

MGSOC General Meeting, Troy Community Center: 03-10-2026

Business Meeting:

President Craig Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and welcomed our members.

President's Report (Craig Smith):

- Craig reported that a MGSOC member called the Troy Community Center with some issues about our meeting venue. If you have any concerns / suggestions to improve our meeting space, please contact one of the Board members.
- A Master Gardener Extension Banquet is currently being planned for Glen Oaks Country Club sometime in late July – early August. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** MSUE is helping to fund in an effort to keep ticket prices lower. Future MSUE Awards will begin focusing on groups / projects instead of individuals.
- Our MG Garage Sale (with Macomb MG) will be July 17 -18, 2026 at Telly's. George is setting up one of his barns for our use. Craig is currently looking for donations (old tools, gently used books, yard art, etc.) Please contact him, crsgto@live.com if you have items you'd like to donate.
- Check your latest issue of Oakland Country MG Connection. MSUE has compiled a list of approved MG projects to earn your volunteer hours. This initiative is known as Project Connection, follow this hyperlink to see projects throughout the county: [Oakland Project Connection 2026](#)
- Craig mentioned potential field trips this summer to Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum (MBGNA) in Ann Arbor and Dow Gardens in Midland. Tours would probably be during the week (WED or THU) and include round trip bus ride and lunch. We would need 50-60 people to make it economically feasible. Working closely with Macomb MG and Wayne MG has expressed some interest. More to come

Annual Awards (Executive Board): Craig and the Executive Board announced the 2026 MGSOC Award winners:

- **Bowers Farm Award: Denny Gross**
- **MGSOC Master Gardener of the Year: Betty Peters**

Vice-President's Report (Sally Bolle): Sally reported that 350 copies of our MGSOC cookbook are being printed. These will be on sale at our next meeting 4-14-26 as well as at the **All that Jazz-Designing a Better World** Conference on April 25, 2026 at Oakland University.

Treasurer's Report (Dianah Foster): Dianah presented the Treasurer's report. Balances are currently higher due to conference registrations & membership renewals. Contact Dianah directly if you have specific questions.

Secretary's Report (Steve Smith): Our two awards criteria and updated Bylaws have been posted to the website: [Oakland County Michigan Master Gardener Homepage](#)

Educational Conference (Betty Peters): Current registration is 202. We have 19 vendors coming. Mona Tester, monatester@yahoo.com is coordinating door prizes, please contact her if you'd like to donate gift cards or other items. We are still in need of volunteers, please contact Deanna Richardson, jrttc@yahoo.com or visit the signup genius page: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0544AAAF2BA6F58-59875448-copy> If you are in need of other conference information, please contact Betty Peters at betty@peters-inc.com

Membership (Julie Bird): Julie reported that we have about 69 active members at this time.

Hospitality (Kathy Sobanski): As always, please remember to email Kathy SobanskiK@yahoo.com if you are bringing food to our meeting.

Corresponding Secretary (Cecily Roney): No report

Bowers Farm (Nancy Schmid): No report

Merchandise (Denise Brown): No report

Door Prizes & Raffles (Janie Grissom): Five door prizes (including some Piechnik's gift cards) were raffled off to members present.

MSU Extension Report (Melanie Fuhrmann): No report. Melanie's contact info: furhma19@msu.edu Sherry Riedel's contact info: riedels2@msu.edu

Meeting ended at 6:55p

NEXT MEETING: April 14, 2026 Troy Community Center, Room 304, 3179 Livernois, Troy, 48083 (near I-75 and Big Beaver). You will park on the East side of the building from Livernois Road, and enter the Banquet door/East entrance. The meeting room will be on your right as you enter the building.

PRESENTATION: Amanda Koran introduced Mark Covington who spoke on Sustainable Fruit and Vegetable Gardening at his Georgia Street Community Collective Urban Farm project in Detroit.

WELCOME NEW and RENEWING MEMBERS:



Laurie Horiszny, Patty Keenan, Nanette Colling, Pat Beck, Kathy Kurdziel, Bernice Huck



Submitted, Steve Smith, MGSOC Secretary