

Director Candidates - Region 1



PAUL R. HAMELIN

Leelanau County
Lake Leelanau, Michigan

NOMINEE:

- Age 69
- FCS Member for 10 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
PO Box 272, Leland, Michigan 49654

YEARS FARMING: 15

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

Paul retired from his Pharmaceutical/Biotech career in 2011 to devote his energies into expanding their farming, vineyard operations, and launch the family's winery operation. Today the family business owns and operates, three distinct vineyard farms in Leelanau County with more than 45 acres of planted grapes with a total of 150 acres of land. The family farms all aspects of these vineyards. They do not use a "farm management" business to plant and grow their grapes. They also provide housing and manage six H2A workers as part of their current team.

Commercially, they hold two tasting room licenses in the Leelanau Peninsula and two more tasting rooms in the Detroit suburbs. They are also in the top 10% of Michigan wineries in sales to other states via E-Commerce. They hold 15 different state shipping licenses which enable a robust E-commerce consumer business, shipping wine to almost all local Midwest regional states, and Florida, Texas, New York, California, Arizona and recently Georgia, Virginia, and North Carolina.

The operation grows, produces and bottles 24 SKUs of wine and hard cider in Leelanau County. Their products are 100% Michigan grown. Their wines are entered into International Wine Competitions and are rated by blinded judging panels against wines from all over the world, including Europe. They consistently receive awards that place these wines in the top 10% of wines globally.

EDUCATION:

Waverly High School, Lansing, Michigan

Michigan State University: Bachelor's Degree in Zoology and Physiology

Ferris State University: Pharmaceutical Degree, Registered Pharmacist RPh.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Board Member and Founder: Traverse Wine Coast

Member: Elks Club in Traverse City

Member: Leelanau Peninsula Vintners Association

REASON FOR RUNNING:

Our family understands the need to give back to the community and we can accomplish some of this goal through our participation with different groups and organizations like GreenStone. Michigan is the third largest State in agricultural production in the United States and one of the most diverse agricultural bases across the country. Michigan needs a much more aggressive expansion in agriculture to help diversify our State's economy and to prepare for farming of the future with changing climates and population growth. We live in the largest fresh water eco-system in the world and its agricultural and food impact is only just beginning to unfold. Combined with partners in research from the many Universities in Michigan, including Michigan State University, we need to invest in this business sector of Michigan. Michigan's huge agricultural base, immense Great Lakes fresh water eco-system and University based research, suggests the time to increase investment in agriculture and move Michigan to the #1 agricultural area in the US is now.



PETER C. MAXWELL

Gladwin County
Beaverton, Michigan

INCUMBENT:

- Age 39
- FCS Member for 9 years
- Board Member for 7 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
34 Brushaber Road, Beaverton, Michigan 48612

YEARS FARMING: 18

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

Peter and his wife Allyson own and operate a 400-acre small cash crop farm raising corn, sugar beets and soybeans. He operates ACH Seeds, a sugar beet seed company, in Michigan Sugar Company's West Growing District working with the majority of producers in that district. He is employed by Maxwell Seed Farms, a large family farm, raising cash crops, hay, freezer beef, vegetables and a direct-market pumpkin farm. His responsibilities include day-to-day operations, annual forecasting, planning, marketing, and technology usage and implementation.

EDUCATION:

Albion College: Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Management

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Past Vice Chair: Gladwin County Farm Bureau

Chair: Michigan Farm Bureau Dry Bean and Sugar Beet Advisory Committee. 2022/2023 State Policy Development Committee; 2023 Farm Bill Task Force

Chair: Michigan Sugar Company West District

Member: Michigan/National Corn Growers Association

Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assessment Program (MAEAP) verified cropping operation

ACH Seeds National Salesman of the Year

REASON FOR RUNNING:

Recently I overheard my nine-year-old son tell someone how lucky he is to live on a farm, and that living on a farm is important, because it's generational. As I reflect on the critical role Farm Credit has not only played on my personal farm, but also my father's and grandfather's farm, I have to believe that we would not be so lucky to be raising our family on a farm today without the Farm Credit System. I have a passion for agriculture and hope that someday my children continue my family's passion. The fact that GreenStone's shareholders have entrusted me to represent their interests in our cooperative is truly humbling. I take my position very seriously: I have never missed a meeting and always try to focus on what is on the horizon for GreenStone, what is best for our fellow shareholders, and their operations. The successes of our association during my tenure amazes me. It has doubled in size, distributed record patronage back to our shareholders, successfully navigated a pandemic, and hired an outstanding new CEO. Today, I am hopeful that my fellow shareholders continue to trust me to help lead our organization with my fellow board members alongside our new CEO, so that we can continue to score more big wins for our cooperative.



