

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

February 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 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

Brrrr! We've had some frigid weather in Michigan recently and you snowbirds have experienced some chilly temps too. Being housebound provides a great opportunity to grab a new gardening book, browse seed catalogs online, or watch some videos to explore many facets of gardening. Use this time to research new seeds & plants, design a new or plan the renovation of an existing garden, or consider alternative techniques to address a gardening issue that's been plaguing you.

We've added a new feature in our monthly newsletter. "Poppy's Podcast" will highlight a gardening related podcast for your listening pleasure. With so many podcasts to pick from, a new selection will be chosen each month. We'll offer a description of the podcast and info about the host. Most of the podcasts can be found on the podcast app on your mobile device. Or for those who might prefer to listen from their home computer, a link to the podcast's website will be included. Check out page 8 for our first podcast recommendation. We hope you enjoy this new offering and would appreciate your feedback!

Thank you to those members who have joined or renewed their memberships for 2025. We appreciate your commitment to MCMGA and hope you become more involved in the different aspects of our organization. It's a great way to meet other master gardeners while helping to accomplish some of our goals. If you haven't yet and would like to renew or join, please go to:

[RENEW OR JOIN HERE](#)

Grant applications are now being accepted. Please read the guidelines posted on our website, complete and email your application to: macombcountymga@yahoo.com or mail it to MCMGA, P.O. Box 380463, Clinton Township, MI 48038. If you choose to mail your application, please send us an email informing us when you've sent it.

A big thank you to our member, Jim Selegean, for his interesting and informative presentation on the origins of Macomb County soil, especially how the glaciers affected our soil composition and terrain. You can find Jim's slide presentation on our website: [JANUARY PRESENTATION](#)

Stay Warm and Happy Valentines Day

Your MCMGA Board

MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

1/07/2025

Attendees: Ellen Collins, Sara Grix, Pam Horner, Darlene Davies-Warner, Linda Simpson, and David Lowenstein.

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

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

MSUE updates – David – recertification opens January 9th. Anyone with emeritus status gets automatically recertified. Recertification is open through the end of this month. Onboarding for the new class is April 2nd – if anyone wants to present information about the association. We have sustained growth from the last two onboardings.

Treasurer's Report: December Treasurer Report and annual financial report is completed.

Copies of the Financial Statements will be available to members at the meetings or by request. Motion to approve by Pam, seconded by Sara, all in favor, motion carried.

Programs: Sara will send out the new speaker forms to currently scheduled speakers where needed. Ellen will check equipment needs from Ed Blondin. All months have been filled except for September. Here is a list of the new topics that were scheduled for this year: November - Cheryl English – Tall Grass Prairie Planting.

Sara wanted to start scheduling presentations for 2026 if possible. Sara will send class list for Bevin Cohen to the board – he is not available this year, potential to schedule in 2026 after a review of the topics. Ellen will follow up with George Papadelis from Telly's for next year. Darlene suggested a photography presentation about taking photos on your phone – heard a good speaker in another county on the subject. Darlene will provide contact info to Sara. A currently scheduled speaker (Sue Grubba) suggested a physical therapist about exercises for continuing gardening.

Old Business:

- Zoom – Ellen set up a new account for the MCMGA. Closed.
- Treasurer transition – Ellen hasn't received confirmation from the IRS yet. Once received, will change contacts at the bank.

New Business:

- Budget proposal – submitted a list of income/expenses and sent it to Darlene to review. The proposed budget will be sent to the board for review.
- January membership meeting agenda – Ellen requested that everyone come early. We have the donated seeds to set up, and membership check in/payment. The agenda will include member/guests check in and dues payment; donated seeds available for the taking; speaker presentation and soil testing (Jim does not charge speaker fees but did ask to bring guests to the meeting at no charge); Grant applications – Linda will discuss the grant program currently open (Linda asked to include the details in the February newsletter).
- Darlene mentioned she received two membership dues so far. Darlene and Pam will check-in members dues payments at the meeting and issue membership cards. If any new Foundation of Gardening students sign up, we can make a note on their card that they are a student membership. The membership categories were reviewed: regular members – includes certified Master Gardener or trainee; Emeritus; Partial – alumni and FOG students.
- Linda is setting up times to meet on the seed library work. Will also be doing some seed viability testing.

Adjourn – 8:07 p.m.

