biltmore grounds is done. A large portion of the greenhouse was dedicated to thousands of poinsettias, which will decorate the house during the holiday season.

We then wandered along well-maintained trails through the Azalea Garden, a 15-acre section that contains one of the country's finest collections of azaleas. These paths must be ablaze with color in April and May!

On our trek through towering evergreens, Bill pointed out the many "state champion" trees, judged to be the largest specimens in the state. Throughout our descent to the pond and climb back to the formal grounds, Olmsted's commitment to open spaces and natural beauty was evident. Even on the three-mile approach road, which meanders from the estate entrance to the house grounds, the foliage practically brushes the roadside. More than 100 years ago, visitors traveling in slow-moving coaches would have ample opportunity to observe the plants along the way, Olmsted thought.

The great expanse of manicured lawn in front of the house gives testimony to the power of open spaces. Nothing detracts from the view of the magnificent home. At one time, trees were planted along the edge, but they were later removed, as they didn't follow Olmsted's vision.

As we emerged atop a restorative shady path, our guide pointed out a view of the walled garden below and the patterns formed by the colorful plantings. These plantings are changed three times a year. More than 75,000 tulips are planted in the fall. After their show-stopping performance in the spring, estate gardeners remove them and plant colorful bedding annuals in their place. In September, the annuals are pulled and mums are planted for fall color.

Biltmore horticulturists have a well-cultivated relationship with several growers who produce plants to the estate's specifications and deliver them, literally at the crack of dawn. The drivers leave their production houses in the middle of the night, in order to have the plants on site and ready for installation as early in the day as possible. Biltmore workers install the plants with minimal disruption to visitors' views, removing and replanting one section at a time to decrease any mess.

The final leg of our grounds tour took us along



Parker Andes guides a tour group. Photo by Bud Cottrill.

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BILTMORE

(Continued from page 2)

the Italian Garden. Reminiscent of Versailles, with statuary and lily-pad-filled reflecting pools, the garden borders the vast front lawn. Koi and goldfish swim through the roots of water lilies, elephant ears, and grasses in the three pools.

Back at the wisteria-covered south terrace, our original meeting place, the fog had lifted and we were able to fully take in the sunny “million-dollar view” of meadows leading to the incomparable Smokey Mountains.

After lunch in the Stable Café, our group embarked on self-guided tours of the chateau, marveling at its architecture and enormous dimensions. Dinner that evening was a sumptuous seafood buffet at the Omni Grove Park, a historic resort in Asheville with a noteworthy view of the city and the distant mountains. The dinner was a fitting ending to a day filled with history and



WVNLA members and guests gather after the grounds tour to admire the Biltmore's spectacular "million dollar view."

spectacular gardens resplendent with greenery and blooms.

EVENTS

(Continued from page 1)

professionals teach is based on what we know works. We test it ourselves at our “living laboratory,” the business Marty began as a teenager and still leads today. We don't just share theories and ideas: we share tactics we use that we know still work. Our team has more than 95 years - and counting - of combined experience in the field; whether you're trying to grow your business or trying to get better control over it, they'll get you where you want to go.

Rick Darke heads up our Design side speakers. A field botanist, horticulturist and gifted photographer, Rick lives in Pennsylvania and frequently visits and photographs the flora in West Virginia's Allegheny Highlands. Much of the photography he'll feature will be from West Virginia, specifically the Allegheny Highlands. Rick will cover the entire morning session of the Design track. He'll feature photos from his extensive collection in the first 90-minute segment on drawing inspiration from West Virginia's Wild and Wonderful Places. After a half-hour break (so people can speak with him and each other), he will deliver a design lecture on the gardens he and his wife Melinda nurture at their Pennsylvania home.

Darke's work is grounded in an observational ethic that blends art, ecology, and cultural geography. Projects include parks, scenic byways, transportation corridors, corporate and collegiate campuses, conservation developments, post - industrial brownfields, botanic gardens and

residential landscapes.

In the afternoon, the well-regarded **Carol Reese** of the University of Tennessee, will discuss Native Plants: Facts and Fallacies and explore and dispute some of the claims that are made about natives. She says she feels like the native purist movement is actually harming biodiversity rather than helping it. She hopes attendees will come away with thoughts about the bigger picture and the real issues wildlife face.

