



MFGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

September 2014

MFGC Office
235 N Pine St
Lansing, MI 48933

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

The Board of Directors met this past Thursday and heard an initial report from Dr. Dave Smitley on his research with neonicotinoid insecticides and Growing Flowers Safe to Bees in the Yard and Garden. Michigan Floriculture Growers Council, several MFGC members and Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association have partnered to research this very important issue and assist our members as they are faced with changes in insecticide use. We plan to present research on neonicotinoid insecticides at our annual meeting on December 9, at the Great Lakes Expo in Grand Rapids at 4:30pm.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the MFGC Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 9 in Grand Rapids.

Sincerely,

Dominic Marvaso
President

Michigan Floriculture Growers Council Reception and 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 energy industry and on research of neonicotinoid insecticides. The Council's annual meeting will be held as part of this event. A strolling dinner will be served.

MAEAP Certified Members

Great Lakes Greenhouses - Kalamazoo

GreenDorr Greenhouse -Dorr

Joe Theisen Farm- St. Clair

John Gernaat & Sons, Inc - Kalamazoo



Welcome Farm Bureau's Associate Horticulture Specialist Kevin Robson



Kevin is a part of the Robson's Greenhouse in Belleville that his grandparents established in 1929. Kevin has been working on the farm all his life and currently is the Head Grower and Propagator for the operation. Kevin graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Public Relations and Corporate Communications in 2009. Kevin is also a licensed auctioneer. He has been active in Wayne County Farm Bureau as Chair of the Young Farmer Committee and has donated many hours in support of the

Wayne County Fairgrounds and 4-H programs.

For the past five years Kevin has been an Insurance Producer for the Tammy Brown Farm Bureau Insurance Agency in Canton where he helped build the agency, including an agricultural clientele.

In his new position as Associate Horticulture Specialist, Kevin is responsible for addressing issues impacting the horticulture and direct marketing industry by working with members, developing alliances and leading collaborative efforts with commodity organizations, associations, Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

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Michigan's Minimum Wage Increased

Beginning September 1, employers in Michigan are required to pay increased minimum wages. Public Act 138 increased the state's minimum wages from \$7.40 per hour to \$8.15 per hour on September 1, 2014; \$8.50 per hour on January 1, 2016, \$8.90 per hour on January 1, 2017 and \$9.25 per hour on January 1, 2018. Employers are also required to increase the minimum wage for employees earning tips from \$2.65 per hour to \$3.10 per hour. If the employee's tips and the tipped minimum wage do not equal or exceed \$8.15 per hour, the employer must pay the shortfall to the employee.