

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

April 2025



Contact Information

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Macomb County MGA
P.O. Box 380463
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Board of Directors

Ellen Collins—President
Sara Grix—Vice President
Linda Simpson—Director at Large
Pam Horner—Secretary
Darlene Davies-Warner —Treasurer

Upcoming MCMGA Education

To register for events, click on the link below:
[Upcoming Meetings \(macombcountymga.org\)](http://Upcoming Meetings (macombcountymga.org))

Please remember to bring your membership card and wear your Master Gardener badge to all events.

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General Information

Follow us on Facebook:
Macomb County Master Gardener
Association

If there is anything you would like to have included in the next newsletter, please send an email to:
macombcountymga@yahoo.com

Letter from the Board

Welcome Spring!

And in typical Michigan fashion, we are experiencing fluctuations in the weather. From blustery and frigid, to warm and sunny, and then light snowflakes fly again, reminding us it's not yet time to start tending to our outside gardens. But do not fear, we can focus our attention on germinating flower, veggie and herb seeds inside and tending to these seedlings for their acclimation to Michigan outdoors in a couple months.

Bevin Cohen has just released a new book, "Herbs in Every Season". In this book, Bevin looks at herbalism through the lens of the seasons. He offers gardeners, herbalists, cooks, and homesteaders a new way of looking at herbs throughout the year. The following is an excerpt from his new book.

Spring..."the season of renewal. At long last, spring has arrived at our home in Michigan. The season is herald by many sights and sounds of life renewed.

Whether it's the chorus of spring peepers that serenades us every evening, the young green plants pushing forth from the soil, or the migratory return of the somewhat eerie turkey vultures, Mother Nature and her many creations are suddenly springing to life all around us. There's certainly something special about this magical time, as the days slowly begin to lengthen and birdsong once again fills the morning air. The excitement is almost tangible as Mother Nature breeds a collective sigh of relief.

We've made it! And herbalism, like everything else in life, is about relationships. Relationships with ourselves, our community, and the plants we work with.

When we plant seeds in the soil, we foster a deeper relationship with herbs. We're with the plants, coaxing the young seedlings from seed all the way until the harvest that marks the end of their life. As part of this sacred circle, we learn that we truly rely on each other to make the most of the time we share on earth, and we do it together, one season at a time."

If you were unable to attend the March meeting, a recording of Dan Lego's presentation on trees is available on our website. We hope you are able to attend our April 17th meeting when our grant recipients will be announced and Sue Grubba will speak on plant health.

See you soon,

Your MCMGA Board

MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

3/12/2025

Attendees: Ellen Collins, Sara Grix, Pam Horner, Darlene Davies-Warner, Linda Simpson, Carolyn Doak.

Ellen called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve by Ellen, seconded by Darlene, all in favor, motion carried.

MSUE updates – David's email: 1. Please encourage people to sign up for the banquet; Several gift cards and garden items have been donated to the silent auction. Ellen suggested making a donation to the silent auction, suggested putting a basket together and budgeting \$50 for the basket plus any donated items. Darlene volunteered to put the basket together. Darlene made a motion to approve \$50 towards a basket, seconded by Linda, all in favor, motion carried. 2. David is hosting a class at the extension office on ornamental grasses (free) on May 22 and plant disease (\$5) on June 4. 3. Onboarding on April 2 has 16 trainees signed up, 13 are from Macomb County. EMG Mentorship program has had the first match.

Treasurer's Report: February Treasurer Report was reviewed by the board. Motion to approve February Treasurer's report by Pam, seconded by Sara, all in favor, motion carried. Copies of the Financial Statements will be available to members at the meetings or by request.

Programs:

Dan Lepo is presenting next week to talk about trees. There was a motion made by Linda to donate \$150 to the Tomlinson Arboretum, seconded by Sara, all in favor, motion carried.

Sept 2025 speaker – physical therapist confirmed. Name is Shawn Hubbard. He was provided with the speaker form to obtain further details.

Bevin Cohen – waiting for a response to schedule a presentation in 2026.

Photographer – no response yet.

Tool sharpening topic – haven't pursued that yet.

Grants Update: Linda noted we are still accepting applications through March 15th. Linda suggested a simple checklist of required items for the grant application may help avoid confusion.

