



# MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

February 2015

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

## Calendar of Events

### **Ag Day at the Capitol**

March 25, 2015  
11am - 2pm  
Capitol Building  
Lansing

### **Member Meeting**

March 27, 2015  
9:00 am  
WoJo's Greenhouse  
Ortonville

### **Board Meeting**

March 27, 2015  
WoJo's Greenhouse  
Ortonville

### **MSU Grower Day**

July 11-14, 2015  
MSU

### **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

Dear Member,

Spring will be here soon! Please mark your calendar with two important dates in March. March 25th is the tenth annual Ag Day at the Capitol and you are invited to attend and present Michigan Floriculture to legislators, staff & other attendees. Please contact me for attendance information. March 27th MFGC will host a membership meeting at Wojo's Greenhouse in Ortonville. We will tour Wojo's and discuss industry issues with legislators and regulators. See detailed information below and plan to attend this important meeting.

As always, contact me with any questions.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Val Vail-Shirey  
Executive Director



Michigan Floriculture  
Growers Council

### **Membership Meeting & Industry Discussion**

Friday, March 27, 2015

WoJo's Greenhouses  
2570 Oakwood • Ortonville, MI 48462

9:00 am - Coffee and Donuts

9:30 am - Tour of WoJo's Greenhouse

10:30 am - Legislative Discussion

Industry guests are welcome to attend.

**Please RSVP to MFGC office by Monday, March 23.**

MFGC • 235 N Pine St • Lansing, MI 48933 • Ph: (517) 367-2033 • Email: val@julianvail.com

**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

**MAEAP  
Certified  
Members**

Great Lakes  
Greenhouses

*Kalamazoo*

GreenDorr  
Greenhouse

*Dorr*

Joe Theisen Farm

*St. Clair*

Westrate  
Greenhouses, Inc

*Kalamazoo*



**Complete your Survey Today**

The Industry Survey deadline was extended to February 28, 2015. If you have not already done so, please complete your survey today and return it to the USDA. The information MFGC is requesting is very important to assist us in policy work on labor, energy, taxation, etc. The survey was created and requested by Michigan Floriculture Growers Council and funded by a Specialty Crop Block Grant. Your submitted information returned to the USDA is confidential. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the MFGC office.

**Action Mold and Machining, Inc.**

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Contact: Mike Fassbender  
3120 Ken-O-Sha Industrial Ct SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49508  
Office: (616)452-1580  
Fax: (616)452-1470  
Email: mfassbender@actionmold.net  
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## Ag Day at the Capitol

Agricultural representatives from across the state will join forces with leaders from dozens of agricultural commodity organizations March 25 in Lansing to celebrate the tenth annual Ag Day at the Capitol, an event designed to raise the industry's profile with state lawmakers. Prior to the midday commodity showcase inside the capitol, farmers and commodity group representatives personally delivered baskets of Michigan-produced food products to the offices of elected state officials.

As in years past Michigan Floricultural Growers Council will place flowers on the Capitol desk of all legislators. This year flowers will be provided by Masterpiece Flower Company.

Please plan to join us at the Capitol.

### Proven Winners® \$25,000 Scholarship Program

Proven Winners is looking to the future, and the future of our industry depends on our next generation of leaders. We realize there is amazing academic talent that exists across North America, and we want to, for the second year, support the individual pursuits of college students by introducing a \$25,000 scholarship program that will reach out to students in three distinct areas. Proven Winners is proud to announce that 2015 will be the first year in which we award a total of at least \$25,000 in college scholarship programs. The scholarship money will be divided into eight scholarships and awarded in four areas:

- The Proven Winners Innovations in Plant Breeding Scholarship - \$5,000
- The Proven Winners Innovations in Horticultural Marketing Scholarship - \$5,000
- The Proven Winners Grower Excellence Scholarship - \$5,000
- Proven Winners Scholarships for Technical or 2 year Post-Secondary Students-Five Scholarships, \$2,000 each

Scholarship applicants must either be enrolled in a four-year university and be at least a sophomore, Masters and PhD students are eligible, or students must be enrolled full time in an accredited Technical or 2-year Post Secondary Institution in the 2015 school year. Applicants must be enrolled in Horticultural Science or related fields, and they must hold a minimum GPA of 3.0.



