



NATE WEAVER
MICHIGAN WOOD FIBERS LLC
ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

Looking “Behind-the-Scenes” and Getting to Know a Member of the MNLA Team

The MNLA Board of Directors just held our first quarterly Board Meeting and one topic that was discussed, and will be discussed at each quarterly meeting this year, is our three-year Strategic Plan and the progress we are making towards those goals. This is Year One of our Strategic Plan and it is great to see the Board and the MNLA Team moving forward together on this.

One of our goals is to develop and provide an Elite Training Program for our members—for both owners/managers and employees. As we discussed the progress on this particular goal, I decided that the focus of my message for this issue would be to take a look “behind-the-scenes” and to get to know the MNLA Team member working on this—Emily Huening.

I had the opportunity to come into the office and sit down with Emily and this is what I learned.

Emily Huening is MNLA’s Education/Certification Director and has been an integral member of the MNLA Team for eight years now (the integral part according to Amy). Emily graduated from Michigan State University in 2012 with a degree in Horticulture and a concentration in Design, Construction & Management.

After graduating, Emily worked for a design/build firm for three years as a designer and enjoyed all that she learned with and from them. To further her learning and add to her experience, she joined another design/build team in Southeast Michigan where she had the opportunity to work directly with Spanish-

speaking crews. It was while she worked with these crews that Emily learned to speak and learn more of the Spanish language. She also gained an appreciation for hard physical labor, and after a year it was time to move on. It was a blessing that at that time this position at MNLA opened up and Emily joined our Team.

I asked Emily what is one key point or accomplishment that stood out in her eight years at MNLA. Her response was quick; it was how the MNLA Board and Team worked tirelessly for our industry during the pandemic. How we kept our industry informed, how we got them back to work, the Online Education Conference, and the difference we made for Michigan’s Green Industry.

I then asked what the next eight years of education looks like for our industry. Emily foresees MNLA’s education program continuing to help our industry by growing and changing to include AI (artificial intelligence), technology and advances within, and doing more education in Spanish.

It was a great visit and I enjoyed getting to know Emily Huening. Thank you Emily, and we look forward to more details on the Elite Member-only Training! You are a big part of the MNLA Team!

Interesting note: Emily’s dedication to educating and helping the industry was apparent, as the entire time we were meeting she was monitoring and facilitating a member taking the CGIP Exam online.



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