



MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

January 2016

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

Calendar of Events

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

2016 Board of Directors

President
Bill Tuinier

Vice-President
Dennis Crum

Secretary/Treasurer
Donny Marvaso

Members
Dick Derks
Kevin Sportel
Ken Tuinier

Hello

Thank you to all who attended the MFGC annual meeting in Grand Rapids, on December 8, 2015. We had a great turnout and wonderful presentations. Good luck to Kevin Sportel who also won the Hoverboard™ in the drawing at the annual meeting.

As a result of voting at the annual meeting, we welcome our new board member Kevin Sportel who is joining the board for his first term. Ken Tuinier and I were re-elected to our second terms on the board. Your board of directors had a very productive meeting in December and is focusing on re-invention opportunities for the greenhouse industry. We anticipate a productive meeting next week as we begin to explore the road to achieve our goals.

On behalf of the board, I want to thank outgoing board member Andy Buist, Andy has served on the Board of Directors for six years and has done a tremendous job for the industry.

We are very sad with the passing of fellow industry man Dave Feenstra from a tragic accident in his greenhouse. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

As always, our goal is to better the floriculture greenhouse industry and we welcome your ideas and participation.

Please feel free to contact me or Val at the MFGC office.

Happy New Year

Bill Tuinier, President
MFGC

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 benefits.

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

Susie Raker-Zimmerman

Educator Appointee

Erik Runkle

Allied Trade Appointees

Bud Ripberger

Mike Faber

MDFGA Appointee

Jason Pinter

WMGA Appointee

Scott Klooster

Policy Chair

Ken Tuinier

Membership Chair

Susie Raker-Zimmerman



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)

Like us on Facebook 

WOTUS - Waters of the United States

The Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule is a law that extends federal authority over smaller waterways. Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies purports to exempt agriculture land, if you read their [Q & A](#) sheet you will see that most farms will be impacted. It's almost as if the people who wrote the rules were doing so behind a desk, in a high-rise, in Washington DC. They obviously have never driven down a country road in the spring to see drain tile runoff flowing rapidly through ditches into water tributaries.

Last week a House resolution to overturn the rule was vetoed by President Obama. Although WOTUS is intended to protect vulnerable waters of the US, certain consequences of the rule have farmers and county drain commissions potentially violating the law if run-off waters (with e-coli, fertilizer, or pollutants) from pastures end up in ditches that feed into lakes and tributaries.

Agriculture interests are being addressed by Iowa Republican Sen. Joni Ernst, who sponsored the resolution. He has vowed to remain committed to identifying new ways to push back against this complex, burdensome and overreaching rule.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

Retail Greenhouse and Garden Centers

**MARKETING
BOOT
CAMP**



Dr. Bridget Behe
Professor, Horticultural Marketing
Michigan State University

A program focused on getting you and your team back in shape for the busy spring selling season. This interactive day is designed to help boost morale, unify vision, and ready the troops for duty. Join our drill sergeant as she covers topics from business purpose and philosophy to marketing math and social media. Dr. Behe will discuss:

- sales and selling techniques
- pricing and value
- the retail experience, creating displays, and social media

[Flyer & Registration Form](#)

Preregistration is deadline is March 16!
Register today!

Creagh named Interim Director of DEQ

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Keith Creagh, of Williamston, Michigan will serve as interim director for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) after Director Dan Wyant resigned due to the Flint water crisis. Flint residents were exposed to elevated levels of lead in their drinking water throughout 2014 and 2015. As a result many have elevated lead levels in their blood - a sign of lead poisoning.

The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (Act 399), enacted in 1976, gives the DEQ authority over the drinking water program in our state. The lead contamination occurred after Flint switched its water supply source from Lake Huron to the Flint River without adding corrosion control chemicals. The DEQ neglected to require these chemicals and the Flint River water leached lead from pipes, joints and fixtures into the water.

Creagh will guide the DEQ through its leadership transition period, and Dr. Bill Moritz will serve as interim director at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Creagh has worked closely on many environmental and public health issues with the Environmental Protection Agency, Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Creagh became DNR's director in July 2012 and was previously director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture

and Rural Development (MDARD, from 2010 through 2012). Before his directorships, Creagh served as director of industry affairs for Lansing-based biotech/pharmaceutical company Neogen, which provides food and animal safety solutions to the agri-food industry. He worked as Plant Pest Management Division Director at MDARD before 2007.

Moritz is the natural resources deputy at the DNR, previously serving as chief and assistant chief of the wildlife division and as a deer research specialist. He also was executive director for Safari Club international and the Safari Club International Foundation. Moritz earned a doctorate in zoology from Southern Illinois University, a master's degree in fish and wildlife management from Montana State University and a bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife biology from Iowa State University.