

Macomb County Master Gardener

Monthly Newsletter

February 2024



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Contact Information

Email address: macombcountymga@yahoo.com

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

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.

General Information

Follow us on Facebook:

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Next Board of Directors Meeting is Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 4:30pm via Zoom

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



Happy Valentines Day EMG's!



It was nice to see you all at the meeting in January!

We had a great deal of positive feedback on being back at the Verkulien Building.
We are so glad that you like it!

Our winter has arrived, and many of you are busy planning your gardens,
ordering seeds and doing your winter sowing. We have very important news
in this newsletter so please read it thoroughly. We have included many
answers to your questions.

If you have not yet paid your dues please send them in or apply online.

We would like to ask all of you to consider volunteering for some of
our activities in the association. You may not be aware of these
opportunities. We have listed them on the membership form.
Please ask a board member if you do not know what the job
involves. Thank you! Any time you volunteer for a job with the
association this does count towards your volunteer hours,
so please consider it a job.

We think Katie has done a wonderful job with our education lineup.
She has some new ideas that sound like they will be so much fun!
(As were her games at the membership meeting - you do count that as 1 hour of
education as the questions were taken from the core manual).

Stay warm and keep working on your gardens!
Spring is just around the corner!

The MCMGA Board

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.

Please read the guidelines carefully before applying for a grant.

Grant Applications are Due on Friday, March 15, 2024.

Get your applications 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](#)

Membership cards

Membership will no longer be mailed out to members. If a member has renewed online or by post, their card will be available at the next in-person meeting.

Standard Operating Procedures

Please note the following highlighted updates to our Standard Operating Procedures:

- Dues have increased from \$15 to \$20 beginning 1/1/24, to be paid by 2/28/24.
- Committees outlined are now consistent with those listed on the membership application.
- Social media will be used to maintain a historical record of MCMGA activities, photos, etc.
- When a program is free for a member and their guest, there will be a \$5-\$10 fee for a visitor as deemed appropriate by the Directors.
- When there is a charge for a member and their guest, there will be a \$5-\$10 additional fee for a visitor as deemed appropriate by the Directors.

The updated SOP will be available for review at monthly meetings upon request.

The MCMGA Board

Treasurers Update

The 2023 Annual Financial Summary was reviewed at the January meeting. The association had income of \$6,929.81 and expenses of \$7,164.54 for a loss of \$234.73. This loss is covered by a surplus that was carried over from 2022. The dues were increased to help offset future expenses (increased operating costs, speakers fees, service fees, grant increases). The year-to-date summary and monthly treasurer reports will be available for review at monthly meetings.

Ellen Collins, Treasurer

Thank You

A Special Thanks to Darlene Davies-Warner, Pam Horner and Karen Smith for their assistance with the audit of the Treasurer's records. All income, expenses and bank balances were verified. We're off to a good start in 2024!

MCMGA Board Minutes

January 9, 2024

Attendees: Ellen Collins, Karen Burke, Sara Grix, Katie Baker, Linda Simpson, Carolyn Doak

Karen called the meeting to order at 4:31pm.

No December minutes, education classes were shared in newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Ellen reported that the organization's finances are healthy. Ellen added a line item to add in services fees in her treasurer reports (service fees - online transactions). Proposed budget for 2024 was reviewed. Dues will be raised to \$20 and grants will be raised to \$200. Copies of the financial statements will be available to members at meetings or by request.

Program:

Feb. 13, 2024

Luke Marion from MIGardener: Growing a Better Garden Without the Work
(Zoom)

March 21, 2024

Jean Persely and Lisa Lane: We Laughed, We Cried, We Could've Died - Gardening Conferences
(in person)

*April 25, 2024

Wild Birds Unlimited: Bird Songs in Your Garden
(in person)

May 16, 2024

Diane Reynolds: Three-Season Gardening For April Through November Blooms
(in person - with a tour of the Demonstration Garden)

June 20, 2024 - TBD

*July 18, 2024

Ellen Collins: Edible Weeds
(in person - possibly at the Charity Garden)

Aug. 15, 2024

Rachel Mifsud from Will Forage for Food: Intro to Foraging
(in person - with on-site exploration)

*Sept. 19, 2024

Dave Putt: The Role Played by Michiganders in the Development of Modern Horticultural Science
(in person - Elections)

Oct. 10, 2024

TBD

Nov. 21, 2024

Erin Stewart of Heart & Soul Naturals: All About Elderberries
(in person - with a make and take option)

Dec. 2024

No meeting

*denotes Quarterly meeting

- All meetings at the Verkuilen building unless otherwise noted
- Meetings will run from 6:30-8:00pm unless otherwise noted
- Waiting to hear back from Crocker House to see if they want to do a presentation for us.
- Carnivorous plants - would need to travel to Oakland County - looking into this as an educational possibility
- A survey will be sent out to membership about ideas for educational classes

Old Business:

- SOP reviewed and updated and will be shared with general membership at January 11th meeting
- Bylaws committee will be developed to review bylaws
- Sara will bring snacks to January meeting. We can rotate between people in association (people will be reimbursed)
- Grants: Linda Simpson will be talking about grants at the January meeting. The application is available on the MCMGA website.

