



# MFGGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

August 2014

**MFGC Office**  
235 N Pine St  
Lansing, MI 48933

## Calendar of Events

**MFGC Board Meeting**  
Sept 11, 2014  
Greenstone, Lansing

**MFGC Annual Meeting**  
December 9, 2014  
Grand Rapids  
**Great Lakes Expo**  
<https://www.glexpo.com/>

## **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

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

The Marvaso family have a baby boy! Seven (7) and a half pounds - 22" long. Donny says all is well and Rory has a lot of hair.

Welcome  
Rory Christopher Marvaso

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

Annual Meeting

December 9th, 2014

Great Lakes Expo

<https://www.glexpo.com/>

## **MAEAP Certified Members**

Great Lakes Greenhouses - Kalamazoo

GreenDorr Greenhouse - Dorr

Joe Theisen Farm- St. Clair

John Gernaat & Sons, Inc - Kalamazoo





## MICHIGAN FLORICULTURE GROWERS COUNCIL

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### **Michigan utility regulators discuss energy challenges of Michigan Greenhouses** *Michigan Public Service Commission tour greenhouse in Kalamazoo*

LANSING - Several agri-businesses in southwest Michigan were visited by representatives of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to address the energy challenges and needs of the industry. Senator Schuitmaker, Representative O'Brien and other members of agri-business also participated in the tour.

"Energy use and requirements are different across every sector of Michigan's diverse economy, and we're committed to energy policy that promotes economic growth in each of them," said John D. Quackenbush, chairman of the MPSC. "Today we had the chance to learn about the specific needs of agriculture and the current infrastructure in place for electric and natural gas service - as well as challenges we want to help address. We always welcome the opportunity to hear from those in the agriculture industry, and we want to continue our close partnership on energy issues."

Senator Schuitmaker says "It was a pleasure to join the Michigan Agri-business Association and Michigan Floriculture Growers in welcoming members of the Public Service Commission to Zylstra's Greenhouse in Kalamazoo. Southwest Michigan has a thriving and vibrant agriculture industry and this was an excellent opportunity to discuss ways to support our local growers."

"It was a great opportunity to have members of the PSC tour our greenhouse and expose them to the floriculture greenhouse side of agriculture," says Steve Zylstra, owner of Zylstra Greenhouses. "I appreciate MABA coordinating the agriculture tour and Senator Schuitmaker and Representative O'Brien taking the time to learn more about the industry."

Opportunities for growth in Michigan's Floriculture sector will improve with greater access to energy and energy alternatives.

Jim Byrum, president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA) said "We're seeing new opportunities every year for expansion, and as agribusinesses look to open new locations and further boost the rural economy, they often face significant hurdles with regard to reliable, affordable infrastructure." Many farms and agri-businesses are located in rural areas, literally at the "end of the line" for energy access. Byrum said that a key priority for MABA has been bridging the gap between agri-businesses, energy regulators and utilities to help reduce that issue.

Topics throughout today's tour included electricity prices in Michigan, three-phase electric access in rural areas, distributed generation, renewable energy, information sharing and natural gas infrastructure.



Crop of Fall Pansies ready for shipment from Zylstra's Greenhouse



MPSC members listening intently on the greenhouse tour



Senator Schuitmaker and Rep O'Brien enjoying the beauty of the tour

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