

## A Time for Everything

Holiday greetings from my desk here in Huntington. I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying the season. As I write this, I realize this is my last article as president of the WVNLA. I consider myself very privileged to have served the landscape and nursery industry of the wonderful state of West Virginia in this capacity.



Stephen Saunders  
WVNLA President

I want to thank everyone who has supported me during my term as president. Thank you, David Hill, for all your work and support on the combined presidents' project at the Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind. We will get this finished. Thank you, Mark Springer, for all of the wisdom you have shared with me throughout the years. Thank you to the other board members for working together toward a common goal of promoting the nursery and landscape industry in our state. I want to thank all of you, but especially, Julie Robinson. Thank you, Julie. You are amazing! I'm sending good luck wishes to our current vice president, Bobby Gompers, whose role as president begins in February 2023. You will do great things, my friend.

2022 has been a tough year for me in many ways, but it has also been a year of many achievements.

Please see **PRESIDENT** on page 5.

## Register Now for Winter Symposium

Registration is open for our 2023 Winter Symposium on February 22 at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. The dual-track format assures something for everyone, with one track focusing on landscape design and the other on business issues.

**Design side topics** include the preservation of historic plants at Monticello, ecological design in traditional landscapes, the gravel garden at Chanticleer and perennial powerhouses.

**Peggy Cornett**, curator of plants at Monticello, will present "Preserving Plants from the Past—Monticello's Historic Landscape."

Peggy's presentation features the many varieties—from historic tulips and ancient roses to heirloom fruits, vegetables, and herbs—that have been collected,



Peggy Cornett

propagated, and preserved in the gardens at Monticello today.

**Larry Weaner**, principal and founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, will present "Breaking the Rules: Ecological Landscape Design and Traditional Landscape Methodology."

Larry's presentation examines how alternative approaches on everything from selecting, arranging, and spacing plants to the simple act of weeding can yield more easily maintained landscapes that express the beauty and ecological richness of our native landscapes.



Larry Weaner

**Lisa Roper**, horticulturist at Chanticleer Gardens, will take us through "The Evolution of Chanticleer's Gravel Garden."

For years, Lisa has managed the Gravel Garden at the renowned public garden Chanticleer in Wayne, Pennsylvania. Lisa will discuss how form, texture, color, and rhythm are carefully considered in her design choices. She will introduce some of her favorite plants, cover planting techniques,



Lisa Roper

Please see **SYMPOSIUM** on page 2.

## SYMPOSIUM

Continued from page 1.

the importance of "editing," and the technique of using photography to inform design decisions.



Paul Westervelt

**Paul Westervelt**, annual and perennial production manager and head grower at Saunders Brothers, Inc, will discuss "Are These Plants Better, or Just New?"

With so many new perennials released every year, it can be difficult to distinguish legitimately better cultivars from those that are simply marketable. Through production trials, garden visits, vendor visits

and collaboration with other growers, Paul works to select the best from the rest.

Our **Business Track** speakers have been selected to meet the unique needs of West Virginia's green industry businesses.



**Business Coaching:** Speakers from the **West Virginia Small Business Development Center** specialize in business coaching to encourage the success of small businesses in West Virginia. They provide expert advice on everything from marketing, business management and planning, human resources, succession planning, cyber security, financial analysis, government contracting and technology commercialization. With so many resources available, they want to be sure to hit the issues most relevant to **YOU**. So, please, email Julie Robinson at [wvnlassoc@gmail.com](mailto:wvnlassoc@gmail.com) with the topics you want to hear. This is your chance to tailor the discussion to your needs.

**Electric vs Gas Equipment:** As administrators and politicians push for electric-

powered equipment usage, some cities and municipalities are mandating electric-powered landscape equipment. A representative of Stihl will fill us in on the benefits of both and where the industry is headed with this equipment.

