

Macomb County Master Gardener

Monthly Newsletter

December 2023



Highlights in this issue

Contact Information

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Website: www.macombcountymga.org

Macomb County MGA

PO Box 380463

Clinton Township, MI 48038

Board of Directors

Karen Burke - President

Katie Baker - Vice President

Linda Simpson- Director at Large

Sara Grix - Secretary

Ellen Collins - Treasurer

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General Information

Follow us on Facebook:

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Next Board of Directors Meeting is Monday, December 18th 12:00pm (zoom)

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

Upcoming MCMGA Education

To register for events:

[Click Here](#)

<https://macombcountymga.org/upcoming-meetings>

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

Letter from the Board



Happy Holidays EMG's!

We wish you the best this holiday season with family and friends! Here we are ending another gardening year. We hope all of you had success with your plants this year. We think all of us can say we had our challenges. After the holidays we are sure some of you will have your 2024 gardens in the planning. Maybe some of you will have your winter sowing started.

We are working on our 2024 lineup for education. We are hoping to have some new topics for you and some exciting workshops. Please plan on attending the January meeting to renew your membership in person and see what we have in store. I have also heard from a "little birdie" that we have something very fun planned for this meeting so you will not want to miss it. We will be meeting at the Verkulien Building on Dunham. The date will be Thursday, January 11th 6:00PM so mark your calendar.

Wishing you happy holidays! See you in January!

2023 Meeting Recap

Please use this recap to assist you in entering your education hours into volunteer central by 11:59pm November 30th

- January 17, 2023: MSUE Volunteer and Education Opportunities - David Lowenstein
- February 21, 2023: You can Garden for Life - Toni Gattone
- March 21, 2023: Bursting into Spring Speaker - Sue Grubba
- April 11, 2023: Companion Planting - Linda Simpson
- May 16, 2023: Tomlinson Arboretum Tour - Loretta Macklem, Eva Armitage and Dan Lepo.
- June 20, 2023: Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, Mexico Trip - Lori Smith
- July 18, 2023: To Find Use for Every Plant: A History of Herbs - Dave Putt
- August 19, 2023: Garden Tour - Jean Persley
- September 19, 2023: Planting Bulbs for Spring Blooms - Jim Miller
- October 3, 2023: Seed Saving - Jean Persely
- November 14, 2023: Plant this... Not That - Valerie Malaney

Board Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023

Attendees:

Ellen Collins, Karen Burke, Sara Grix, Katie Baker,
David Lowenstein

Karen called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

The October 2023 board meeting minutes were approved.

Professional Comments:

- Master Gardener Banquet 2024 - Two Macomb County volunteers have volunteered to help with the banquet.
 - Tentative date: May 8th
 - They are finalizing a speaker and the theme is water quality
- Survey sent out to master gardeners for input on program
- Horticultural trivia this month November 21st
- Trivia also on the December 18th
- MCMGA will supply a prize for January trivia
- FOG (foundations of gardening) classes are starting February 1- April 11th (Thursday nights online). Registration opens Dec 7th. Scholarship period for it is in the month of November. 5 scholarships are available for the thumb area. FOG website has information about scholarships or you can reach out to David Lowenstein for more information. Onboarding February 28th (in person) who have completed the course or close to being finished.

Treasurer's Report:

Ellen reported that the organization's finances are healthy. If you would like a detailed account of the financials, please contact Ellen Collins.

Program:

- December 2023 - no class
- *Jan. 11, 2024 Membership meeting
- Feb. 12, 2024 - Zoom Luke Marion from MIgardener
- March 21, 2024, *April 18, 2024, May 16, 2024 & June 20, 2024 - Program TBD
- *July 18, 2024 - Ellen Collins: Edible Weeds
- Aug. 15, 2024, *Sept. 19, 2024 (Elections), Oct. 10, 2024 & Nov. 21, 2024 - Program TBD
- These are the dates Karen set up with the Verkulien Bldg. From 6 PM- 9PM. We can be flexible with our start times a bit.

*denotes Quarterly meeting

- Program ideas for 2024:

- Diane Reynolds has agreed to do a talk about three seasons in the garden. Katie will contact her to see when she can do this presentation.
- Ellen Collins - edible weeds (possibly for July or August)
- Katie will talk with Erin Stewart of Heart & Soul Naturals if March will work for an elderberry workshop
- Crocker House visit or/and Baumgartner House visit (possibly do visits to both) for the spring
- Possibly interested in a tour of one of the houses?
- Luke from MIgardener will be a speaker in February 2024, currently this is via Zoom about running a seed business
- Karen looking at a hydroponics talk with Faye
- Katie has contacts for talks about: small fruits and herbalism. She will reach out to these people
- January 2024 meeting; possibility of fun trivia night, games, or a make and take. Prizes to give out for the trivia. Everyone will find prizes
- Sara is pursuing an educational class about mushrooms through the Mushroom Conservatory
- Carolyn recommended speaker: Darren Bagley (she saw him do a walk with children about edible plants)
- Meadowbrook (Mary Ellen VanSlembrouck - Director)- field trip for November or December
- Pam Gors - Katie is reaching out to do an educational class about birds
- Ideas from members: small fruit/brambles, mushrooms/fungi, common insects in your garden, field trip to a master gardener site, birds

