



MFGGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

December 2015

MFGGC Office
235 N Pine St
Lansing, MI 48933
517-367-2033
mail@mifgc.org



Calendar of Events

MFGGC Board Meeting

Thursday,
January 21, 2016
9:00 am

2016 Membership Meeting

June 27, 2016
9:00 am

Other Events

Ag Day at the Capitol

March 16, 2016
11am - 2pm
Capitol Building, Lansing

Cultivate Ohio

July 9 - 12, 2016
Ohio

MSU Plant Trial Field Day

August 2, 2016
MSU

Great Lakes Expo

December 6, 2016
Devos Place
Grand Rapids, MI

Hello Val,

We had a wonderful time at the Annual Great Lakes Expo, Board meeting and Member Meeting on December 8. Important topics such as the Great Lakes Leadership Academy (which we sponsor) and energy efficiency for our businesses were discussed. This newsletter provides links to our guest speakers' presentations. Feel free to review if you attended the meeting and if you weren't there, your membership privileges allow you to see what you missed...



Your support helps maintain our viability as a state organization, that is recognized by our government. Right now things are quiet in the government with respect to Floriculture but we need to stay visible.

We want to remind you to renew your membership. Your support helps us coordinate these meetings and those ahead in 2016. As always, this time of year helps us reflect on our good fortune and reminds us all that we are a small part of a much bigger and powerful picture - Michigan Agriculture.

I hope you are blessed this holiday season and like me, look forward to a prosperous new year.

Cheers!

Bill Tuinier, President
MFGGC

2016 Board of

Directors

President
Bill Tuinier

Vice-President
Dennis Crum

Secretary/Treasurer
Donny Marvaso

Members
Dick Derks
Kevin Sportel

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



In Memorium

David Feenstra has passed...

Funeral services were held on Monday, December 14 at Second Allendale Christian Reformed Church for David J. Feenstra, who passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, December 10, 2015. David owned and operated Feenstra Brothers Farms and Greenhouse with his brother Bern.



Christian schools have played an important role in Dave's life. Donations in his memory can be made to Allendale Christian School or Unity Christian High School. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

Membership Renewal

Your membership renewal is in the mail. Please renew as soon as you receive the invoice.

Remember, there is strength in numbers and the more members we have the better the the benefits.

Click [here](#) to download an application.



**MICHIGAN FLORICULTURE GROWERS COUNCIL
WEBSITE DIRECTORY**

Please take a moment and complete the information below as this will be your listing on the website directory. We are developing a new website and expect to have it completed January 2016.

Company Name: _____
Contact Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

Distributions
 Retail
 Wholesale

Other
 Educator
 Student
 Friend of Industry

Products
 Spring Annuals
 Perennials
 Florist Pot Crops
 Vegetables/Herbs

Special information: _____

(Please return this form with your membership renewal to: MFGC, 235 N. Pine Street, Lansing, MI 48933)

**Annual Meeting
Presentations**
The links below will
allow you to open the

**Consumers Energy and
Energy Saving Solutions**

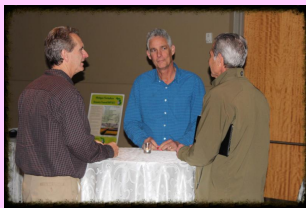
Why would Consumers Energy encourage people to use energy

power point presentations as PDF files.

[Ontario Bus Tour and Insect BioControl Programs](#)

[Pollinator Research Update and Thrips Biocontrol](#)

MFGC Annual Meeting Fun



MFGA Annual Meeting Bill Tuinier and board member Bud Ripberger



Dr. Dave Smitley, MSU and Tom Dudek, MSUE



Board Member & Membership Chair Susie Raker with Board Member Dr. Erik Runkle, Education Appointee



Board Member & Membership Chair Susie Raker presenting a MFGC membership package to member Lisa

more efficiently? That's a good question. After all, energy is a product they produce and sell.

The answer is pretty simple. Consumers understands that energy efficiency is good for our state, our company, and every one of us. They believe its one of America's greatest untapped sources of power. That's why they are strongly committed to helping customers get the most value possible from every kilowatt-hour of electricity or cubic foot of natural gas purchased from them.

Consumers Energy also recognizes that everyone has the power to save. Improving efficiency in homes and businesses is clean, smart and relatively inexpensive. Using less electricity helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stabilize volatile energy prices and boost energy security. It also helps save money, and that's a boost for the economy.

In October 2008, legislation was signed into law directing Michigan utilities to offer energy efficiency programs to their customers. In the summer of 2009, Consumers Energy launched comprehensive electric and gas energy efficiency programs. Participating in the programs is easy, and there's no need to enroll.

Their [website](#) has many ways to save energy and money, along with companies that offer rebates from Consumers Energy on energy efficient products.

Consumers Energy is helping get the most value out of the energy used.



PRESS RELEASE:

The Great Lakes Leadership Academy is accepting applications for the 2016 Emerging Leader Program and the 2016-17 Leadership Advancement Program.

Are you looking for opportunities to grow your impact and effectiveness as a leader? Great Lakes Leadership Academy brings together current and emerging leaders in government, non-profits, and industry to broaden perspectives about key sustainability issues and consider how leadership for the common good can influence Michigan's future.

As a GLLA participant you will invest in a transformational personal growth experience while learning practical leadership and decision making tools. The curriculum is designed to provide intense, hands-on experiences r and develop dynamic networks to promote positive action on issues facing Michigan and the Great Lakes region.

GLLA offers two programs focusing on the development needs of leaders throughout their journey as well as an alumni support network.

Wenke Ambrosia

Employer Requirements for ACA due in 2016

by Manner Costerison

Beginning in 2016 (for health coverage offered on or after January 1, 2015), Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 6056 requires Applicable Large Employers (ALEs) to file information returns to report applicable healthcare information. Click [here](#) for more information.

The *Emerging Leader Program* is delivered over a seven month period, with three four-day sessions. The program will help you develop effective facilitation and participatory decision making tools, skills for relationship building across differences, and leading with emotional strength and wellness. Tuition for the *Emerging Leader Program* is \$3,500 which includes all training, materials, lodging, meals, and other expenses.

The *Leadership Advancement Program* is designed for leaders who are committed to strengthening their personal leadership skills and empowering their communities. The program includes 12 sessions (40 days over 18 months) and brings together leaders from diverse communities and exposes them to critical issues along with innovative, equitable and inclusive approaches for addressing those issues. GLLA will broaden the participant's knowledge base and their professional networks. Tuition for the *Leadership Advancement Program* is \$5,000 which includes all training, materials, lodging, meals, and other expenses.

Visit www.glla.msu.edu for additional information about the Emerging Leader and Leadership Advancement Programs and to apply. The application period is open now through January 1, 2016. Please contact Christy Roman at romanch4@anr.msu.edu or 517-353-6472 if you have any questions about the program.



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Try it FREE today.

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