



MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

November 2014

MFGC Office

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

Calendar of Events

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

MAEAP Certified Members

Great Lakes
Greenhouses
Kalamazoo

GreenDorr Greenhouse
Dorr

Joe Theisen Farm
St. Clair

Dear Member

On behalf of the MFGC Board of Directors, I want to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. Your Board of Directors is busy planning the annual meeting to be held on December 9th in Grand Rapids. We have great educational presentations scheduled for you and ask that you plan to attend. We will also draw for an iPad - all members who have renewed at the time of the drawing are eligible. Please be present to win. Additionally, we will present your 2015 Membership certificate, window cling and gift at this event. Please plan to attend your Michigan Floriculture Growers Council Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Domenic Marvaso
President

Michigan Floriculture Growers Council Annual Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

River Overlook Room E-F (upper level)
DeVos Place Convention Center

All Michigan Floriculture Growers Council members and other interested industry professionals are invited to attend this event. This will be an opportunity for networking and informative discussion of the Council's activities including presentations from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Department, Consumers Energy and on research of neonicotinoid insecticides. A strolling dinner will be served.

Westrate Greenhouses,
Inc
Kalamazoo



Presentations

- Michigan Agriculture Report and Q&A - Director Jamie Clover Adams, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
- Greenhouse Energy Needs - Sanju Guinn, Agriculture Division Consumers Energy
- Research of Neonicotinoid Insecticides - Dr. Dave Smitley



MFGC Annual Election

All members should have received an electronic ballot several weeks ago or a paper ballot for those without email. Please take a moment to cast your ballot for two board positions for 2015. If you did not receive a ballot, contact Val or Loren at the MFGC office.

An appreciatory thank you to all who have served on the MFGC Board of Directors and those new members to serve. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

[MFGC 2015 Ballot](#)

Take Action On EPA's Waters Of The U.S. Rule

By Craig Regelbrugge | November 19, 2014 / Reprinted from Greenhouse Grower

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently proposed a Clean Water Act rule change known as "waters of the U.S." The proposed rule would allow for a broader interpretation of the Clean Water Act, giving the EPA regulatory jurisdiction over a variety of waterways and water sources, many of which are not considered navigable waterways. This rule could result in EPA asserting jurisdiction over ditches, farm and golf course ponds. Lengthy and costly permitting processes could become commonplace for landscape and nursery businesses.

What does this mean for your business? It could potentially mean that chemical applications, ground disturbances (planting included) and many other normal business activities could require permitting and further, could be subject to EPA oversight. AmericanHort is a strong supporter of environmentally responsible business and land use practices. However, this proposed ruling is seen as a regulatory overreach that could pose a significant challenge to nursery and landscape business operations across the country.

Legislation to address this issue (H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act), passed the House of Representatives in September. Thanks to all who wrote letters to support this issue campaign. Unfortunately, the outlook is not favorable for action in the Senate this year.

With the EPA comment deadline just weeks away, now is a good time to let your state's Governor know that this rule is a problem for your business and your state. [Urge your Governor to ask EPA to withdraw its "Waters of the U.S." rule.](#)

MFGC Board Appointees and Committee Members

The MFGC Board also has several appointed positions which include one member from each of the following: educational; West Michigan Floriculture Growers; Metro Detroit Floriculture Growers Association and Allied membership. There are standing committees of membership and policy. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact Val at the MFGC office.
