



The Massachusetts Association of Landscape Professionals elevates the professional standards and business success of its members through education, certification, advocacy and networking.

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NEWSLINE

WINTER 2015

Matt Gramer Receives Beacon Award

On November 11, 2014, **Matt Gramer, MCLP** was presented with the prestigious MLP Beacon Award. Matt is the CEO and Co-Founder of NatureWorks Landscape Services in Walpole, MA. On behalf of MLP, **Monique Allen, MCLP** made the award presentation. The following are excerpts from her speech.

It is with a fierce commitment to this industry, to professional practice, standards and ethics, to the people who work in the industry and with a devotion to family and an engaging full life, that we look to this year's winner as a true beacon.

This year's recipient should be seen as an inspiration to all of us to strive for more. He gives us a reason to hope for the best outcomes from hard work and dedication. He gives us a reason to believe that a satisfyingly rich life is possible when you give something your all.

He has a long list of professional accomplishments. He is a founder and business owner, a long-standing MLP member and a MCLP. He served on the MLP Board of Directors from 2006 through 2011, after much coercion from yours truly. He served as the 2010 President of MLP and, maybe more importantly to me, served as my Vice President.

And if all that isn't enough, during his tenure of service with MLP, there were many projects that he was involved with. Projects like:

- Reorganizing our dues structure to make it a user-friendly system
- Starting the very first Member Experience Committee
- Bringing MLP together with GreenCare for Troops
- Helping to oversee the development of the new MLP website and digital media presence



Beacon Award recipient Matt Gramer, MCLP (right) with Monique Allen, MCLP

- Developing new networking opportunities including the winter and summer MLP Get-Togethers

Matt Gramer believes, unequivocally, in a simple truth: that his contributions – whether directly in his business or indirectly within the landscape community – have the power to elevate the experience of the entire industry.

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Beacon Award

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He knows that all boats rise with the tide. But instead of just focusing only on his boat, Matt has also focused on the tide.

He is innovative thinker. He is interested in the big landscape picture and how it directly relates to the bigger picture of business and the even bigger picture of the economy.

Now don't be fooled – Matt isn't all work – there is more to this man! He is devoted to his family. His wife Michelle and children – Kyle, Halley, and Ashley – mean the world to him. He is so devoted that he has even taken them to PLANET's Great Escape several times. If you don't know anything about this, these industry events are located in beautiful resort settings and welcome families to come along. He has encouraged me to take my family. He says it is great family time, and you get to work and learn too. So, the wheels in that head...they are always turning.

MLP members, please join me in presenting the 2014 MLP Beacon Award to...Matt Gramer!

“Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”

~ Vince Lombardi

MLP's 2015 Leadership Elected

MLP held its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Tuesday, November 11, 2014. Outgoing President Mike Kelley, MCLP was recognized for his leadership and contributions during 2014. President Doug McDuff, MCLP, MCA of Landscape America, Inc. was elected as MLP's new President.

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Millican Nurseries Inc.

603.435.6660
www.MNIPlants.com
mnisales@MNIPlants.com

Thanks for another tremendous season. We can't wait to do it all again next year. Have an outstanding Winter and we'll see you in the Spring.