



October 2017

**In this Issue: Next board meeting, APHIS,
Energy Grants, Legislation and the 2018 Farm Bill,
Greenhouse Education Seminar and Membership Renewal**

Executive Director's Message

It has been a pleasure visiting with growers, touring greenhouses and meeting with industry stakeholders the past couple months. Working with the board of directors, we are seeking new and innovative opportunities for Michigan greenhouse operations and look forward to sharing details with you in the near future.



Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council will have a booth at the Great Lakes Expo in December. We are also planning an educational seminar solely for greenhouse operations in January and are diligently working on re-branding Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council. You will soon see a new look, logo, etc. as we welcome all types of greenhouse operations under our umbrella.

I am currently seeking a Michigan poinsettia grower interested in donating approximately 50 plants for the Governors residence the 1st of December. The Governor highlights Michigan grown holiday commodities and invites those contributing to a special reception held at the residence. Please contact me if you are interested in contributing this year.

Always, feel free to contact me. Whether you have a question on membership or a zoning issue with your local government - I am here to assist you.

Sincerely,

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

Val Vail-Shirey, Executive Director
val@julianvail.com or 517-367-2033

Next Board meeting is October 19, 2017 9 am
Greenstone Headquarters
3515 West Rd. – East Lansing, MI

Michigan Greenhouse Growers 2017 Election

Michigan Greenhouse Growers to elect two members of the Council and select appointees: one representing the education community, one representing of the West Michigan Flower Growers, one representing the Metro Detroit Flower Growers and two representing allied trades

If you are interested in participating and moving the greenhouse industry forward please contact Val or a MGGC council member. We encourage you place your name on the ballot for the Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council. Please notify Val by November 1, 2017.

[Click Here to view APHIS - Plants for Planting Manual](#)

This web site contains Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) manuals in electronic format. The Manuals are categorized into two areas: Commodity Import and Export Programs and Domestic Program and Emergency Response Manuals. Each manual on the list contains a short description, the size of the file, and the date the file was last modified or updated.

Rural Development and Energy Programs:

Last month MSUE invited the greenhouse industry to tour two greenhouses that have utilized the USDA Energy programs and speak with utility companies, greenhouse operators, USDA agents, etc. to get an understanding of the programs available. For more information [Click Here](#) and you can always call the MGGC office for more information at 517-367-2033

Legislative bills we are monitoring for you

State Legislation:

House Bills 4561 - 4564 [Click here](#) for full language and analysis. The **HB 4561, 4562, 4563 and 4564** address Use tax: exemptions; Agriculture: equipment; Use tax; exemptions; exemption for certain agricultural equipment; clarify. Amends sec. 4 of 1937 PA 94 (MCL 205.94).

[House Bill 4999](#) and [Senate Bill 583](#)

HB 4999 and SB 583 will prohibit allowing local units of government to enact an excise tax on food. MGGC has voted to support the legislation.

Federal Legislation:

2018 Farm Bill

MGGC has attended several meetings on the 2018 Farm Bill and spoke with both Chairman Senator Pat Roberts and Ranking Member Senator Debbie Stabenow on issues important to the greenhouse industry. Both Senator Stabenow and Senator Peter's staff attended the MGGC June Member Meeting. To monitor Committee Hearings and details of the Senate Agriculture Committee go to:

[Senate Ag Committee](#)

Executive Director Val Vail-Shirey and MGGC Board Member Susie Raker-Zimmerman will meet with the Michigan legislative delegation and key agriculture committee members in Washington DC in late October.



2018 Membership Renewal

We are now taking 2018 membership renewals. We also ask each member to bring one new member to the MGGC. There is strength in numbers. Please help today!

**MICHIGAN GREENHOUSE GROWERS COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



NAME: _____

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: _____ RETAIL WHOLESALE

PRODUCT TYPES: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ CELL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S) FROM OUR FIRM TO RECEIVE UPDATES:

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL NAMES/E-MAILS AS NEEDED.

I do not have e-mail; please send Updates by mail.

