



MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

July 2014

MFGC Office
235 N Pine St
Lansing, MI 48933

Calendar of Events

FFA Masters Golf Outing

August 7, 2014
Eldorado Golf Course
Mason, MI

MFGC Board Meeting

Sept 11, 2014
Southeast Michigan

MFGC Member Meeting

Sept 11, 2014
Additional Info forthcoming

MFGC Annual Meeting

Great Lakes Expo
December 9, 2014
Grand Rapids

Dear Member,

Congratulations to our members who were nominated and those selected for the Grower and Operator of the Year awards. Michigan is top shelf with growers and operators.

MFGC is delighted that Erik Runkle was named Professor at Michigan State University, where he has been serving as Associate Professor. Congratulations Erik!

We welcome your ideas, thoughts and comments. Please keep in touch with the MFGC Board of Directors and office. We are here to improve the industry.

Sincerely,

Val Vail-Shirey
Executive Director

2014 Board of Directors:

Donny Marvaso - President
Bill Tuinier - Vice-President
Dick Derks - Secretary/Treasurer
Andy Buist
Paul Karlovich
Ken Tuinier
Dennis Crum
Erik Runkle - Educator Appointee
Carter Kent - Allied Trade Appointee
Mike Faber - Allied Trade Appointee
Mark Watkins - MDFGA Appointee
Scott Stiles - WMGA Appointee

Policy Chair - Bill Tuinier
Membership Chair - Ken Tuinier

MAEAP Certified Members

Great Lakes Greenhouses -
Kalamazoo

GreenDorr Greenhouse - Dorr

Nominations for Operation of the Year and Head Grower of the Year

Two of the four Head Grower of the Year finalists were Andy Buist of Micandy Gardens and Ron Godden of Wenke Greenhouses, who are both members of Michigan Floriculture Growers Council. It is an honor to be nominated for the award and then be chosen as one of the finalists. The award recipient was Ivan Tchakarov of Metrolina Greenhouse.

"I am truly humbled that my staff thought enough of me to place my name in nomination for this position," Buist says. "It shows the type of people that I have the privilege of working with every day. This is an honor way beyond anything I would have ever dreamed of."

"Our variety list has expanded, and the complexity of what we do continues to increase as we change to meet the needs of our customers," says Godden. "When I learn the tiny detail that makes something that only had a 50 percent germination before have 98 percent germination consistently, I have a sense of accomplishment," he says.

Joe Theisen Farm-
St. Clair

John Gernaat & Sons, Inc -
Kalamazoo



One of the four Operation of the Year finalists was Henry Mast Greenhouse, who is also an MFGC member, and they were selected as the award recipient. "Our customers have taught us a lot, and we appreciate the confidence they have placed in us," says Stiles. "For many years we defined ourselves as growers who specialized in only a few crops. We have learned that sometimes you have to step outside of your comfort zone and take on additional risk and responsibility to encourage company growth."

"We should be very proud of our MFGC colleagues -- having 3 of the 8 grower/company finalists from Michigan -- and MFGC members -- really indicates our national leadership and stature in the production of floriculture/greenhouse crops. Congratulations to them all!" says Erik Runkle, Professor, Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University.

Michigan Floriculture Growers Council Applauds Runkles Appointment

Dr. Erik Runkle was promoted from associate professor to professor effective July 1, 2014. Erik has a 50% extension and 50% research appointment in floriculture crop production in the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University, and his responsibilities remain the same. He joined the faculty in 2001 and was promoted from assistant to associate professor in 2007. He has been working with the floriculture industry to improve production practices and reduce energy consumption by determining the impacts of temperature management, lighting, and plant growth regulator applications on crop growth and flowering. He also serves as an unbiased resource for the greenhouse industry in Michigan and beyond, and with his Extension colleagues, offers educational opportunities for growers. Erik has served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council since its inception in 2005. "Erik is one of the top floriculture researchers in the United States. He truly enjoys working with growers and pays close attention to details. Growers can trust that his advice is backed by sound research and knowledge", says long time grower and member, Paul Karlovich.

SPRING FLING

DISCOUNTS
BONUS BUYS
DELAYED BILLING TERMS

BACCTO[®]
where growing begins.[™]

on
&

Garden Magic[®]
THE NAME SAYS IT ALL[™]

(as well as - mulch, decorative rock, & play sand)



product of USA

Contact Jon Konya - 517.230.9974
jkonya@michiganpeat.com



Product of Michigan

Walmart Requests Cut Flower Growing Partners in Michigan

Walmart is looking to partner with a grower or growers to support the advancement of the fresh cut floral industry in the state of Michigan on a year round basis. They would appreciate the opportunity to meet with any grower with experience or interest in selling fresh cut floral year round. Necessary facilities/capabilities include glass greenhouses, coolers, packing and shipping.

Ideally, Walmart would like to partner with a grower to test short lifecycle item such as L.A. Lilies, but would be interested in other opportunities as well. Once the proof of concept has been established, Walmart would then work to further the industry within the state, and expand to include as much variety as possible.

If you would like more information, contact MFGC Executive Director Val Vail-Shirey at 517-367-2033 or val@julianvail.com.



A FARMER'S BEST FRIEND

**Our agricultural department
has expanded its services
to help farmers meet their
daily demands.**

**Some of the new management
services we provide:**

- New irrigation
- Electrical service upgrades
- New/expanded natural gas
service (grain dryers)



**Call us today at:
(800) 805-0490**
for all of your energy needs



Columbus, OH | Washington, DC
614-487-1117
AmericanHort.org

PRESS RELEASE

AmericanHort Alex Laurie Award Winners Announced

Columbus, Ohio - Dr. Erik Runkle and Heidi Wollaeger, Michigan State University, were named recipients of the AmericanHort Alex Laurie Award during Cultivate'14.

The Alex Laurie Award is presented by AmericanHort to the author(s) of the most significant applied floriculture research paper published in any of the three refereed American Society for Horticultural Science publications during a calendar year.

The award was presented for "Growth Responses of Ornamental Annual Seedlings Under Different Wavelengths of Red Light Provided by Light-emitting Diodes," published during 2013 in the HortScience journal.

Each researcher receives an honorarium, a plaque, and an opportunity to participate in the Cultivate'15 program.

Runkle is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University; Wollaeger is an Extension Educator with Michigan State University Extension - Kalamazoo County.

This award was established in honor of the late Alex Laurie (1892-1982), renowned floriculture teacher and researcher at The Ohio State University and founder of the Ohio Florists' Association (now AmericanHort).

**Michigan FFA Foundation 15th Annual
FFA MASTERS GOLF OUTING**

Thursday, August 7
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (9:30 Shotgun Start)

Eldorado Golf Course
3750 W. Howell Rd., Mason, MI | 989-676-2854

- Register by **July 30** at: www.michiganffa.org
- Registration includes: 18-hole round, cart, putting contest, driving range before the gun, light breakfast, lunch & dinner
- \$100/person or \$400/team of four
- Sponsor an FFA member (with mulligans) to complete your team
- Skins/Mulligans Value Packs available

All proceeds benefit the 6,281 Michigan FFA members

For more information & sponsorship opportunities, visit www.michiganffa.org
or contact the Michigan FFA Foundation at 517-432-2482