BENJAMIN E. RITTER

Saginaw County
Saginaw, Michigan

NOMINEE:

- Age 47
- FCS Member for 18 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
6278 Ritter Road, Saginaw, MI 48601

YEARS FARMING: 29

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

Ben is the fourth generation farming the farm in Saginaw County and has taken over after his father retired five years ago. While his father still helps around the farm, he decided it was time to let the next generation take the reins. The farm is a soybean and corn cash crop operation of 855 acres. Ben has been actively involved in Farm Bureau at the state and county level since he was 17 years old and still actively serves as Candidate Evaluation Chair and Policy Development Chair for Bay County.

While his dad was still the main farmer, Ben started working off the farm for supplemental income at Central Michigan University (CMU). That has been an ongoing role now for more than 20 years, and while Ben could just be a full-time farmer, he has gotten to really enjoy spending the winter months being paid to help students learn how to manufacture parts and devices for their programs. Ben founded the two Society of Automotive Engineer race teams that CMU has as a way to get students the hands-on skills they need to understand their programs.

Farmer, Politician, Policy Man and a Professor, all in one. It's been a unique path which Ben could have never planned, but it's given him a lot of experiences from many different perspectives over the years.

EDUCATION:

Delta College: Associate's Degree in Science

Michigan State University: Bachelor of Science in Agriscience

Central Michigan University: Master of Arts in Industrial Management

Central Michigan University: Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Farm Bureau, US Soybean Board representative for "Leadership at it's Best, Class of 2022"

REASON FOR RUNNING:

I appreciate the value of cooperative organizations where members have a voice in their own fate and outcomes. I like the idea of membership being the shareholder and knowing that people we all know, and trust, are in leadership instead of the traditional corporate bank relationship which only discusses dollars and cents relationships.

Membership-based organizations also require participation from the members beyond just using associated services. I consider it a great honor to be allowed the opportunity to run for this position.



TONY M. ROSEBRUGH

Ogemaw County
West Branch, Michigan

NOMINEE:

- Age 56
- FCS member for 26 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
502 East State Road, West Branch, Michigan 48661

YEARS FARMING: 40

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

Tony operates TR Timber generating saw timber, pulpwood, and approximately 35 cords of fuel chips per week. He also owns Rosebrugh Dairy Farm which owns 785 cows and 650 young cattle. Tony owns 2,400 acres of crop land and grows corn, alfalfa, hay, and wheat.

EDUCATION:

Ogemaw Heights High School

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Member: Great Northern Cooperative

Member: Ogemaw Soil Conservation

Member: Michigan Farm Bureau

REASON FOR RUNNING:

I have always enjoyed the business side of our family companies and in helping others when they ask for business advice. I feel that being on a board of this caliber will be a good fit for myself and GreenStone. If I did not believe that I could bring value, I would not have accepted this gracious offer to apply. With my experience in the agriculture and timber businesses I know that I can make a positive impact. At the age I am right now, I am old enough to remember how it was and yet young enough to address the continuing changes in the lending world.

Director Candidates - Region 2



JOHN E. BRZOZOWSKI

Lapeer County
Almont, Michigan

NOMINEE:

- Age 58
- FCS Member for 21 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

3903 VanDyke, Almont, Michigan 48003

YEARS FARMING: 33

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

John and his wife own and operate American Tree, Incorporated with their son Joseph. American Tree is a garden center, nursery, and landscape business.

EDUCATION:

Romeo High School

Oakland University: Bachelor of Science in Marketing

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Member: Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association

Member: AmericanHort

Member: The Small Business Association of Michigan

Member: Almont Chamber of Commerce

Member: Imlay City Chamber of Commerce

Member: Metamora Chamber of Commerce

REASON FOR RUNNING:

My name is John Brzozowski, the owner of American Tree, Inc., located in Almont. American Tree is a retail garden center and landscape company. I co-own the company with my wife Connie and my son Joseph. I am seeking a position on the Board of Directors for GreenStone Farm Credit Services Region 2 because this is an agriculture focused, reputable organization that has done so much for myself, my family, and my business. I've witnessed firsthand over the last 20 plus years what GreenStone has done for agriculture in all of the areas it serves.

My passion for agriculture began in middle school when I worked for a local apple orchard. I've sold fruit at the Eastern Market in Detroit, worked at Great Lakes Mushroom Farms in Imlay City, and worked my way through college at a nursery in Romeo, which I now own. I am extremely proud of my background and have developed a strong appreciation for agriculture and horticulture. I graduated from Oakland University, in Rochester, Michigan with a BS in Marketing. I've used this knowledge to help my business grow, through strong marketing and a strong financial background. In addition to my business experience, I have served on the Almont Community School Board of Education as Treasurer for 14 years, Four County Community Foundation as Chair of the Board, and am currently serving on the Board of Michigan Horticulture Industries Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Fund.

