



MGSOC General Meeting, Troy Community Center: 09-08-2026

Business Meeting:

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

President's Report (Craig Smith):

- We are bringing back the 50/50 Cash Raffle to the general meetings starting tonight. Michigan law limits cash collection to \$100 per raffle, so a lucky attendee may win up to \$50 cash. Ticket will be sold prior to the meeting and then drawn at end of meeting along with any door prizes that we might have.
- Craig has been working with Melanie and Sarah at MSUE to potentially visit other garden sites as tours and/or general meeting sites. In 2027, we will start with 2 off-site general meetings: our annual new perennials meeting at Telly's and another location to be chosen. Announcement will be made as we get closer.
- Our Christmas Party will be held **December 8, 2026 at Telly's in Troy**, 3301 John R, Troy MI. Kathy Sobanski will begin planning the Pot Luck Dinner. Please reach out to Kathy sobanskK@yahoo.com if you'd like to help plan the festivities. Party will be open to members and their guests.
- We are still looking for an EMG or two to help organize workdays at **Hana's Garden 2795 Seymour Lake, Oxford MI 48371**. The site is an approved MSUE site #4878 to obtain MG volunteer hours. Contact Craig if you are interested in volunteering there or have questions about the site.
- Both the MSUE 2026 EMG Appreciation & Recognition dinner and the Garage Sale aka "Marketplace" were big successes, planning to repeat both events in 2027 is already underway. Contact Craig if interested in helping.

Vice-President's Report (Sally Bolle): An updated Merchandise price list with ordering instructions has been loaded to MGSOC website. We continue our efforts to move all merchandise to an on-line store.

Treasurer's Report (Dianah Foster): Dianah reported that our current bank balances are healthy due to the Garage Sale, the Spring Conference, and merchandise sales. Please contact Dianah directly if you have specific questions about our current budget.

Secretary's Report (Steve Smith): The Board continues to encourage local community garden organizations to submit grant applications for 2027. Use [Public MGSOC 2027 Grant Application](#) for a 2027 application. A pdf will be loaded to the website soon. Work continues on a FOG scholarship for MGSOC EMG trainees, stay tuned for more information.

Educational Conference (Betty Peters): Betty asked for a couple new leads for Door Prizes and Advance Registration-Eventbrite coordination. Work has started on the 2027 Conference with speakers and vendors. We will be doubling the vendor space in 2027, please reach out to Betty for more information. Next year's conference is scheduled for April 24, 2027 at the same place, Oakland University.

Membership /Elections (Julie Bird): Call for candidates to run for Vice-President and Secretary two-year terms (2027-2029). Contact Julie if you'd like more information on the offices or are considering running. We are now at 101 members!

Hospitality (Kathy Sobanski): Signup sheet is being passed around. As always, please remember to email Kathy SobanskK@yahoo.com if you are bringing food to our meeting.

Corresponding Secretary (Cecily Roney): Nothing to report, please reach out if you know a member is need of a get-well card or just some general encouragement. 😊



Bowers Farm-Discovery Oaks Park (Nancy Schmid): Nancy reported that Oakland County Parks is now actively on site looking at changes / improvements to be done. Oakland County MSUE offices will also be relocated from Pontiac to the Farm.

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

Speakers / Presentations (Amanda Koran):

- Amanda announced formation of a subcommittee to look for 2027 speakers. Please take a moment to fill out our survey by clicking on the link, [MGSOC Speaker Selection Form](#). Tell us what you want to see, what you don't want to see, and any recommendations you might have. If you'd like to help select our speakers, please contact Amanda.
- We are having a 2026 MGSOC Photo Contest. Select your best garden / nature photos and enter them into our contest. You may submit more than one if you'd like. Please email a high-resolution .jpg photo to mgsocphoto@gmail.com by October 31, 2026. A panel of judges will select five finalists who will receive a framed copy of their photo. All five photos will be displayed at the Christmas Party and attendees will select the 2026 Grand Prize winner. The Grand Prize winner will receive one-year free MGSOC membership, a gift certificate, and be the featured cover for our membership directory. Please note that all submitted photos may be used in future MGSOC presentations, such as the Gardening and All That Jazz slideshows, or on the MGSOC website.

Meeting ended at 7:00pm

PRESENTATION: Amanda Koran introduced Gary Eichen from SavATree LLC and a certified arborist who spoke on the "Evolution of the Urban Forest". The State of Michigan has created a helpful guide to select trees for the Urban Forest, check out: [MiCoTSS.pdf](#)

Door Prizes and 50/50 Raffle: Janie raffled off four door prizes to those in attendance. 50/50 raffle collected the maximum \$100 and our first winner was Karol Cantor. Karol graciously donated her winnings back to the Society. Thank you, Karol for all you do for MGSOC!

WE ARE NOW 101 MEMBERS STRONG!!

IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

10-13-2026: General Membership Meeting, Troy Community Center, Rm 304 3179 Livernois Troy, MI 48083

11-10-2026: General Membership Meeting, Troy Community Center, Rm 304 3179 Livernois Troy, MI 48083

12-08-2026: Christmas Party and Pot Luck at Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R Troy MI 48083

Submitted, Steve Smith, MGSOC Secretary