### Workforce

**Development:** Recently, WVNLA has been working on many levels to develop green industry employees. We've made presentations to high school agriculture and career and tech students, created videos and presentation materials, developed a



Michael Biafore

lawn and landscape training course through the National Guard to present to Jobs & Hope participants and to our own members and developed a "Landscape Technician Boot Camp," a 40-hour course to be offered at community and technical colleges throughout the state. Hear all about it from the folks who are making it happen: Michael Biafore, chairman of WVNLA's Workforce Development Committee and president of Biafore's Landscape Development; Cindy Bailey, director of economic development for the West Virginia National Guard; Scott Byars, WVNG trainer, former WVU Extension Service agent and landscape business owner; and Lisa McDavid, owner of Lisa's Gardenscapes, who has spoken with middle and high school students about green industry careers.

Before the sessions begin at 9:30 a.m., WVNLA will sponsor an **Member's Annual Meeting & Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m, also at Embassy Suites. The timing of the meeting is a change from the Annual Member's Meeting, which is typically held at the Symposium's conclusion.

Vendors tables will be set up in the main meeting and lunch space for attendees to visit. If you would like to reserve a vendor's table at \$20, please contact Julie Robinson at [wvnlassoc@gmail.com](mailto:wvnlassoc@gmail.com) or 304-553-1234.

Registration is now open. Cost to attend is \$50 for WVNLA members and \$100 for non-members and includes lunch. Register at [wvnla.org](http://wvnla.org).

# Get Your Company's Name Out There – Invest in Our Future

West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association is partnering with Pierpont Community and Technical College in Fairmont to offer the first **Landscape Technician Boot Camp** course in West Virginia. This program, scheduled for early 2023, provides a unique opportunity for students who are enthusiastic about green industry careers and for employers looking for educated and trained employees.

Students will receive instruction in plant identification, layout and planting and maintenance; lawn mower operations; edging and trimming; use of power blowers, rototillers, chainsaws and aerators; and sod installation. The course will lay the foundation for students to excel in multiple facets of the green industry.

The program also offers **sponsorship opportunities** for companies eager to get behind this innovative program. Financial or in-kind donations are tax-deductible and available at the levels below. All contributions will include credit in WVNLA's quarterly newsletter, social media coverage, on-site signage, recognition in PCTC marketing and advertising and press release coverage.

Sponsors must commit no later than January

15. Contact Julie Robinson at 304-553-1234 or wvnlassoc@gmail.com.

**Headline Sponsor – \$5,000 West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association**

**Scholarship – \$1,200 (underwrite an individual or pay \$100 per 12 students)**

**Lunch – \$500 sponsor per lunch**

**Tools and equipment – \$500**

(Toward purchase of shovels, pruners, gloves, rakes, blowers, mowers, weed eaters, wheelbarrows, gas cans)

**Plant/Planting Materials – \$200**

**Instructional Sponsorship – \$200**

**Essentials Kit – \$200 (basic tools for students to take to job site)**

(Hand pruners, eye protection, tape measure, gloves, ear protection, utility knife, soil knife, lunch pail, and backpack.)

## Member's Breakfast & Annual Meeting

WVNLA members and guests are invited to attend our Annual Meeting & Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites in Charleston, prior to the Winter Symposium. Join us for a relaxing breakfast, drawings for gifts, and a little bit of business. There is no charge, but you must register to attend. Hope to see lots of new and familiar faces. To register, visit wvnla.org or watch your mailbox and emails for registration forms.

## Pesticide Recertification

A Pesticide Recertification course will be offered February 23 at the Embassy Suites in Charleston from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register online at wvnla.org.

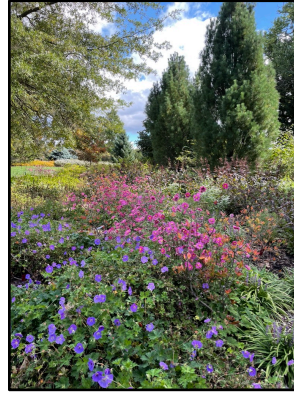
## Certified Professional Horticulturist

WVNLA will offer the Certified Professional Horticulturist exam also on February 23 at 4 p.m. Register online at wvnla.org.