Old Business:

Treasurer changeover was completed today at the bank. Darlene is now on the account, can sign checks and will be issued a debit card.

New Business:

Go Daddy service fees – A couple members paid dues twice on Go Daddy. Recommend issuing refunds by check payment, minus the service fee, to avoid duplicating Go Daddy service fees.

Adjourn – 7:51 p.m.

Next board meeting: Wednesday, April 9th at 7:00pm via Zoom
Submitted by Pam Horner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to the following members for distributing the vegetable and herb seeds packets to 12 different organizations in Macomb County. Your help is truly appreciated!

Ellen Collins
Darlene Davies
Carolyn Doak
Jean Persely
Linda Simpson
Terri Wolf

Regina High School Garden Club Needs New Leader!

Are you passionate about gardening and eager to inspire the next generation of plant lovers? Regina High School in Warren, MI is looking for a dedicated volunteer to take over their Garden Club and provide basic greenhouse management. This is a great opportunity to make an impact and keep the program thriving. For more details, please contact Stephanie Bahorski at:

stephaniebahorski@gmail.com or at 586-822-5072.
Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE-MCMGA 2025 LINE UP

Date: April 17th 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EST

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Sue Grubba, Master Gardener,
Owner, Creative Scapes
Topic: Plant Health Care

Date: May 29th 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EST

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Lorenzo Lo Piccolo
Topic: Fungi of Michigan

Date: June 12th 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EST

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Kirsten Lyons
Invasive Species Specialist
St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission
Topic: Weeds or Wildflowers

Date: July 17th 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EST

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Brook Hiller
Friends of the St. Clair River
Topic: Go Beyond Beauty Program

Date: August 21st 2025

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm EST

Location: Edsel and Eleanor Ford House
1100 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI
Presenter: Kevin Drotos, Edsel and Eleanor Ford
House, Landscape and Natural Areas Manager
Topic: Ford House Garden Walking Tour
MCMGA members only

Date: September 18th 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EST

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Shawn Hubbard
Topic: Gardening Exercises

Date: October 16th 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EST

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Ed Blondin, Master Gardener
Owner—Hortulus Gardens & Landscape
Topic: Persian Gardens

Date: November 20th 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EST

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Cheryl English
Topic: Tall Grass Prairie Planting

NO DECEMBER MEETING

MCMGA Meeting Registration

Plant Health Care

April 17, 2025

Presenter: Sue Grubba, Master Gardener

Sue will talk about assessing the health of trees, shrubs and perennials in your garden. How to determine what plants are struggling and what action to take. Provide strategies to keep plants healthy throughout the year.

[Register Here](#)

Fungi of Michigan

May 29, 2025

Presenter: Lorenzo Lo Piccolo

The program will cover topics such as 1) introduction to the fungi kingdom, 2) foraging tips and sustainability, 3) fungi identification and safety and 4) Michigan species throughout the seasons.

[Register Here](#)

Education Opportunities

Dig In!

2025



Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Date: April 8, 2025

Time: 6 p.m.—7 p.m. EST

Topic: Keeping an Eye on Invasive Species

Presenter: Mollie Wozniak

GiLLS Invasive Species Coordinator

Cost: FREE! All certified EMGs and Trainees must register one time and have access to the entire series. Please do not share the recording links with non-registrants and/or non-EMGs.

Education Hours—Each session will count as 1 EMG Continuing hour.

[Event Registration for 2025 DIG IN!! Extension Master Gardeners | ANR Events Management System \(msu.edu\)](https://msu.edu)

Dig In Series 2025

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Date: April 8th 2025

Presenter: Molly Wozniak

GiLLS Invasive Species Coordinator

Topic: Keeping an Eye on Invasive Species

NO AUGUST MEETING

Date: May 13th 2025

Presenter: Marianna Szucs

MSU Associate Professor, Dept of Entomology

Topic: The Devil Devastating Your Lillies:
The Scarlet Lily Beetle

Date: September 9th 2025

Presenter: Becca Krans

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

Topic: Smart Ways to Bring Native Plants into
Your Landscape

Date: June 10th 2025

Presenter: Phimmasone Owens, University of
Michigan, Founder of Refugee Garden Initiatives