After a break, Carol will discuss Ordinary Plants with Extraordinary Stories. These are the plants we see every day. She'll tell us of their fascinating roles in our nation's history, or further back, their contributions to the Native American way of life.

Registration opens in December. All WVNLA members will receive email notifications.

And finally, MANTS 2022 is also right around the corner – January 5-7. Held annually at the Baltimore Convention Center, registration is now open for the early bird special of only \$20 per individual ticket through December 1, 2021. If you are unfamiliar, MANTS is known as the Masterpiece of Trade Shows with good reason. It's where horticulture industry leaders gather. Visit mants.com for details.

Enjoy your fall and be safe! I look forward to seeing you at one or both of the shows.

Thank you,
Stephen K. Saunders

Companies Volunteer to Beautify Entrance for a Worthy Group

It must be difficult to say “no” to G&G Nursery owner Brett Merritt. When Golden Girl Group Home development director Nikki Thomas told him they were opening a new resale business/education building in Ceredo, he knew they’d need some low maintenance landscaping around it. He mentioned the project to some of his landscape customers, and wasn’t surprised when they all agreed to help.

“All of these companies are short-handed and behind on their own to-do lists, yet they were willing to donate time and resources to help,” Brett said. “They responded on short notice, some of them essentially working double shifts the day before in order to be available.”



The crew takes a brief photo break.

The landscaping trucks roared up in front of the newly constructed building early in the morning of September 30. Loaded with gravel, mushroom compost, and river rock, the trucks stood ready as landscapers quickly laid and cut heavy-duty landscape fabric as specified in the design created by Marie Merritt, Brett’s wife.

Crede Warner of Tri State Lawn and Landscape Pros and two of his employees began filling one of the four (five-foot) planters donated by Steve Saunders of Saunders Lawn Care. Crede said he was happy to help when asked.

“I’m very familiar with Golden Girl and the work they do there. They are right here in my neighborhood. I always want to help take care of my community,” Crede said.

Golden Girl Group Home also in Ceredo provides housing and programs for girls who have been sexually abused or neglected. In 2010, WVNLA landscaped the home under the direction of Mark Springer and Brett, who was WVNLA president at the time and chose the project as his president’s project. The new Ceredo location will house a resale store, with profits benefiting the program, and an education center and hospitality room and full kitchen. Participants will receive from on-the-job

retail and hospitality training. The attractive room is available to rent for events.

For this project, all materials and labor were donated, costing neither the Golden Girl organization nor WVNLA anything.

As the men and women began the arduous task of spreading river rock, yet another landscaping truck laden with river rock pulled up. Roger Smith of Procutters Lawn and Landscape hopped out of the cab and asked where the load should go. Roger said he attends church with Nikki and didn’t hesitate to volunteer both materials and labor to the project.

In all, six company owners and employees, showed up to pitch in on the project. Three other companies donated services or materials. “Nobody said no,” Brett said. The companies are:

4 Seasons Lawn Care & More, Brian Walls and TJ Williamson, labor

Dixon Lawn Care, Andy Dixon, labor

Dreamscape, Bret Barnett, labor and materials, including half the pavers

G&G Nursery and Creation Gardens and Design, Brett Merritt, labor and materials

Lavalette Landscaping, Mark Springer, labor and materials

Procutters Lawn and Landscape, Roger Smith, labor

Saunders Lawn Care, Steve Saunders, pots

Scioto Block, half the pavers

Steel Blooming, Joe Foley and Dawn Pawley, metal flowers

Triplett’s Preowned, Brandon and Tami Triplett, labor and materials to refinish pots

Tri State Lawn and Landscape Pros, Crede Warner, labor

After a morning’s work, everyone stepped away from a fully landscaped property that enhances the Golden Minds Center for Learning and



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Monitor Lawns and Fields for Proactive Control of Fall Armyworms

By Carlos Quesada, WVU Extension

Fall armyworms have been reported causing significant damage on forage grasses, turfgrasses and pipeline vegetation cover in West Virginia. Fall armyworms feed on over 80 plant species, but prefer grasses, including rye and wheat. This insect also frequently damages field crops, including alfalfa, barley, bermudagrass, buckwheat, clover, corn, oats, millet, sorghum, sugar beets, sudangrass and soybeans. Occasionally, fall armyworm injures apple and peach trees, grapevines, and strawberry plants.