## Vendor Tables

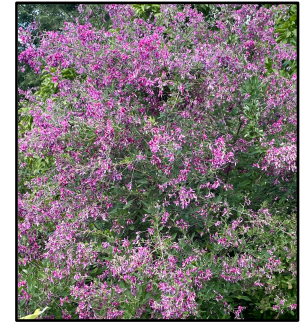
Vendors wishing to promote their products at the February 22 Winter Symposium may rent table space for \$20 per spot. Register online at wvnla.org or contact Julie Robinson at 304-553-1234 or wvnlassoc@gmail.com for details.





## Fall Tour 2023

Northern  
Ohio  
Nurseries,  
Arboretum  
and  
Garden



WVNLA members and guests enjoyed two days of touring nurseries, Holden Arboretum and a private garden on September 22-23. Photos, clockwise from upper left corner: tree-top view from the tower at Holden Arboretum; Holden's fall flowers; North Perennial's Echinacea; orange fruit on Klyn's Cornus kousa; Lespedeza thumbergii at Holden; naturalized lily pond at Holden; Jeff Hern leads a tour at Lake County Nurseries; Cornus alba pops in a shady spot in the Gale private garden; the 12-story climb to Holden's tower; (center) pastoral scene at Gale garden; and the crew assembled for a wagon tour of Klyn's Nursery, which Bill Hendricks, left, led.



## Welcome New Members!

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

### Riley's Greenworx, LLC

*Active Member*

Evan Riley

300 19<sup>th</sup> St.

Dunbar, WV 25064

681-587-6099

rileysgreenworx@gmail.com

*Landscape architect or designer, landscape construction, landscape and lawn maintenance,*

*fertilization and weed control, landscape lighting, seasonal lighting.*

### Quality Lawncare and Landscaping, LLC

*Active member*

Robert Hvizdak

Weirton, WV

304-670-9973

qualitylawncareandlandscaping.com

*Landscape architect or designer, landscape construction, landscape and lawn maintenance, hardscape design and installation, educator, public space administrator / maintenance.*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*Continued from page 1.*

As I think of all the things that have happened this year, it reminds me of a poem that I would like to share. I hope its words of wisdom reach out to you as they did for me.

### A Time for Everything

There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to harvest,

a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to grieve and a time to dance,

a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to turn away,

a time to search and a time to lose,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,

a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be quiet and a time to speak,

a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.  
*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

As I close, I want to remind you to take advantage of the following upcoming events:

- MANTS trade show at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland, January 11-13. (Wednesday through Friday).
- WVNLA Winter Symposium in Charleston, Wednesday, February 22.
- 2023 Pesticide Applicators Recertification Course in Charleston, Thursday, February 23.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president.

Sincerely,

Stephen K. Saunders

*Stephen owns Saunders Lawn Care in Huntington.*

*This pine was just six feet tall when Stephen first lighted it in 2008. Today it towers at 25 feet and requires substantially more lights to create this splendid display.*



# WVNLA NEWS

P. O. Box 20284

Charleston, WV 25362

## Events of Note

- Jan. 11-13** MANTS, Baltimore, MD
- Feb. 22** WVNLA Members Annual Meeting & Breakfast, Charleston
- Feb. 22** WVNLA Winter Symposium, Charleston
- Feb. 23** Pesticide Applicators Training, Charleston
- Feb. 23** Certified Professional Horticulturist exam, Charleston

*We Wish You a Joyful  
Holiday and Many Blessings  
in the New Year.*

## Officers & Board of Directors

### *President:*

Stephen Saunders – saunders801@aol.com

### *Vice President:*

Robert Gompers – bgompers@aol.com

### *Secretary/Treasurer:*

Mark Springer – mark@lavallette.net

### *Past President:*

David Hill – davidhill.threetrees@gmail.com

### *Board Members:*

Pat Biafore – patrick@biafore.com

Bud Cottrill – westvirginiabud@yahoo.com

Zach Crede – zach@credelawncare.com

John Jett – john.jett@mail.wvu.edu

Lisa McDavid – lisasgardenscapes@yahoo.com

Betsy Raynes – betsyraynes@yahoo.com

Jason Testman – jtestman@terrareinc.com

### *Executive Director:*

Julie Robinson – wvnlassoc@gmail.com