In our community, I know numerous farmers, many of whom I have become friends with. I have developed a deep understanding of the challenges many in agriculture face. I have been a customer of GreenStone Farm Credit Services since 2002. Their unique understanding of agriculture and related niche businesses, like nurseries, greenhouses, and specialty crops have made it possible for us to finance a business when traditional banks were concerned to take us on as a customer. I believe I am qualified to serve because of my previous board experience, strong financial background, and a lifetime of working around agriculture and horticulture. It would be an incredible honor to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for GreenStone Farm Credit Services.



DAVID J. MCCONNACHIE

Sanilac County
Deckerville, Michigan

INCUMBENT:

- Age 66
- FCS Member for 27 years
- Board Member for 3 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

2820 Forester Road, Deckerville, Michigan 48427

YEARS FARMING: 48

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

David and his wife Sally farm alongside their daughter Shelley and her husband, Tim. The operation, named affectionately by David's children as Dave's Dirt LLC, farms approximately 1,000 acres of wheat, sugar beets, and dry beans.

EDUCATION:

Deckerville High School

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Member: Michigan Farm Bureau

Member: Michigan Corn Growers Association

Member: Michigan Soybean Association

Member: POET BioRefining

Member: Croswell Wesleyan Church

Board Member: Downing Cemetery

Former Board Member: Michigan Sugar Company

Former Board Member: Bayside Best Beans

Former Board Member: Michigan Bio-Diesel

Former Board Member: Michigan Corn Processors

REASON FOR RUNNING:

I believe that by working together, farmers can accomplish more, and GreenStone is one of the tools that can be instrumental in this. As one of the few institutions that offer a long-term fixed rate, I would emphasize that GreenStone keep the fixed rate option as one of their main priorities. GreenStone holds a lot of farmer capital. I'd use my experience to help set direction and policy to ensure that farm capital is preserved for future generations for all agriculture, large and small. The GreenStone cooperative is big enough that it can influence policies. I'd like to enhance the effort to promote rural communities so they continue to be a great place to raise a family.



SCOTT A. ROGGENBUCK

Huron County
Harbor Beach, Michigan

INCUMBENT:

- Age 60
- FCS member for 39 years
- Board member for 16 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

8579 Helena Road, Harbor Beach, MI 48441

YEARS FARMING: 41

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

Scott serves as an Agronomy Consultant for Star of the West Milling Company. He is a partner in Cedar Pond Farms, Inc. growing corn, soybeans, wheat, dry beans, and sugar beets, and a partner in Cedar Pond Holdings LLC farmland holding corporation.

EDUCATION:

Harbor Beach Community Schools

REASON FOR RUNNING:

The past 16 years of serving on the GreenStone board has been a very rewarding experience. I have enjoyed the challenge of working with a growing association determined to increase productivity and efficiency. In this aspect, GreenStone is very similar to farming. I came on the board when GreenStone was a four-billion-dollar association and through careful management has grown to over thirteen billion dollars in owned and managed assets, while paying out \$840 million in patronage to its owners. This was accomplished without merger, or sacrificing credit quality while insuring competitive, dependable credit to our owner members. I learned I was well-suited for this position and feel I still have much to offer as a board member.



PAUL J. TREIBER

Tuscola County
Unionville, Michigan

NOMINEE:

- Age 64
- FCS Member for 35 years

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

6183 Sheridan Road, Unionville, Michigan 48767

YEARS FARMING: 41

FARMING ENTERPRISE:

Paul owns and operates Fertile Valley Seed Farm LLC and Treiber Land LLC. He has been certified organic since 2007. Paul also worked at Walbro and TI Automotive in Cass City and Caro for 30 years. He has held positions in product engineering, manufacturing engineering, and was Caro Plant Manager and Aftermarket Business Director for the last three years he worked there. Paul is now farming full-time with his son-in-law.

EDUCATION:

Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School

Ferris State University: Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics

Saginaw Valley State University: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

OTHER AFFILIATIONS:

Director: Cooperative Elevator Board of Directors

Chairman: Akron Township Planning and Zoning Commission

Member/Officer: St. Paul Lutheran Church in Unionville

I have given presentations regarding my organic farming operation and test plot data at MOSES Organic Conference in Wisconsin and at Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance Conference at Michigan State University.

REASON FOR RUNNING:

GreenStone has served me very well over the years as a member and stockholder. I appreciate the continuous improvement GreenStone has done over the years to improve customer satisfaction and service. I have a wealth of experience with continuous improvement and business management from my time at Walbro and TI Automotive and the improvements I have done on my farm. I feel my education and experience will help me contribute as a board member for GreenStone. When I was working as an engineer and farming, I didn't have time to give back to the organizations that have helped me. I now would like to give back to GreenStone by being a board member for all GreenStone has done for me in my farming operation. I also have a daughter and son-in-law who plan to take over the farm operation to continue the farm for the fifth generation. I want to help with GreenStone being there for many years to come to help future generations.