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July 2017

Dear Member,

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the annual meeting in June, held at Rakers. A big thank you to everyone at Rakers for their generous hospitality. The meeting included many presentations and valuable content including, Dr. Bridget Behe's overview of her research; Mike Bryan's update from MDARD; A lively discussion with staff of both senators Stabenow and Peters; as well as comments from Dr. David Smitley; Kennis Wotten from DTE and Sara from Ball.

To improve the business climate for the greenhouse industry, Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council has joined American Hort, particularly for assistance in working with the US Congress. The last 18 months MGGC has secured support to include indemnity for greenhouses in the 2018 farm bill. The MGGC board members and I will attend the American Hort fall legislative conference in Washington D.C.



In June, MGGC sponsored a legislative dinner in Washington D.C. with a goal of educating members of congress on the greenhouse industry. Promotion of legislative policy to improve the greenhouse industry was the major goal when the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council was created 11 years ago. While MFGC has enjoyed success in their efforts, raising the bar to the federal level and greenhouse inclusion in the 2018 farm bill is a high profile, critical endeavor for MGGC. This is a time when we need the entire greenhouse industry to join together to make this happen.

On behalf of the board of directors, I ask you to reach out to those who are not yet members and ask them to join us in this effort. I am excited to pursue this initiative on behalf of MGGC and will be asking you for assistance as we move forward. As always, feel free to contact me at any time with any ideas, questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Val Vail-Shirey".

Val Vail-Shirey
Executive Director

Some highlights of the 2017 Annual Meeting



(Above: Staff from Senator's Peters and Stabenow office)



(Above: Dr. Bridget Behe)

(Below Left: Kevin Robson from Michigan Farm Bureau and Below Right: Mike Bryan from MDARD)



**Next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday,
September 21, 2017 at Greenstone in Lansing.**

MGGC 2017 Board of Directors

President, Bill Tuinier
Vice President, Dennis Crum
Sec'y/Treasurer, Mike Faber
Board Member, Don Marvaso
Board Member, Dave Mast
Board Member, Kevin Sportel
Board Member, Ken Tuinier
Board Member/Membership Chair, Susie Raker-Zimmerman
Allied Trade Member, Mike Faber
Allied Trade Member, Bud Ripberger
MDFGA Board Member, Jason Pinter
WMGA Board Member, Scott Klooster
Education Committee, Roberto Lopez, MSU Extension
Education Committee, Erik Runkle, MSU Extension

The 2017 Michigan Garden Plant Tour

Date: July 24, 2017 - August 4, 2017

Location: Various Locations including MGGC Members

Contact: Erik Runkle, runkleer@msu.edu

Greenhouse growers, landscapers, garden center operators, and nurserymen are invited to visit each of these participating tour sites during the two-week period, from July 24 to August 4. Expect to learn about a wide range of ornamental crops, including popular commercial brands of annuals and perennials.

This is a terrific way to observe plant performance at different locations and grown under various conditions, both in the ground and in containers. For more, please visit <http://planttour.hrt.msu.edu>.



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Become a member!

Our membership organization represents all who grow under structures, and industries that cater to growers, on legislative and regulatory issues, research needs and business activities.



We keep members informed by providing a newsletter with concise coverage of current events that affect your greenhouse businesses. We continue to work with MSU Extension, AgBio Research, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. We participate in legislative activities such as Ag Day at the Capitol; and each year as MGGC ambassadors we deliver flowering plants to state legislators.

Please consider joining our ranks to glean the benefits of our strength as we continue to put the interests of Michigan's greenhouse growers in the spotlight! The MGGC Board looks forward to another productive year in 2017 and the opportunity to serve your interests.

We invite you to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors or one of member meetings to learn more about MGGC. Please contact the MGGC office at (517) 367-2033 for meeting dates. We look forward to seeing you in 2017 and welcome your membership!

[Click here to download a membership form.](#)

MAEAP Certified Members

Great Lakes Greenhouses * Greendorr Greenhouses * John Theisen Farm *
John Gernaat & Sons Greenhouse * Kalamazoo Specialty Plants, LLC *
Ken's Greenhouse * Klooster Greenhouses * Micandy Gardens *
* Tom's Greenhouse * Westrate Greenhouse, Inc.



PROTECTING POLLINATORS IN
URBAN LANDSCAPES

October 9-11, 2017
Park Place Hotel
300 E State St.
Traverse City, MI 49684
Hosted by: Michigan State University & North Carolina State University
<http://protectingpollinators.org>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension NC STATE UNIVERSITY

For More information [Click Here](#)

Food Safety and Modernization Act

To obtain more information visit the FSMA website at:

<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/default.htm>

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his/her will.

Labor trafficking has been found in diverse labor settings including, domestic work, small businesses, large farms, and factories.

Unfortunately, agriculture is experiencing a large volume of labor trafficking. If you suspect something that may involve Human Trafficking notify the authorities, call the hotline 1-888-373-7888 and visit the website to learn more <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/mission>

MGGC

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STAY CONNECTED:



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