New Business:

- An audit committee is needed to go through financials - Ellen will talk about this at January meeting
- Consider having site leaders type up information about their sites to put into the newsletter
- Plant sale is scheduled for Sunday, September 15th from 12-3pm at the Octagon House
- Can we advertise to other counties about this? We do already advertise on Facebook

Next board meeting: February 6th at 4:30pm via Zoom

Meeting was adjourned at 5:46pm

Submitted by Sara Grix

Save the Date MCMGA 2024 Lineup



Date: Tuesday, February 13th 2024

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

Location: Zoom

Presenter: Luke Marion from MI Gardener

Topic: "Growing a Better Garden Without the Work"

Date: Thursday, March 21st 2024

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building

21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenters: Jean Persely and Lisa Lane

Topic: "We Laughed, We Cried, We Could've Died"
Gardening Conferences

Date: Thursday, April 25th 2024

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building

21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenter: Wild Birds Unlimited

Topic: "Bird Songs in Your Garden"

Learn how to translate what your backyard birds are saying to you

Date: Thursday, May 16th

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building

21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenter: Diane Reynolds

Topic: "Three-Season Gardening for April Through November Blooms"

with a tour of Demonstration Garden on the grounds

Date: Thursday, June 20th 2024

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

Location: TBD

Presenter: TBD

Topic: TBD

Date: Thursday, July 18th 2024

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

Location: St. Peter Charity Garden

43785 Gratiot, Clinton Township

(Behind Kingsborough Castle)

Presenter: Ellen Collins

Topic: "Edible Weeds"

Thursday, August 15th 2024

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building

21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenter: Rachel Mifsud from Will Forage for Food

Topic: "Intro to Foraging"

with On-Site Exploration

Thursday, September 19th 2024

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building

21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenter: Dave Putt

Topic: "The Role Played by Michiganders in the Development of Modern Horticultural Science"

BOARD ELECTIONS

Thursday, October 10th 2024

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

Location: TBD

Presenter: TBD

Topic: TBD

Thursday, November 21st 2024

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building

21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenter: Erin Stewart of Heart and Soul Naturals

Topic: "All About Elderberries"

with a Make-and-Take Workshop

No December Meeting



DON'T FORGET TO LOG YOUR HOURS **PAST 2024 MEETING INFORMATION**

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH 2024

TIME: 6:30PM - 8:00PM EST

TOPIC: NEW MEMBERSHIP CAMARADERIE GAMES

PRESENTER(S): MCMGA BOARD

Registration for MCMGA Meetings

Date: Tuesday, February 13th 2024

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

Location: Zoom

Presenter: Luke Marion from MI Gardener

Topic: "Growing a Better Garden Without the Work"

[Click Here For
More Information](#)



[Click Here
To Register](#)



Date: Thursday, March 21st 2024

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenters: Jean Persely and Lisa Lane

Topic: "We Laughed, We Cried, We Could've Died"
A account of experiences at Gardening Conferences

[Click Here For
More Information](#)



[Click Here
To Register](#)



Events & Education



February 2024 Horticulture Trivia

February 20, 2024 7:00PM - 7:45PM via Zoom

Description: This is a chance to test your knowledge about all things plants, insects, and garden related in Michigan. There will be 30 multiple choice questions with a prize awarded to the top two scorers. Trivia is open to gardening enthusiasts, trivia lovers, Extension Master Gardeners, or anyone who wants to play.

How it works: After registering, you will be sent a Zoom webinar link. You will need a second device (phone or tablet) to answer the live trivia questions using a polling website called Kahoot. 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

Prize: Top two scorers will receive prizes of a \$25 electronic gift cards to the garden center or seed company of their choice OR a \$25 e-gift card to [East Michigan Native Plants](#). If you are a winner from a previous trivia this season, you are not eligible to win a second prize.

Sponsors: Thank you to East Michigan Native Plants and Ball Horticultural Company for sponsoring!

Cancellation policy: Refunds offered until Feb 15. No refunds after this date.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

What's That? Christmas Tree Pest Management Webinar Series

Thursdays in February

February 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2024 12:30 to 2 p.m. ET

Description: Successful pest management is vital for growing quality Christmas trees. Watch Christmas tree experts from across the country discuss management practices to successfully control pests in Christmas tree production. Topics will include Integrated Pest Management, aphids, adelgids, and disease control.

There is no cost to attend this webinar, however registration is required.

February 8, 2024: Integrated Pest Management 101 with Erin Lizotte

February 15, 2024: Aphid Management in Christmas Tree Production with Dr. Richard Cowles

February 22, 2024: Balsam Woolly Adelgid and Christmas trees in Michigan with Dr. Deborah McCullough

February 29, 2024: Root Rots, Needle Casts, and Christmas Trees with Dr. Gary Chastagner

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

Education Opportunities



Designing with Native Plants

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Shelby Township Library Legacy Room 52700 Van Dyke Ave. Shelby Township, MI 48316
Description: Join Master Gardner Jean Perseley for a look at how to incorporate native plants into your garden. Whether you're new to using natives or have experimented with them already, you'll enjoy learning more about design concepts to help you create a garden that suits your needs while providing ecological services.

