



September 2019

MGGC ELSEWHERE

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From the Executive Director ...

Dear MGGC members,

Fall is now upon us and it has been a busy summer. I hope everyone had a great season and things are going well for the next year plantings. I have been traveling around the state visiting current and potential members for the Council. A warm welcome to our newest members:

- Bob Hyma with Mar-Bo Flowers in Hudsonville
- Rick Ouding with Kalamazoo Specialty Plants in Kalamazoo
- Craig Stevens with DGI Propagators in Hudsonville and CDS Greenhouse in Zeeland (2 memberships)
- Jon Vanden Heuvel with Sandy Ridge Farms
- Rick Hughes with Master Tag in Montague as a Vendor member
- Kenneth Wooten with DTE as a friend of the industry.

We still need to grow our membership so let your friends and neighbors know the benefits of joining the ONLY state wide greenhouse specific organization voice in Michigan. Informational packets are available for you to share with your peers, to help you show the great benefits available to members of MGGC. If you

could take a day to talk to greenhouse owners with me in your area to help grow the Council please send me an email at mainstreet@SBAM.org. It really helps to have a member along on the visits. A special thank you to Kevin Sportel and Lorence Wenke for making visits in Kalamazoo with me and Kurt Elders for helping me in the Hudsonville area.

We are working to upgrade our website to have a more user friendly site. We will be updating our member directory and include better graphics. If you have a photo of your greenhouse or products you think we could use please send them to Cindy at cindy.ray@sbam.org or mail@mifgc.org, so we may add them to our website. We are also working on a new Member Marketplace for the website to allow you to buy or sell items including plants or equipment to other members (like a Craigslist for greenhouses). We hope to have it up and running within the next month. Please take a moment to pull up the website mifgc.org and send us any ideas you may have to make it better.

We have started sending out our Tuesday Tidbits with business tips and outlining the member benefits you have with your new SBAM membership. If you are not receiving the Tuesday Tidbits or want to add any of your employees to the list please contact us. Any questions you may have about your SBAM benefits, Sherry Bryan sherry.bryan@sbam.org can answer or steer you to the right place for it. Several of our members have reached out to Caile (Kyle) Richards caile.richards@sbam.org to take advantage of the energy optimization opportunities he can help you with in your business. This is a free service to help you lower your energy costs and usage.



Goeff Hansen



MGGC sponsored a hole at the West Michigan Greenhouse Growers Association Golf Outing. It was a beautiful day!

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, October 3

9:00 am

SBAM Board Room
120 N. Washington Square
10th Floor
Lansing, MI

Membership Renewal

The 2020 Renewal Letters will be going out shortly. Please review your form and make changes as necessary.

**Look for your form
in the mail!**

Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council 2019 Election

Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council to elect two members to the Board of Directors and select appointees:

Two positions are open for the upcoming Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council election set for November 2018. Member Dennis Crum is term limited and his seat is up for re-election. President Dave Mast completes his first term and may run again this year.

The MGGC Board of Directors meets three or four times a year and conducts additional MGGC business via email or conference calls. Please contact the MGGC office or board member if you are interested in running for a Board position.

Appointed positions are also made yearly. The following positions are appointed: 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. Please contact the MGGC office or a board member if you are interested in one of the appointed positions.

Please let your candidate wishes be known no later than October 20, 2019.

The membership of MGGC appreciates the time and effort of all who volunteer to serve this industry.

Contact the MGGC office at 517-367-2033, email mail@mifgc.org or Goeff Hansen, Executive Director MainStreet@sbam.org.

Online Membership Directory

If you are interested in being one of the MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT on our website. Contact Cindy Ray in the office at mail@mifgc.org to get your name on the list.

Michigan Floral Foundation

2019 Hall of Fame Dinner

honoring US Senator Debbie Stabenow

Tuesday, October 3, 6:00 pm

University Club of Michigan State University
3435 Forest Rd
Lansing Charter Twp., MI 48910
Tickets \$100 per person or table of 8 for \$720

To RSVP and purchase tickets please call
Cindy at (517) 575-0110 or visit
www.greatlakesfloralassociation.org/michigan-floral-foundation/mff-hall-of-fame/



Together, America Prospers

USDA Seeks Applications for Rural Energy for America Program

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30, 2019 – Rural Business-Cooperative Service Administrator Bette Brand today invited applications for loan guarantees and grants for renewable energy systems; to make energy efficiency improvements, conduct energy audits and provide development assistance.

The funding is being provided through USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP),

which was created under the 2008 Farm Bill and reauthorized under the 2018 Farm Bill. This notice seeks applications for Fiscal Year 2020 funding. The deadlines to apply for renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grants are Oct. 31, 2019, and March 31, 2020. Applications for loan guarantees are accepted year-round. The deadline to apply for energy audit and development assistance grants is January 31, 2020.

REAP helps agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption by purchasing and installing renewable energy systems and making energy efficiency improvements in

their operations. Eligible systems may derive energy from wind, solar, hydroelectric, ocean, hydrogen, geothermal or renewable biomass (including anaerobic digesters).

USDA encourages applications that will support recommendations made in *the Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity* <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rural-prosperity-report.pdf> to help improve life in rural America.

Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

Additional information about the REAP program and how to apply for this funding is available on page 45713 of the Aug. 30, 2019, Federal Register.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/30/2019-18825/notice-of-solicitation-of-applications-for-the-rural-energy-for-america-program-for-fiscal-year-2020>

Bumblebees, Biologicals, and Blooms

October 10, 2019

8:00 am - 5:30 pm

Cost: Free! Space is limited! Boxed lunch will be provided.

Did you know... Koppert Biological Systems has a base of operations right here in Michigan? Would you like to come see it with us?

Join us on October 10 and you'll be able to:

- Check out their state-of-the-art bumblebee rearing facility
- Tour their quality control and distribution center
- Meet and chat with a few of their specialists

After lunch, we'll travel to a couple of fantastic local greenhouses to listen to their story, see some of the technology they employ, and hear about a few of their challenges.

This program is designed for anyone interested in greenhouse pest management, biological control, or commercial bee production. Prior knowledge and experience is helpful, but not necessary. Students are welcome!

**For Registration information contact (517) 353-3175 or
events@anr.msu.edu**

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