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Send a cover letter that includes:

- The scholarship you are applying for,
- The name of the University where you are enrolled
- The degree you are working towards, including minor where appropriate
- Current grade level (sophomore, junior, etc.)
- Current cumulative GPA
- Target graduation date

- Your contact information and:
- A letter of recommendation from the current academic advisor or a professor
- An essay of 750 words or more on the topic: "What I Want to Accomplish in Horticulture"

Application Materials to be submitted via email to Kerry Meyer at [Scholarship@provenwinners.com](mailto:Scholarship@provenwinners.com)

Deadline: April 1. Recipients will be chosen and notified in June.

For full details about the scholarships, visit Proven Winners® Website at:

<https://www.provenwinners.com/25000scholarship>

### New Director of the MSU Extension Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute

The new Director of the MSU Extension Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute has been announced. Ron Bates will assume the role on April 1, 2015.

Dr. Bates began his career as an Assistant Professor with the Animal Science Department at the University of Missouri in 1986 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1992. He worked for Osborne Industries as Technical Director for 18 months before arriving at Michigan State University's Animal Science Department as an Assistant Professor in 1996. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2003 and Professor in 2011. In every academic position, he has had Extension as his primary appointment. He received a Bachelor's degree in Animal Husbandry from Delaware Valley College, a Master's (Animal Science) and a Ph.D. (Animal Breeding) both from Oklahoma State University.

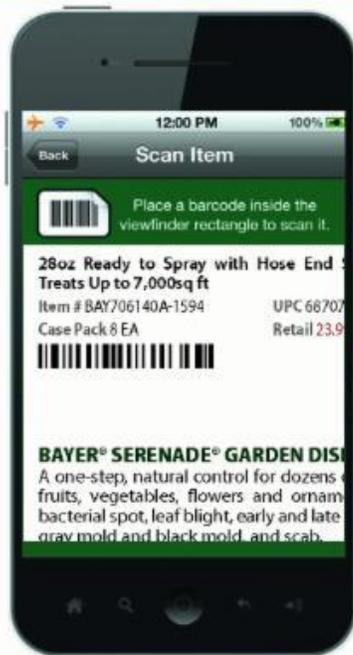
Since joining the MSU team, Dr. Bates has received numerous awards, including the Michigan Association of Extension Agent's Outstanding Extension Specialist Award in 2011.

Upon accepting this appointment, Dr. Bates said, "It is my privilege to serve in this capacity continuing the important and excellent work done statewide by Extension Educators, who provide a trusted source of research and need-based, unbiased educational programs, tools and information to our important and varied partners, stakeholders and clientele. "

We are pleased to have Dr. Bates join the administrative team for MSU Extension. Special thanks to the search committee of Julie Chapin, Chris Difonzo, Tom Guthrie, Michael Krauch, Dennis Pennington and chaired by Jim Kells for helping us through the selection process.

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GreenStone has record patronage payment

Cooperative has returned \$200 million to its members over the last 10 years

EAST LANSING, Michigan - Published on January 25th, 2015

"We are very grateful for the hard work and commitment of our members," said GreenStone President and CEO Dave Armstrong. "Patronage Day is always a celebration, but this tenth year is particularly special as we hit the \$200 million milestone." ([greenstonefcs.com](http://greenstonefcs.com))

GreenStone Farm Credit Services is returning a record patronage payment of \$36.2 million to customers this year. 2015 marks the tenth anniversary of GreenStone's patronage program, which rewards loyal members and benefits the local communities where they work and live.

As a cooperative, GreenStone's success is directly linked to the organization's 23,000-plus hard working members throughout Michigan and northeast Wisconsin. That success has allowed GreenStone to share its net earnings with members through a patronage refund, while also building capital to continue providing exceptional service to members, in good times and challenging times, for generations to come.

GreenStone will officially celebrate a decade of giving back this year on Patronage Day, March 18, 2015. On that day, eligible GreenStone customers can visit their local branch to collect their share of this year's record-breaking \$36.2 million payment. Customers eligible to receive the patronage payments include anyone holding stock or participation certificates with GreenStone, which would include rural residential home loan customers.

Adding this year's payment to the previous nine years of patronage, GreenStone has returned \$200 million to customers.

"We are very grateful for the hard work and commitment of our members," said GreenStone President and CEO Dave Armstrong. "Patronage Day is always a celebration, but this tenth year is particularly special as we hit the \$200 million milestone."

All GreenStone branches will be open during normal business hours on Wednesday, March 18; customers are invited to visit their branch to pick-up their patronage check. Those checks not picked up on March 18 will be mailed to customers the following business day.

The cash patronage paid to each customer is based on the proportion of net-interest income earned during 2014 on his or her loan to the total patronage based net-interest income earned by the association.