Late in June, fall armyworms arrived in West Virginia from the south. Shortly after, eggs were laid in masses on the undersides of plant leaves, tree trunks, undersides of tree limbs and other structures near suitable host plants, such as fences, bleachers and light posts. Outbreaks of armyworm occur every few years.

Fall armyworm larvae feed as a group and can devour an entire lawn or hay field in a matter of a few days. Damage is caused by larvae (caterpillars) when chewing plant tissue. The grass may seem to thin out and develop brown spots, which look burned or browned out. This appearance is the result of grass plants rapidly dehydrating after fall armyworm larvae damage. For this reason, fall armyworm damage often resembles drought damage. Feeding of all armyworm is reduced by cold temperatures in fall and the insects will die in the first frost.

Farmers and turfgrass managers should scout their fields every three to four days to monitor for caterpillars in July, August and September. Treatment is recommended when more than three worms of 1/4 inch in length or greater are found in a 1-square-foot area. Control will depend on good

coverage. Because tall grass is more difficult to treat than shorter grass, mowing is recommended prior to treatment. Grazing or harvesting infested areas can reduce losses, but treatment will still be required to reduce insect populations.

Several insecticides with different active ingredients kill fall armyworm. Spinosad, chlorantraniliprole, azadirachtin, pyrethrins, neem oil, methoxyfenozide are reduced risk insecticides that are labeled for control of this pest.

Products with the active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis*

can be used to control the younger larval instars. Other active ingredients, such as cyfluthrin, bifenthrin, carbaryl, malathion and lambda-cyhalothrin, also kill fall armyworm. However, these are broad-spectrum insecticides that can be harmful to beneficial organisms and can occasionally cause spider mite outbreaks. Read and follow label directions.

Reprinted with permission from Carlos Quesada, WVU Extension Specialist, Entomology, 304-293-8835 or Carlos.Quesada@mail.wvu.edu.

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Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Rowan.

VOLUNTEERS

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Development storefront space. Dreamscape owner Bret Barnett and his employees had laid the pavers the day before and the Merritts prepped the property for the concentrated work session.

The attractive landscaping is helpful to Golden Girl as it opens in a new neighborhood.

“The landscaping in this project means so much to me, not only because it is so beautiful, but also because it signifies unity and the teamwork of people who are usually competitors coming together for the mission of Golden Girl. Every time I look at the landscaping, it warms my heart for this reason,” Nikki said.

Brett’s faith guides him in decisions, both personal and professional. He believes that the landscaping work done at Golden Girl embodies a biblical quote from 1 John 3:17-18:

“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

There will be a ribbon cutting opening ceremony on October 15 at 2 p.m. at Golden Treasures Resale Store, 725 Main St., Ceredo. For more information on the Golden Girl programs, visit gggh.org.

Hellebores and Natives Thrive at Sunshine Farm & Gardens

A remote mountaintop nursery near Renick, West Virginia, is a far cry from his boyhood home in bustling Philadelphia, but Barry Glick's horticultural roots were none the less formed in Pennsylvania. He was hooked after a childhood experience of rooting a coleus cutting from his mother's garden. As the tender white roots grew, so did his infatuation.

Today, he offers more than 1,000 plants of the 10,000 varieties he grows in an extensive collection at Sunshine Farm & Gardens to wholesalers, retailers, landscapers and home gardeners. Known especially for his hellebores, Barry offers an impressive array of native plants as well. He focused on hellebores when he founded the nursery in 1972, largely because the hungry deer population avoided them.

Barry found his way to the hills of West Virginia along with a wave of back-to-the-landers in the 1970s seeking peace and simplicity away from the large cities they previously called home.

"I was flipping through the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1972 and saw an ad for a 60-acre farm in West Virginia for \$6,000. I thought that couldn't be right, but I called the number and it was. I threw the dogs in my 1961 orange WV bus for the grueling ride there. There was no I-64 then," Barry said. "Once I got there, the place was amazing. I handed the guy 60 \$100 bills and have been here ever since."

Before he delved full-time into a horticulture enterprise, he and a business partner manufactured



Barry Glick has fun with hellebores.

hot tubs, saunas and steam rooms. For his first foray into his plant collection, Barry mail-ordered 19 varieties of hellebores. From those, he has created hundreds of hybrid crosses, through tissue cultures. With his long hair and beard, Barry looks the part of a wizard as he practices the

magic of creating unique hellebore varieties.