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

Submitted by Pam Horner

SAVE THE DATE-MCMGA 2025 LINE UP

Date: February 20th 2025

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Tina Kacanowski
Topic: Beans - The Poor Man's Jewels

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

Beans—The Poor Mans Jewels

February 20, 2025

Presenter: Christina (Tina) Kacanowski

This class is all about beans—the history and varieties of beans, some of the people who are responsible for many of the varieties of *Phaseolus vulgaris* that exist today, and one woman’s discovery that she didn’t know beans.

[Register Here](#)

Trees—Can Mankind Survive Without Them?

March 20, 2025

Presenter: Dan Lepo

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](#)

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 \(msu.edu\)](https://msu.edu)

Dig In Series 2025

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Date: February 11th 2025

Presenter: Sharron 'Ronnie' Miller
MSU PhD Candidate Pollination Ecology Lab
Topic: Reconnecting Native Bees, Land Management and Humans

Date: July 8th 2025

Presenter: Kelly McClelland, MSU Extension Community Food Systems Educator
Topic: Growing Together: Strategies, Structures, and Impact of Community Gardens

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

NO AUGUST MEETING

Date: April 8th 2025

Presenter: Molly Wozniak
GiLLS Invasive Species Coordinator
Topic: Keeping an Eye on Invasive Species

Date: September 9th 2025

Presenter: Becca Krans
MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator
Topic: Smart Ways to Bring Native Plants into Your Landscape

Date: May 13th 2025

Presenter: Marianna Szucs
MSU Associate Professor, Dept of Entomology
Topic: The Devil Devastating Your Lillies: The Scarlet Lily Beetle

Date: October 14th 2025

Presenter: Julie Crick
MSU Extension Natural Resources Educator
Topic: Guiding Neighborhood Trees through Climate Change

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: November 11th 2025

Presenter: Lindsey Kerr & Colleagues
MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educators
Topics: Garden Gifts, Tools and Books

NO DECEMBER MEETING

POPPY'S PODCASTS

Seeds & Weeds Podcast by Bevin Cohen

Join Bevin as he talks with gardeners, foragers, herbalists, chefs and community activists to explore the many ways that plants impact our cultures and cuisines, our history and our future. Along the way, he'll teach us quite a bit about growing our own!

Meet the host

Bevin Cohen is an author, herbalist, seed saver and owner of Small House Farm in Michigan. He lives and works at their family homestead in Sandford, Michigan. He is a food and garden writer and author of more than ten books including "The Artisan Herbalist."

To listen to Seeds & Weeds, check your favorite podcast app or go to:

[Seeds & Weeds Podcast](#)



RECAP OF JANUARY PRESENTATION

Title: The Origin of Macomb County Soils, The Science Behind The Soil in our Backyard

Speaker: Dr Jim Selegean, P.E., P.H.

Jim's presentation covered the following topics:

- Particle size and texture
- How soils form and their importance
- Glacial history of Michigan and Macomb County
- Soil data on the web
- How do we fix our soil?

Sand is relatively large, from 0.063 mm to 2 mm, difficult to entrain water. Silt is the most easily eroded and ranges in size from 0.002 mm to 0.063 mm. Clays are cohesive and tend to remain bound to the soil structure, once detached remain in suspension – clay particle size is < 0.002 mm. Soil texture is related to the combination of these three size particles: sand, clay and silt and is related to the soil's ability to retain water and facilitate drainage and is very important for gardening.

Soil forms from disintegrating rock from bedrock and over time and develops layers called horizons, into a well-developed soil. The soil building process is slow and takes hundreds of years. Soil is important because it provides nutrients, drainage and aeration. Nutrient availability changes with the pH of mineral soils.

Glaciers affected our landscape. They have advanced and retreated over 500,000 years creating the Great Lakes and moraines, and changing the geology and landscape. A moraine is the accumulation of unconsolidated soil and rock (glacial till) resulting from the retreating glaciers. Soil in some areas were scraped away by the glaciers and deposited into moraines in others areas, resulting in clay in many areas in Macomb County. Moraines exist in the metro Detroit area such as Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills.

There are many resources available on the internet to look up soil data. Information is available from the U.S. Geological Survey, US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services (Web Soil Survey), and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory.

How do we fix our soil? To improve soil add organic matter. This should be a routine practice every year. It is also recommended to not till your soil. Tilling breaks apart valuable soil structure and negatively affects fungal/microbial organisms.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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**](#)

**MCMGA By-Laws and Standard Operating
Procedures can be found [HERE](#)**

Important Information

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