

# Macomb County Master Gardener Association Monthly Newsletter

February 2025



## Contact Information

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Website: [www.macombcountymga.org](http://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](mailto:macombcountymga@yahoo.com)

## Letter from the Board

Brrrrr! 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](mailto: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 Selegan, 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 9<sup>th</sup>. Anyone with emeritus status gets automatically recertified. Recertification is open through the end of this month. Onboarding for the new class is April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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](#)

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## 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 \(msu.edu\)](#)



# 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: Phimmason 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 Selegian, 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](#)

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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**