He specializes in "double" hellebores, whose showy visages brighten the dreary months of February through May, when they bloom in most of West Virginia. Hellebores, or Lenten Roses, bloom in colors including mauve, pink, deep purple,



creamy white, green, yellow and even black. Their sometimes bespeckled petals emerge from non-descript heads, catching the unsuspecting eye.

Initially, Sunshine Farm & Gardens relied on postcards and phone calls, and later faxing, for marketing. As the internet evolved, Barry jumped on its business potential, establishing a website in 1995 and installing all the cutting edge technology to bring it to his isolated nursery. Customers can't place an order on the website, however. Barry prefers emails or phone calls to do business.

"My specialty is networking," he said.

He estimates that around 10 percent of Sunshine's revenue comes from international sales, and at least 85 percent comes from domestic sales outside of West Virginia, leaving a little less than 5 percent from in-state sources.

"We're bringing in money to this area, not just from out of state, but from out of the country," Glick said.

Although the bucolic Sunshine Farm & Gardens would be a lovely setting for weddings and other celebrations, Barry prefers to host customers and groups with a horticultural leaning with whom he can devote his full attention.

His website, column in WestVirginiaVille and Facebook page are full of photos and detailed descriptions of the plants he offers. A gifted communicator, Barry enjoys speaking to professional groups as well as to home gardeners.

For more information about Sunshine Farm & Gardens, visit sunfarm.com or find Sunshine Farm & Gardens on Facebook. Contact Barry at 304.497.2208 or email barry@sunfarm.com.

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Members Weathered a Busy Summer in 1993

Editor's Note: This article is part of an ongoing series exploring WVNLA's history. The idea for the series emerged from a treasure trove of association newsletters donated by longtime WVNLA member Michele Fletcher. Michele, who owns Michele Fletcher Landscape Designs in Rockbridge, Virginia, unearthed the newsletters, dating back to the early 1990s, when she was preparing to move to a new home. We are grateful she saved them and shared them with WVNLA, where they will be archived.

In 1993, the springtime issue of the newsletter featured lots of positive news. Produced by Secretary Shari Beckett, the newsletter promoted a water gardening seminar to be held in June at Jerry Tucker's garden center in Charleston. Tim and Tom King from Little Giant Pump Company, Walt Wicklein from Wicklein's Aquatic Plants, and Harvey Fell from Tetra Pond were listed as presenters.

Members who wished to display WVNA decals on their trucks or at their offices could order them. A few of these decals, which featured a logo similar to the one on the newsletter photographed above, can still be spotted on the windows of longtime (now) WVNLA members.

The group started a video library (probably Beta

format?) and made the training videos available to members. Titles included Pruning Bare Root Trees, Developing Retail Sales Skills, Loading & Unloading B&B Nursery Crops and Bare Root Nursery Crops, Safe Use of Pesticides in Interiorscapes, and Landscape Laws That Work.

In July, a marketing meeting was planned at the Sutton Lanes Motel in Sutton. At the meeting, members would share information about products' availability and consumer interest in both hard and

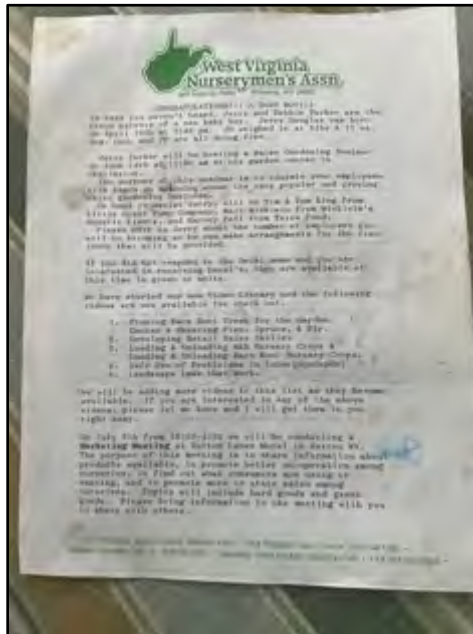
green goods. The meeting's purpose was to "promote better cooperation among nurseries and promote more in-state sales among ourselves." Attendees were encouraged to bring information and ideas to share.

