

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

March 2025



Contact Information

Email address: macombcountymga@yahoo.com

Website: www.macombcountymga.org

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%20Meetings%20(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

In this month's letter, we'd like to share with you the "Garden-Variety World View" of our featured podcast this month, Cultivating Place. Their beliefs are profound.

"Gardeners and Gardens are powerful, intersectional, agents and spaces for growth and change. We can expect great things from them; we must hold them accountable to such expectations.

Gardening at its best is a long-term, committed, and loving relationship between all living beings great and small (animal, vegetable, mineral - seen and unseen) and our places.

Its first principles include: do no harm and honor all the diverse parts and players in this dynamic, interdependent process - a process that calls on all our powers of hand, mind, and heart.

To be a Gardener is beautiful, but not always pretty.

To be a Gardener is profoundly satisfying, but it is neither easy nor perfectable.

It is muddy, scratchy, fragrant, flavorful, fun, heartbreakng, and heart-fueling.

To be a Gardener asks us to embrace our smallness and to live more lightly, and yet expands us daily and beyond measure.

A Garden/Gardener relationship is symbiotic - to be practiced and shared with respect, humility, and pride.

A Garden/Gardener relationship is a full-contact, wholehearted, co-evolving, true love.

Our Garden/Gardener relationships, which connect us so deeply to the nature of this world, hold the potential to change everything for the better -

- ourselves as citizens of this generous planet, our families and what they hold to be true and valuable,
- our larger human communities - their very social fabric and cultural, environmental, political, and economic priorities,
- the health and well-being of our surrounding places full of more-than-human air, water, soil, animal and plant-life-all that bridges us here to us over there... and over there... and down there, out there, and up there.

We are all in this together and Gardens and Gardeners make a difference."

The host of Cultivating Place, Jennifer Jewell, has captured our attention. We hope she captures yours. Enjoy!

Your MCMGA Board

P.S. Don't forget to submit your grant application by March 15!

MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

2/12/2025

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

Ellen called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

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

MSUE updates – email from David – Onboarding scheduled for April 2 at Verkuilen – David requested a MCMGA representative to talk about the association around 7 p.m. There are 12 to 14 individuals onboarding. Ellen will represent the MCMGA at the meeting. Volunteer dinner registration is open for May banquet. David is leading programs on ornamental grasses on May 22 and plant disease on June 4th. Details and registration will be posted later in the Spring.

Treasurer's Report: January Treasurer Report was reviewed by the board. Motion to approve January Treasurer's report by Pam, seconded by Linda, all in favor, motion carried. Copies of the Financial Statements will be available to members at the meetings or by request. Tentative date on 2/14/25 to conduct the audit.

Programs: Tina is presenting next week to talk about beans. She will need a laptop to plug a USB into, and Sara requested Carolyn bring one to the meeting. Dave Putt is going to do a test live zoom recording and evaluate the recording.

Ford House tour – The tour guide asked if we can limit the number of attendees from 15 to 20. Sara was thinking of limiting the attendees to members only. Also need to set up a waitlist when we make our announcement.

Other speakers: Sara received contact information for a physical therapist regarding exercises for gardeners. The date is not yet confirmed, but planning for September. Sara tried to contact photographer (Wayne Pope), but have not heard back from him. Or if you have other ideas, Sara can start working on the 2026 schedule. Ed Blondin does not need any equipment for his presentation.

Grants Update: Linda has received one application in the mail so far. Linda will give a pitch at next week's meeting on this year's grant program.

Old Business: Treasurer transition – Ellen hasn't received confirmation from the IRS yet. Once received, will change contacts at the bank.

Budget proposal – Board reviewed the budget proposal. Ellen made a motion to accept the 2025 budget, seconded by Darlene, all in favor, motion carried.

Thursday, Feb 13th is the MMGA meeting, you should have received a zoom invitation.

New Business: February membership meeting agenda – Sara will introduce speaker, Linda will talk about grants.

Linda will make a request at the February meeting for volunteers to deliver seeds to the St. Clair Shores and Sterling Heights Senior Centers. Ellen will follow up with email and newsletters notice if no volunteers. Darlene offered to be the back up if no one volunteers.

