



MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

July 2015

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Calendar of Events

Board Meeting
Wed., Sept. 16, 2015
235 N. Pine St.
Lansing

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, Dec 8, 2015
Devos Place
Grand Rapids

2015 Board of Directors

President
Bill Tuinier

Vice-President
Dennis Crum

Secretary/Treasurer
Donny Marvaso

Members
Dick Derks
Andy Buist
Ken Tuinier
Susie Raker-Zimmerman

Educator Appointee
Erik Runkle

Allied Trade Appointees
Bud Ripberger
Mike Faber

MDFGA Appointee
Tammy Ruhlig

WMGA Appointee
Scott Stiles

Policy Chair
Ken Tuinier

Membership Chair
Susie Raker-Zimmerman

Cheers!

We have had quite a summer thus far. Between meetings, regular business and MFGC operations, the Board of Directors have been working diligently on your behalf.

We enjoyed a Greenhouse Tour of Sportels in June, a brief synopsis of the meeting is below. We submitted two grant requests, one to survey Michigan restaurants, universities and hospitals via the Farm to Institution Program within the Center for Regional Food Systems at Michigan State University, to see if they may be interested in purchasing herbs grown in Michigan Greenhouses in their recipes. The survey would help growers decide if they wish to serve this business community. The second application was to request funds for a greenhouse container recycling cooperative feasibility study. Both grants and research are to benefit the industry and give options for their bottom line.

In this newsletter we have posted meetings to be held very shortly, as in next week and the week after. So if you are interested in greenhouse tours, field trials or water use, please read on and get signed up as soon as possible.

Happy growing,

Bill Tuinier, President
MFGC

MAEAP Certified Members

Kalamazoo Specialty Plants, LLC * Kalamazoo

Great Lakes Greenhouses * Kalamazoo

GreenDorr Greenhouse * Dorr

Joe Theisen Farm * St. Clair

Westrate Greenhouses, Inc * Kalamazoo

MSU Hidden * Lake Gardens



Member Meeting Held at Sportel Greenhouse

On Monday, June 22, 2015 the board of directors and other members met at Sportel's Greenhouse in Kalamazoo to meet with area legislators, networking and have an informative discussion with Dave Smitley on Pollinators and the Greenhouse industry.



Consumers Energy's Sanju Guinn & Dennis Berkebile gave an update on energy pricing, emergency response and industry energy services. Vice-President Dennis Crum provided an update on the MFGC presentation to the State of Michigan House of Representatives Agriculture Committee. Michigan Senator Schuitmaker, Senator O'Brien, Representative Maturen and Greg Moore for Senator Nofs, toured Sportel's and learned about the industry and it's issues from members in attendance.

We also heard from local Township Supervisor Ann Nieuwenhuis and local County Commissioner Roger Tuinier on local issues pertaining to the greenhouse business and possible impacts.

MFGC's board meeting followed the member meeting and discussion centered on greenhouse container recycling opportunities, insurance issues and opportunities for members and how to grow the greenhouse industry.

MSU hosts Greenhouse Tours

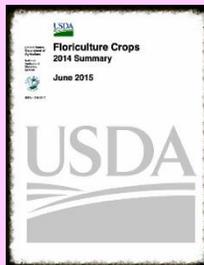
Michigan State University (MSU) will be holding their 12th annual free Garden Plant Tour for a two-week period, from July 27 through August 7, 2015. Plant producers of ornamentals and industry professionals will have new and existing plant selections on display. Visitors can learn how new selections perform in different settings and will see a wide range of ornamental crops and perennials.

MSU's advertising says this is a terrific way to observe plant performance at different locations and grown under various conditions, both in the ground and in containers.

Greenhouse growers, landscapers, garden center operators, and nurserymen are invited to visit each of the participating Tour sites. Click on the [2015 Michigan Garden Plant Tour](#) for a map of locations.



USDA 2014 Survey Published in June



The United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service published the *Floriculture Crops 2014 Summary* in June 2015. Extremely important statistics that compare Michigan to 15 other states show how Michigan ranks in floriculture sales, production and acreage. To read the full report click [here](#).

Although our grower numbers are down, you will see the wholesale value of all sales by plant category was up compared to 2013 in all three categories of Annual bedding/garden plants, Herbaceous perennial plants, and Bedding/garden plants.

MSU Plant Trial Field Day, Tuesday, August 4, 2015

MSU will be hosting the annual Plant Trials Field Day to show top-performing plants in the **MSU Trial Gardens** including bedding plants, vegetative ornamentals, and vegetables. In the morning we will host a half day program featuring presentations on the Best of the Best from our Trial Manager Daedre Craig and Garden Director Art Cameron.

You'll learn about some of the superior new plants and how they perform in mid-Michigan in our trials. Plant performance, ornamental characters, and special needs of plants will be covered.

They will also host presentations on the most recent research on the development and spread of impatiens downy mildew and up-to-date discussions on the evolving ethics of American gardeners. For this important and timely topic, Entomologists and Horticultural Extension Specialists will bring us up-to-date on the latest news in pollinators, native insects, and pesticides such as neonicotinoids.

Costs to attend: On or before July 30: \$42 per person (1-2 per company) and \$36 per person (if three or more attend); After July 30 it will be \$52 per person.

In the News

- [2015 Michigan Capitol Flower Planting](#)
- [She's Crazy about Michigan's Moths](#)
- [Enjoy Flowers Indoors With Arrangements](#)
- [America in Bloom and National Garden Bureau join Million Pollinator Garden Challenge](#)
- [Restoring the landscape, one backyard at a time](#)
- [Plant 'milkers' seek molecules for medicines and make-up](#)

Check nursery plants and containers for gypsy moths now

Adult male gypsy moths are actively flying and females are laying eggs. Scout nursery stock and containers to avoid a problem when shipping plants out of state.

Posted on July 24, 2015 by Tom Dudek, Michigan State University Extension

"... Michigan State University Extension reminds nursery growers that female gypsy moth adults do not fly and will lay egg masses on plants and even on the undersides of nursery pots, especially under the lip of the pot where they are observed. It is advised that growers scout now for adult female gypsy moths and begin to look for egg masses. If perimeter trees around your nursery have infestations, examine nursery stock and containers within 100 meters very carefully for the presence of egg masses, and remove them before any plants are shipped."

Read more [here...](#)

Benefits of plants: Life as we know it, live it and pay for it

MSU Extension's Kristin Getter talks about promoting the benefits of plants at your greenhouse business. She has excellent ideas to consider, such as promoting how plants benefit our planet, lives and income.

You may want to consider her [ideas](#) when talking to your customers.

