



SHANNON FISCHER

HARDER & WARNER LANDSCAPES &  
BOUTIQUE GARDENS  
CALEDONIA, MICHIGAN

## Meet MNLA's 2025 President: Shannon Fischer

### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE IN THE GREEN INDUSTRY? WHAT EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE PREPARED YOU FOR YOUR JOB?

I actually grew up right here in the Green Industry. I started working for Harder and Warner when I was 14, watering the plants that weren't under irrigation. It was the perfect summer job for a teenager. I would wear my shorts and flip flops and get a great tan all summer long. As I grew older, my responsibilities and knowledge grew. So, when it was time to decide what I wanted to do after high school, it was obvious; stay in the Green Industry. I decided to go to MSU for landscape design. I worked all through college and had a job on the design team following college, where I've been ever since.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE PLANTS?

As a plant lover, it is so hard to pick favorites! I have always loved birch, especially river birch. I think this is partly because very early on in my

career, I saved one from the burn pile and nursed it back to health. It is still growing beautifully at my parents'. I'm a huge sucker for big blooms. I love roses, dahlias, peonies, hydrangea. However, when designing for my clients, my palette is a little different. The biggest request I hear from clients is that they want their new landscape to be "low maintenance". I like to use plants that are easy to maintain and are tough as nails, plants that I know are going to perform for them. I love anything with unique leaf colors or multiple seasons of interest.

### WHAT NOTEWORTHY SUCCESSES AND FAILURES HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED?

I think it's all of my failures, combined, that have led to some of the success I've had in my career. You don't just walk into this "doing everything right". You try, you fail, you try something else. You get to refine your process until you figure out what actually works. I've also learned some of my

Suppliers of Quality Plant Material  
to Garden Centers, Landscape  
Contractors, and Re-Wholesalers  
for Over 35 Years



Call Josh (586) 405-6101 or  
Mike (586) 899-1556  
WWW.TANDESKI.COM



most valuable bits of advice/experience from my peers and mentors. Use the mistakes of others to accelerate your growth. We can emulate people in success but also in things to avoid.


**IS YOUR SPOUSE INVOLVED WITH THE NURSERY AND/OR WITH HORTICULTURE?**

Funny enough, Brian (my husband) and I met at work! We were both kids back then. He was working on a landscape crew and I was working at the garden center at the time. We crossed paths a few times before we struck up conversation while healing in freshly dug farm trees. He's no longer in the industry but it's always fun reminiscing about the days we spent working together.

**IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE CERTIFIED (CGIP, MDARD, ETC.)?**

I'm really grateful for the certifications that the industry has here in Michigan. Many of the surrounding states do not have a state certification program like our

Certified Green Industry Professional (CGIP) program. I think it elevates our industry as a whole and identifies individuals who are fully invested in their career and our industry. I am also very excited about the launch of MNLA's new apprenticeship program recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor. It's a great opportunity to attract new talent to the Green Industry and gives employers the tools to train effortlessly. Recently completing the journeyworker certification myself, I can say it's a very comprehensive

program that is designed to set individuals up for success and keeps industry standards high. 

**It is with great appreciation that we recognize these MNLA Sponsorship Partners:**

**Platinum Level Sponsor:**



**MICHIGAN SELF-INSURED  
HORTICULTURE WORKERS'  
INDUSTRIES COMPENSATION  
FUND**

a member owned program

administered by RPS Regency

**Bronze Level Sponsor:**



Crave a superior landscape mulch product backed with quality and service?

*You just found it!*



We take pride in producing the best quality product at a competitive price, giving exceptional & timely service since 1999. We produce and carry a full line of Landscape Mulch products including:

- Certified Playground Mix
- Winter Hardwood Bark
- Processed Hardwood Bark
- Color Enhanced Hardwood Bark
- Cedar Bark
- Colored Mulch (Red, Brown, Black & Gold)
- Economy/Natural Mulch
- Woodchips
- Pine Straw

*Call today or visit us online.*



616.866.4459

CANNONBURGWOODPRODUCTS.COM