Topic: Cultivating Connection: Refugee Stories and
The Transformative Power of Gardening

Date: October 14th 2025

Presenter: Julie Crick

MSU Extension Natural Resources Educator

Topic: Guiding Neighborhood Trees through
Climate Change

Date: July 8th 2025

Presenter: Kelly McClelland, MSU

Extension Community Food Systems Educator

Topic: Growing Together: Strategies, Structures,
and Impact of Community Gardens

Date: November 11th 2025

Presenter: Lindsey Kerr & Colleagues

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educators

Topics: Garden Gifts, Tools and Books

NO DECEMBER MEETING

POPPY'S PODCASTS

Joe Gardener by Joe Lamp'l

Meet Joe Gardener, he's traveled the country and beyond showing people beautiful gardens. Yet more importantly, he tells the stories of the people behind those gardens. The heroes doing great things for the planet through organic gardening, green living, small farming, and simple yet significant ways to lighten their footprint on this planet.

These gardeners are the game-changers who are literally "growing a greener world" ... and they are showing the rest of us ways to come together at a critical moment in history to save our planet.

Find Joe Gardener on your podcast app or at
<https://joegardener.com/podcasts/>



Meet the host

Joe Lamp'l is one of the country's most recognized and trusted personalities in gardening and sustainability. His passion for teaching is evident to a nationwide audience who turns to him for gardening advice through his new [Joe Gardener Online Gardening Academy™](#) and watches him in his current role as Creator, Executive Producer Host and of the Emmy-award-winning PBS series, *Growing a Greener World®* and, previously, as host of *Fresh from the Garden* on DIY Network as well as on-air contributor to *Today*, *Good Morning America* and The Weather Channel. Past awards include The American Horticultural Society's B.Y. Morrison Communication Award, which recognizes effective and inspirational communication—through print, radio, television, podcasts and other online media and Best On-Air Talent for Television by the Garden Writers Association. Joe is also the founder and "Joe" behind joegardener.com – a website dedicated to all things gardening and horticulture through how-to videos, podcasts, online courses, and blog posts. His series can be found at <https://www.growingagreenerworld.com/>

RECAP OF MARCH PRESENTATION

Trees—Can Mankind Survive Without Them March 20, 2025 Presenter: Dan Lepo

Dan is the caretaker of 25 acres at the Tomlinson Arboretum and directly or indirectly involved in the planting of 1,000 trees. Planted over 1000 trees, 60 are Michigan natives. We would like to become the largest collection of Michigan native trees in the State of Michigan. When shopping for trees, ask them if they were grown from Michigan seeds. These are Michigan genotype trees, not just Michigan native trees which could have been grown in Oregon. Michigan wildlife rely on Michigan genotype trees. Using non-Michigan genotype trees contribute to the reasons why bird and insect populations are decreased.

Our own survival depends on the survival of trees. The reasons why we can't survive with trees are:

- Trees slow down global warming and play a vital role in combating climate change. They absorb massive amounts of carbon dioxide helping reduce its buildup in the atmosphere. It's estimated that trees absorb roughly 20% of greenhouse gases. The destruction of rainforests for human expansion and equatorial regions of the world are having a dramatic impact on climate change. Trees release water vapor in the air, cooling the surrounding environment and this helps mitigate the greenhouse effect. By reforestation and maintaining existing forests. We can positively help stabilize the climate and protect our planet.
- Trees play a critical role in producing the oxygen needed to sustain life by converting carbon dioxide into breathable air through process called photosynthesis, contributing roughly 21% of the planet's oxygen supply.
- Trees help prevent soil erosion.
- Trees help regulate the water cycle.
- Trees help reduce air pollution.
- Trees are a primary food source for wildlife, while also providing a source of fuel and timber for humans.
- Tree improve soil quality. One example is the use of decomposing leaves to create compost. The leaves also provide habitat for micro-organisms and food (caterpillars for wildlife).
- Trees provide shade and helps lower energy costs.
- Trees provide health benefits to humans. There are some environmental studies that show supportable evidence that being in a forest will boost the immune system and improve mental health.