Ellen spoke with the president of Oakland County Master Gardeners and they were going through their by-laws and membership. Ellen shared how we were handling memberships. They have an April conference which we can promote in the newsletter and emails. Oakland County MGs sell the MSU branded EMG apparel. They asked if they can come to a meeting and set up to sell apparel, looking at July or September. Carolyn asked to get more information so she can make sure they are approved to sell the MSU branded apparel at our meeting.

Bevin Cohen has a list of popular classes offered on-line or he can customize a workshop for us. Sara went through the list and four topics stood out of interest to her: grow an herb garden, grow a great garden, advanced tea tasting, history of tomatoes/ways to grow better. Any stand out, or do we want a custom topic? The most interest seemed to be in the advanced tea tasting and history of tomatoes.

Adjourn – 7:57 p.m.

Next board meeting: Wednesday, March 12th at 7:00pm via Zoom

Submitted by Pam Horner

SAVE THE DATE-MCMGA 2025 LINE UP

Date: March 20th 2025

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Dan Lepo, Tomlinson Arboretum
Topic: Trees—Can Mankind Survive
Without Them?

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

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: TBD
Topic: TBD

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

Trees—Can Mankind Survive Without Them?

March 20, 2025

Presenter: Dan Lepo, Tomlinson Arboretum

Dan will explain the benefits of trees to the natural environment, how humans directly impact the continued symbiotic relationship shared with trees, and why it is vital that this relationship is not marginalized as a result of urban sprawl and development.

[Register Here](#)

Plant Health Care

April 17, 2025

Presenter: Sue Grubba, Creative Scapes

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](#)

Education Opportunities

Dig In!

2025



Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Date: February 11, 2025

Time: 6 p.m.—7 p.m. EST

Topic: Reconnecting Native Bees, Land Management and Humans

Presenter: Sharon 'Ronnie' Miller

MSU PhD Candidate Pollination Ecology Lab

Using native plants in your home garden can help address many of the top challenges in the Great Lakes watershed including habitat loss, stormwater flooding and excess nutrients. Learn how Michigan Sea Grant works with partners throughout the state to support conservation of Great Lakes resources as well as how you and your home garden can help.

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 \(msu.edu\)](#)

Dig In Series 2025

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Date: March 11th 2025

Presenter: Deanna F. Hedland

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

Topic: The Lure of Lilacs : Springtime Scents, Bountiful Blooms, and Captivating Colors

Date: July 8th 2025

Presenter: Kelly McClelland, MSU

Extension Community Food Systems Educator

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

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: November 11th 2025

Presenter: Lindsey Kerr & Colleagues

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educators

Topics: Garden Gifts, Tools and Books

NO DECEMBER MEETING

POPPY'S PODCASTS

Cultivating Place by Jennifer Jewell

The word garden does not mean just one thing – and there's not one way or right way to get to what they are and how they're best achieved. Gardens are both more and less obvious versions of ourselves, our fingerprints, our signatures, our reflections, our legacies—as individuals and as cultures.

We at CP love gardens, we love nature, we love gardeners and nature lovers. As a corps of passionate, caring and connected people, we think we make a difference for the better in this world. We make a difference to our own mindsets, to our families, to our communities, economies, and the environment - all of which need us to show up as our best selves every day. Gardens, gardening and gardeners matter.

Sourced in and contributing to our evolving natural history, gardens hold vast potential. The impulse to cultivate the land for beauty and utility is timeless – the Ancient Egyptians cultivated their places, Indigenous peoples everywhere cultivated and cultivate theirs, we – whoever we may be - cultivate ours. This primal impulse transcends gender, age, politics, socioeconomics and religion. We are firm believers that in this impulse to cultivate and garden in the places we live, we find meaning.

In this Gardening/Cultivation of place, we can possibly find solutions we have found nowhere else to the problems of the world, which we find everywhere. Join us in this on-going conversation and let it make a difference to your Gardening practice and life, too.