GROWERS

- Under \$250 thousand..... \$100
- \$250K to \$499 thousand..... \$200
- \$500 to \$999 thousand..... \$500
- \$1 million to \$1.99 million..... \$1000
- \$2 million to \$3.99 million..... \$2000
- \$4 million and up..... \$2500

ALLIED TRADES

- Under \$1 million \$500
 - \$1 million and above \$1000
- INTERESTED OTHERS (NON-VOTING)**
- Floriculture Educators \$50
 - Floriculture Students \$25
 - Friend of the Industry (non-commercial)...\$25

Interested in being a Board Member? How about joining one of our committees (policy and membership)? Or do you just have a general question or comment for us? Please let us know below!

Pay by credit card or make check payable to and mail to:

MICHIGAN GREENHOUSE GROWERS COUNCIL

Total amount: _____ Check # _____ Visa MC AMEX

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ CID# _____

Cardholder Name: _____ Signature _____

P.O. Box 278, Bath, MI 48808
Phone: 517-367-2033 Fax: 517-372-1501
Email: mail@mifgc.org

January Education Seminar
for
Michigan Greenhouse Operations

Learn about crop insurance for greenhouse plants, personal safety in the greenhouse, grant programs and much more. Watch upcoming newsletters for more details.



Date and details to follow



On October 1st, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) kicked off an offshore greenhouse certification pilot program at the Miami and Atlanta plant inspection stations. This pilot will run for six months and will help APHIS and the U.S. nursery industry determine whether greenhouse certification can effectively mitigate pest and disease risks associated with plant cuttings produced in offshore facilities. APHIS and the nursery industry have been working together to develop and implement this pilot program for over a year.

On June 26, 2017, APHIS sought stakeholder feedback on the draft framework for the pilot program. We received feedback from five stakeholders within the 30-day comment period. In response, we clarified language in the framework regarding irrigation requirements, screen/physical barrier maintenance, and recordkeeping and retention. We also instructed certified inspectors to record information on pathogen testing procedures and processes at each pilot facility during inspection visits per stakeholder suggestions.

APHIS would like to clarify that material originating from these facilities is low risk and has been entering the United States in high volumes for many years. Inspection frequency at the plant inspection stations will not change under this pilot; all shipments will be inspected according to standard protocols. We will gather data during the six month pilot, including any pest interceptions on cuttings from participating facilities. These facilities do not receive any advantage from participating in the pilot, and, if the pilot is successful, any interested facility may apply to join a greenhouse certification program in future years.

We would like to thank stakeholders for their feedback. The final pilot framework can be found [here](#). For additional information, please send an email to Kelsey Branch, APHIS Foreign Inspection and Certification Coordinator, at Kelsey.Branch@aphis.usda.gov.

Great Lakes Leadership Academy

It is time to actively recruit for the next round of Great Lakes Leadership Academy cohorts. They are looking for applicants who:

- Are involved in production agriculture or a career closely tied to agriculture;
- Are open to learning from others very different from themselves, considering different ideas and perspectives, and working effectively with others to set and meet goals;
- Have a sincere interest in developing their leadership dispositions, abilities, and knowledge and are open minded enough to pursue deep self-exploration;
- Have the level of maturity and self-awareness necessary to take full advantage of the learning opportunity and apply the lessons to his/her life;
- Have demonstrated the appropriate level of leadership, interest and participation in service to the agricultural industry for his/her career status and age; and
- Have a significant pattern of commitment to agriculture evidenced by family history, education, and involvement in agricultural related organizations;

- Have the necessary support from their employer or has the capacity within their business to participate fully in the program; and
- Ultimately, you feel the agricultural industry will benefit as a result of the applicant's participation in GLLA.

If you are interested in applying for the 2018 Emerging Leader Program or the 2018-2019 Leadership Advancement Program or if you would like more information please visit www.glla.msu.edu

Application deadline for Leadership Advancement Program 2018-2019 is November 1, 2017.

Application deadline for Emerging Leader Program 2018 is January 1, 2018.

We are happy to come out and talk to individuals or your organization about GLLA. If you are willing to set something up please contact Christy to work out the details at romanch4@anr.msu.edu or 517-353-6472.

Thank you for helping us develop the next generation of leaders for Michigan.



MAEAP Certified Members

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



Julian Vail LLC | P.O. Box 278, Bath, MI 48808

Constant Contact 
Try it free today