When planting a tree, the hole has to be 2 to 3 times as big as the diameter of the ball and you have to score the ball and to cut off the roots on the bottom. Grind the dirt that you removed, and place it around the root ball. Make the tree collar is at least one inch above ground level. Do not compress the soil, to get rid of air gaps, you water the soil with 2 to 3 gallons of water. Add two sheets of newspaper and mulch on top (without touching the bark). You can use a rubber gasket as a collar to protect the bark from injury. When you transplant your tree from a nursery to your yard, the first year the tree will sleep, don't expect to see any growth through the first couple years. By the third year, the tree will start growing. After that, trees require pruning to maintain air circulation and prevent crossing of limbs and we follow standard care practices.

THE YARDENERS OF ST. CLAIR SHORES

Monday, April 14th, 2025—7:00 p.m.

TOPIC: POLLINATOR GARDENING, BLENDING NATIVE AND TRADITIONAL PLANTS

Presenter: John Blair—Native Plant and Prairie Restoration Enthusiast

Location: St. Clair Shores City Hall meeting room*

Join us as John shares all of the important design elements needed for you to create your own successful butterfly garden including plant selection, use of native plants, preparation and selection of your site and various other important steps that will bring butterflies and other pollinators to your garden!

*All 2025 Presentations will be held at the St. Clair Shores City Hall meeting room, 11 Mile/Jefferson. Our members will be at the library to inform/escort you. We have updates on the Gardeners Facebook page or you can email us at scsyardeners@gmail.com

Save The Date!

MGSOC 11th Annual Educational Gardening Conference

Gardening and All That Jazz – Garden Potpourri

Keynote speakers:

Bob Liames • Charlie Nardozzi • Stacey Hirvela • Susan Martin

Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Oakland Center, Oakland University, 312 Meadow Brook Rd., Rochester, MI 48309

NEW LOCATION! Four great speakers – four outstanding presentations!

Come to our 11th Annual Educational Conference for new and experienced gardeners – you need not be a Master Gardener to attend! Register on Eventbrite here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gardening-and-all-that-jazz-garden-potpourri-tickets-1135574757669>

For complete information, and to download an application and pay by check, visit our website at <https://mgsoc.org/educational-conference/>

Sponsored by Piechnik's Garden Gate, Proven Winners® and the Greater Detroit Jazz Society.

**Master Gardener Society
of Oakland County, Inc.**

AFFILIATED WITH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Our conference includes continental breakfast, lunch and beverages, shopping our unique vendors, and the *Scott Gwinnett Trio* performing during lunch. Registration is limited to 300 so don't delay, deadline to purchase tickets is Monday, April 14, 2025.



Website and registration information: [Register Here](#)

REMINDER—MSU is hosting 2025 EMG Banquet—please sign up early!
Macomb County 2025 EMG Volunteer Banquet
May 7, 2025
MSU—Macomb Extension Office
32996 Dunham Rd, Clinton Township, MI 48036
Assembly Rooms A&B

This is the annual awards and recognition dinner for Macomb County Extension Master Gardeners. This event will recognize Macomb County Master Gardener of the Year, Unsung Hero, Forsythia, and Green Thumb recipients. A keynote lecture on "My 25 Year Journey: My (Mostly) Love Affair with Native Plants" will be presented by Michelle Serreyn, educational programmer for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at the Outdoor Adventure Center in downtown Detroit.

Volunteers and friends and family of volunteers from Macomb and surrounding Counties are welcome to participate. Volunteers can claim 1 hour of continuing education for attending this event.

We are holding a silent auction with the proceeds being used for consumer horticulture programming in Macomb County. If you have a craft, tickets to a sporting event or cultural institution, or gift card you'd like to donate, please email David Lowenstein.

Bidding for silent auction open 6 - 6:45 p.m. Awards ceremony begins at approximately 6:45 p.m., followed by the lecture.

Price for in-person attendance: \$25 (includes dinner).

[**Register Here**](#)

FUNDRAISING



To Sign up Go to Kroger Community Rewards.com

Sign in/Register for Kroger Rewards Account

Proceed as directed

Edit Kroger Community Rewards

Enter Kroger Plus Card #

Enter NPO-CQ024 or

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

You will see group name on right side of page

Questions/Problems:

877-576-4377