To view the podcast, visit:
<https://www.cultivatingplace.org/blog-1>



Meet the host

Jennifer Jewell is a gardener, garden writer, and gardening educator and advocate. Since 2016, she has written and hosted the national award-winning, weekly public radio program and podcast, *Cultivating Place*, a coproduction of North State Public Radio in Chico, California. Particularly interested in the intersections between gardens, the native plant environments around them, and human culture, she is the daughter of a garden- and floral- designing mother and a wildlife biologist father. Jennifer has been writing about gardening professionally since 1998, and her work has appeared in *Gardens Illustrated*, *House & Garden*, *Natural Home*, *Old House Journal*, *Colorado Homes & Lifestyles*, and *Pacific Horticulture*.

RECAP OF FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

Beans—The Poor Mans Jewels

February 20, 2025

Presenter: Christina (Tina) Kacanowski

Tina talked about the history and varieties of beans, some of the people who are responsible for many of the varieties of *Phaseolus vulgaris* that exist today. “Bean” is a broad term that we use for a variety of plants from the family “Leguminosae”. We also use the same term for the seeds of those plants which we use for food. At the beginning, only fava bean or broad bean was called bean but in time other plants like common bean and the runner bean got named “bean” as well as some other plants like soybeans, peas, chickpeas. Bean is one of the earliest cultivated plants. When the first colonists arrived at the New World, Native Americans taught them to grow beans with corn so the bean plants can climb the cornstalks.

Tina also talked about some of the people who studies and saved many of the bean varieties: (Waheenee-wea) Buffalo Bird Woman = Maxidiwiac 1839-1932; John Withee 1910-1993; Russ Crow (living); Burt Berrier 1893-1978; Robert Lobitz 1941-2006; John Coykendall (living) and several others.

Some types of beans cultivated over time are:

- *Phaseolus vulgaris* (common bean which includes the pinto bean, kidney bean, black bean, green beans, Appaloosa bean etc.)
- *Phaseolus acutifolius* (tepary bean)
- *Phaseolus coccineus* (runner bean)
- *Phaseolus lunatus* (lima bean)
- *Vicia faba* (fava bean or broad bean)
- *Vigna angularis* (adzuki bean)
- *Vigna mungo* (urad bean)
- *Vigna radiata* (mung bean)
- *Vigna unguiculata* (cowpea/crowder peas, which includes the black-eyed pea, yardlong bean etc.)
- *Glycine max* (soybean)
- *Cicer arietinum* (chickpea or garbanzo bean)

Beans are rich in fibers, protein, complex carbohydrates, folate, and iron but some of them, like red and white kidney beans, also have toxins while they are raw. They have lectin phytohaemagglutinin which can cause poisoning with symptoms of nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea from as little as five raw beans. This toxin can be removed by boiling the beans for at least 30 minutes at 100°C. If the beans are cooked in slow cooker (80°C for a longer time) danger of poisoning can be increased five times and this method of preparation of beans is not recommended.

Tina provided a handout on library references and recipes, as well as brought in many bean samples to look at and cooked beans for a taste testing.

THE YARDENERS OF ST. CLAIR SHORES

Monday, March 10th, 2025—7:00 p.m.

TOPIC: COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Presenter: Kelly Konieczki, Outdoor Educator and Citizen Scientist

Location: St. Clair Shores City Hall meeting room*

Kelly will speak to us about turning our environmental curiosity into action with Community Science. You'll learn about this growing movement and how you can start building knowledge and expertise, all while contributing to local and global projects—anytime, anywhere! With Community Science people of all ages and experience can get involved and make a difference, while spending time outside connecting with nature.

*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 Yardeners 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](#)

GRANTS

Each year, MCMGA awards grants of up to \$200 for the establishment or improvement of approved Master Gardener projects in Macomb County. Grant information is listed below. Please read the guidelines carefully before applying for a grant.

Grant Applications are due on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

Get your application in now!!

Grants will be awarded at the April Quarterly meeting.

[Click Here for
More Information](#)

[Click Here for the
Grant Application](#)

[Click Here for the
Grant Guidelines](#)

FUNDRAISING



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Macomb County Master Gardener Association

You will see group name on right side of page

Questions/Problems:

877-576-4377