Old Business:

- Had 100 people signed up for November 14th zoom meeting, however only approximately 40 people attended. Guests were not charged at the zoom meeting. Need to figure out how to charge for guests on zoom (this does not include the guests that are invited by members - plus one).
- Board will start reviewing old SOP at December board meeting. Updating parts of SOP and will share with membership in January.
- Possibility of selling extra potting mats, however will wait to see if we have new members to give them to in January

New Business:

- Discussions of program for 2024 (ideas are up above under programs)
- Design a contract for speakers to sign. Make sure that the fee is known ahead of time and get a bio from the speakers well in advance.

Next board meeting: December 18th at 12:00pm

Meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.

Submitted by Sara Grix

Events



Horticulture Trivia

Dec. 18, 2023 7-7:45 p.m. ET via Zoom

Description: Join MSU Extension for the third of our Winter '23-'24 monthly trivia series about gardening. This is a chance to test your knowledge about all things plants, insects, and garden related in Michigan. There will be 30 multiple choice question/answers during this live event and a prize awarded to the top two scorers. Trivia night is open to gardening enthusiasts, trivia lovers, Extension Master Gardeners, or anyone else who wants to play.

How it works: After registering, you will be sent a Zoom webinar link for this event. You will need a second device (phone or tablet) to answer the live trivia questions using a polling website called Kahoot. During the first few minutes of the event, there will be a demonstration of how to join and submit answers. Scoring is based on the correct answer and the speed at which an answer is entered. Please arrive by 7:05 p.m. to join the trivia game on time.

Cost: \$5 - Free for the first 50 Michigan Extension Master Gardeners (certification will need to be verified)

Prize: Top scorer will receive a \$25 electronic gift card to the garden center or seed company of their choice. If you are a winner from a previous trivia this season, you are not eligible to win a second prize.

Sponsor: Thank you to Ball Horticultural Company for sponsoring this month's trivia!

Cancellation policy: Refunds offered until Dec. 14. No refunds after this date.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)



The Rochester Garden Club Presents

The 77th Annual Holiday

Gifts and Greens Market

Thursday Gala, November 30, 5-8 pm

Shop Early – Enjoy Refreshments

Admission \$5.00

Friday, December 1, 9 am - 5 pm

Saturday, December 2, 9 am - 1 pm

Fri. & Sat. Admission \$2.00

More information: RochesterGardenClub.org

Like us on Facebook

LOCATION
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
1550 Walton Blvd.
Rochester Hills

- ♦ *Holiday Gifts*
- ♦ *Fresh Arrangements*
- ♦ *Greens, Wreaths, Roping*
- ♦ *Home Décor*
- ♦ *Herbal & Gourmet Delights*

WE'RE A 501(c)3 NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Education Opportunities



Master Rain Gardener Training Program

Date/Time: Thursday, January 25, 2024 10:00am to Thursday, February 22, 2024 12:00pm

Location: VIRTUAL Classroom with In-Person Tours

Class Time: 10am – Noon (9am – 10am Office Hours)

Class Dates: Five Thursdays, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22

In-Person Tour dates and locations TBD

Requirements: Participants must attend all five classes and plant OR adopt a rain garden to earn their Master Rain Gardener certificate, garden sign, and t-shirt.

Questions: Need to talk through your registration with a real person? For questions about the Master Rain Gardener course, please contact your hosting partner (your watershed group or county partner). For questions about the course registration system, please contact rainsmart@therouge.org.

Click Here For
More Information

Click Here
To Register

Master Gardener Conference

2024 Master Gardener Conference

Aug. 23–24, 2024

Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, Mich.

Join us August 23–24, 2024 for the 2024 Master Gardener Conference.

More information and registration will be available in 2024.

The Interlochen Center for the Arts will serve as host for our two-day science-based gardening event. The 1,200-acre campus is surrounded by nature and nestled between two lakes. The campus includes several hiking trails; beaches; and a Botanical Lab and Community Garden with a school garden, hoop houses, outdoor kitchens, an apiary, pollinator garden, permaculture site, and aquaponics. There are so many reasons to visit Interlochen's campus and we can't wait to delight Extension Master Gardeners with all there is to offer.

Location

Interlochen Center for the Arts

4000 J. Maddy Pkwy,

Interlochen, MI 49643

Participant Registration

Participant registration will open in 2024.

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:**

877-576-758