For the summer meeting in August, room rates were \$43.20 for a single and \$47.70 for a double at the Princeton Days Inn.

Readers also learned that Jerry and Debbie Tucker welcomed a baby boy, Jerry Douglas, into their family April 16.

And finally, the Mid-Atlantic Nurserymen's Trade Show was then a summer event. The July show was to be held, as it is now, in the Baltimore Convention

Center. Families were encouraged to attend a special picnic and Orioles ballgame at the new Orioles ballpark.



Welcome New Members

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Landscape Supply Inc.
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Treat Boxwoods in Late Fall for Japanese Maple Scale

By Holly Scoggins, Program Manager,
NewGen® Boxwood

File under “if it’s not one thing it’s another...” Japanese Maple Scale (JMS) (*Lopholeucaspis japonica*) has been around for decades but seems to be of increasing concern for nurseries and landscapes. The armored-scale pest damages plants with piercing-sucking mouthparts, causing cells to rupture/collapse, resulting in leaf drop and branch dieback. Moreover, it is a pest of a very wide range of woody ornamentals (over 45 genera), including *Buxus*. Understanding the life cycle of JMS is critical to identification and management.

The armored cover of an adult has a waxy coating rendering treatment difficult. This coating (called a “test”) may also make identification as it is similar in appearance to other scales. Compounding the issue: multiple life stages can be present at once, and multiple generations accumulate and build in older interior wood. Cooler areas see two generations; warmer mid-South areas may see more. Stanton Gill, IPM and Entomology Specialist with University of Maryland Extension, has been working on regional JMS for quite a while. It has since made it as far west as Indiana and Ohio, according to Gill. Bennett Saunders noted he’s seen it impact primarily two *Buxus sempervirens* cultivars, ‘Dee Runk’ and ‘Fastigiata.’

We asked Gill for a status check at the end of August: “We are in the middle of the second generation [and it] appears to be on the increase in the nursery trade this season.” Along with the eponymous host, Gill and colleagues are receiving reports of it in both nurseries and landscapes on



Japanese Maple Scale damage, including branch die-back, on *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Dee Runk’.

boxwood, blue holly [*Ilex x meserveae* and cultivars] and American holly [*Ilex opaca* and cultivars] among other taxa. Gill reiterated the very wide host range and urged nurseries and landscapers to be vigilant. Degree days and careful scouting can be used to detect the crawler stage, which is the non-armored, most vulnerable stage of development that



Infestation of Japanese Maple Scale on an interior branch of boxwood. Note the elongated white scale “armor.” Photo courtesy of J. Bennett Saunders.

responds to chemical control measures.

One means of control is mechanical. High-pressure water spray, along with a gentle scrub brush is one of the best options for homeowners who may have a few shrubs or trees with lower levels of JMS. There are also parasitoids (beneficial insects) that attack JMS. Their presence can be detected by tiny holes piercing the scale covers. In order to preserve populations of beneficials, don’t utilize topical insecticides. There are other options.

For the current situation in nurseries or professionally-managed landscapes, Gill says “Distance and Talus are two good Insect Growth Regulators (IGRS).” In late fall (no tender leaves on boxwood), he recommends coming back with a 1 - 2% horticultural oil to go after the overwintering second instar males and females. Due to potential phytotoxicity, always test oils on a small number of plants before more extensive application. Read and follow all pesticide label directions carefully.

The above recommendations are based on the Mid-Atlantic location, always check your state’s Cooperative Extension pesticide management information for management recommendations and adjust the timing for your locale.

Any reference to commercial products, trade, or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended. Always refer to tables and information in your state’s Pest Management Guide for active ingredients and trade names of any chemical products. State regulations may vary - always remember “the label is the law.”

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WVNLA NEWS

P. O. Box 20284

Charleston, WV 25362

Dates to Note

WVNLA Board Meeting

October 12, 10 a.m. Canaan Valley State Park

LANDSCAPES/GIE+Expo, October 19-22, Louisville, KY

MANTS, January 5-7, Baltimore, MD

WVNLA Winter Symposium

January 26, Charleston

WVNLA Pesticide Applicators

Recertification, January 27, Charleston

WVNLA Certified Professional

Horticulturist exam, January 27, Charleston

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