



# MFGGC UPDATE

For members of the Michigan Floriculture Growers Council

March 2016

**MFGGC Office**  
235 N Pine St  
Lansing, MI 48933  
517-367-2033  
[mail@mifgc.org](mailto: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

**2016 Plant Sale**  
May 20 4p-7p  
VIP MSU Garden members only  
May 21 7a-4p  
Public Sale

**Cultivate Ohio**  
July 9 - 12, 2016  
Ohio

**MSU Plant Trial Field Day**  
August 2, 2016  
MSU

**Garden Day**  
August 6, 2016  
8a-4p

**Great Lakes Expo**  
December 6, 2016  
Devos Place  
Grand Rapids, MI

## 2016 Board of Directors

**President**  
Bill Tuinier

## Membership Renewal

If you have not yet paid your membership renewal, please do so as soon as possible. We are also asking that each member recruit a new member in 2016. We are moving forward with some exciting endeavors and there is strength in numbers. The more members we have the better the benefits.

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



### 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: MFGGC, 235 N. Pine Street, Lansing, MI 48933)

## MSU Horticulture Garden's Spring Program Saturday, April 9, 2016

We have a lively program scheduled for our Spring Program, including two members of the "Garden Professors", a blog site that offers science-based information on a wide range of horticultural topics. They will be joined by Adam Montri, an expert in organic farming and protected environments.

An hour will be set aside for questions and answers from the experts!

### \* **Garden Zombies: Horticultural Myths that Refuse to Die**

No matter how much scientific evidence to the contrary, there are certain "garden miracles" that just won't go away. Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Washington State University, will discuss some of those infamous products

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Dennis Crum

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Donny Marvaso

**Members**

Dick Derks  
Kevin Sportel  
Ken Tuinier  
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

Like us on [Facebook](#)

**Ag Day At The Capitol**

March 16, 2016 is Agriculture Day at the Capitol and MFGC will be there again to discuss the industry with state legislators and their staff. Our flowers make a wonderful splash each year bringing good cheer and joy to our State Senators and Representatives!



**Where & When**

Michigan State Capitol Building  
March 16, 2016  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

and practices, and suggest evidence-based alternatives to use in your own gardens and landscapes.

**\* Are Natives the Answer?**

The debate over the use of native versus exotic plants in landscapes often generates more heat than light. Some native plant advocates claim that exotics are water-hogging, nutrient-hungry pest magnets that contribute little in the way of ecosystem services; while some ecologists argue that we should judge species based on their utility and not by their origins. In this presentation Dr. Bert Cregg, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Michigan State University will provide an overview of some of the key scientific and philosophical questions related to the native debate.

**\* Tips and Tricks for Successful Organic Vegetable Gardens**

Many homeowners are interested in growing their vegetable gardens organically. Join Adam Montrí, an outreach specialist in MSU's Department of Horticulture and co-owner of Ten Hens Farm in Bath, MI, to talk about some tips for successful organic vegetable production and some tricks for extending your season earlier in the spring and later into the fall.

Space is still available - sign up now! Please visit our website at

<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/spring-program/>

Jennifer Sweet - Program Coordinator

517-355-5191 x1339

[hgardens@msu.edu](mailto:hgardens@msu.edu)

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!**



**New and Unusual Varieties  
in the 2016 Trial Gardens**

Daedre McGrath  
Annual Trial Garden  
Manager

We evaluate close to 600 new varieties each summer! Here are a few intriguing entries for the upcoming trial season. We look forward to seeing how they perform in our Michigan growing conditions. Come check out their progress this summer!

**e-GRO Alert: Black Root Rot on Pansy...Keep Looking at Those Roots!**

Heidi Wollaeger,  
Michigan State University Extension



Pansies (*Viola* spp.) are susceptible to black root rot. The symptoms of black root rot are: chlorotic lower foliage, poor rooting, lack of growth, and the blackening of the roots.

Read Now: e-GRO Alert 5.13 Black Root Rot on Pansy

**2016 Garden Day  
Saturday August 6**

We are very excited that our 2016 Keynote Speaker for Garden Day will be David Culp, author of the book *The Layered Garden* published by Timber Press. This informative and well-illustrated book was awarded the coveted Best Overall Book by the Garden Writers Association.

David has been lecturing about gardens nationwide for more than 15 years. His articles have appeared in *Martha Stewart Living*, *Country Living*, *Fine Gardening*, *Green Scene*, and many other publications. He is a former contributing editor to *Horticulture* magazine and served as chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plant Society. David teaches herbaceous perennials at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA.

As always, we will have a wealth of Garden Day workshops and you will be able to select your two favorites. The complete program will be available soon!

<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/garden-day-2016/>

**Support our MSU Horticulture Garden Endowments**

Our MSU Horticulture Gardens are largely self-funded and we generate over half of our yearly budget by MSU Horticulture Garden Memberships, spring plant sales and events and weddings, educational programs and workshops, and fees from our Annual Plant Trials. The remainder of our budget comes from endowments, which are critical since they help support staff and summer student salaries. Your gifts to our endowments helps us improve visual, educational and inspirational experiences for all our visitors!

To contribute directly to our endowment, consider sponsoring a brick, bench, lamp or garden bed. Tributes can be made to honor special person(s) or occasion(s) in your life. For more information, visit our [website](#).

Contact: Art Cameron, MSU Horticulture Gardens Director,  
[cameron@msu.edu](mailto:cameron@msu.edu)

Kenneth Vaughn, Assistant Director of Development,  
[vaughnk8@msu.edu](mailto:vaughnk8@msu.edu)

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