Winter Native Tree Identification

Date: Saturday, February 24th 2024

Time: 1 - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$20

[Click Here For
More Information](#)

Location: MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center
28115 Meadowbrook Road
Novi, MI 48377

[Click Here
To Register](#)

Learn how to identify native trees when they don't have any leaves. Sound difficult? Not if you know what to look for! This skill can be useful if you are pruning trees, doing surveys or just want to know what type of tree you're looking at in the winter season. The Winter Native Tree Identification workshop will consist of an indoor lecture session and an outdoor session where we will walk to the forest for demonstrations and activities to practice your new tree ID skills. Please be sure to dress for the cold weather - layers are best and wear waterproof, warm shoes or boots you won't mind getting dirty as we will be going out in the forest for demonstrations and activities. Bring plenty of water to stay hydrated. A notebook and pen will be helpful to take notes. Feel free to start arriving at 12:30 p.m. to network and socialize.

Grand Traverse Conservation District Webinars

Date: February 6, 2024

Time: 6 pm - 7 pm EST

Topic: The Future of Michigan's Old Growth

Presenter: Nick Sanchez

[Click Here
To Register](#)

[Click Here For
More Information](#)

Date: February 20, 2024

Time: 6 pm - 7 pm EST

Topic: Michigan's Invasive Species
Regulatory Pathway

Presenter: Katie Grzesiak

[Click Here
To Register](#)

Smart Gardeners 2024 Pruning Workshop

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024

Time: 1 to 5 p.m. ET

[Click Here For
More Information](#)

Location: Virtually via Zoom
Cost: \$40.00 per participant

[Click Here
To Register](#)

Education Opportunities



Preserving the Harvest

[Click Here For
More Information](#)

Classes are offered on Thursdays
1-2 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. ET. sessions include:

[Click Here
To Register](#)

February 1, 2024 - Beans, Beans, and More Beans

Beans, beans, and more beans. This program will teach how to home-can dry beans from start to finish, using a pressure canner. Also, learn about preparing the finished product.

February 8, 2024 - Planting for Preservation

Plan your garden for food preservation with us. Topics will include vegetable variety and seed selection as well as timing and management of your seedlings.

February 15, 2024 - Preserving the Sale

Freezing is a great method to help you save money. Learn best practices for purchasing foods on sale and freezing for later use.

February 22, 2024 - Syrups and Sauces

Syrups and sauces taste delicious from fresh berries. Learn tips and recipes to use your frozen berries for tasty syrups and sauces in the winter.

February 29, 2024 - Pressure Canning

Discover how to safely preserve low-acid foods at home using your pressure canner.

March 7, 2024 - Sweet, Sweet Maple Syrup

From tree to table, making and preserving maple syrup at home.

March 14, 2024 - Using What I Preserved Last Summer

Join us for ideas to use the foods you preserved last summer to create something tasty while you empty your pantry and freezer for the upcoming preservation season.

March 21, 2024 - Canning High-Acid Foods

Whether a beginner to home canning or looking for a refresher on best practices, this class is for you. Join us to learn how to properly use your water bath canner.

April 4, 2024 - Preserving Spring Produce

Fresh produce like rhubarb and asparagus will soon be available. Join us to discover how to preserve produce from your spring harvest.

April 11, 2024 - Preserving MI Spring Catch

Join us for tips on preserving Michigan's spring catch of fish.

April 18, 2024 - Tools of the Trade

Explore home food preservation tools of the trade and recipes that will make preserving fun and easy.

Education Opportunities



Dig In Series

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: Partnering with Indigenous Groups and Community Partners

Presenter: Emily Proctor, MSU Extension Tribal Educator: Tribal Governance and Leadership and Community Engagement

Date: March 12, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: Better Living through Diversified Vegetable Gardening

Presenter: Chris Galbraith, MSU Extension Vegetable Educator

Date: April 9, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: Healthy Soil, Healthy Plant: Exploring Regenerative Agriculture

Presenter: Christine Charles, MSU Extension Educator

Date: May 14, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: Biodiversity in Michigan's Urban Forests

Presenter: Asia Downtin, PhD, MSU Assistant Professor of Urban Forestry

Date: June 11, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: Fruitful delights: Cultivating Backyard Bounty

Presenter: Derek Plotkowski, MSU Extension Fruit Educator

Date: July 9, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: Untangling Garden Interlopers: What to do when Aggressive Plants take Root

Presenter: Caitlin Splawski, MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

Date: September 10, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: Xeriscaping in Michigan? How to incorporate water-wise practices into your Michigan garden

Presenter: Barbara Gregerson, MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

Date: October 8, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: Spotted Lanternfly – Update on A Sticky Situation

Presenter: Deb McCullough, PhD, MSU Department of Entomology

Date: November 12, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: The Importance of Manoomin - **Presenter:** Kristine Hahn, MSU Extension Natural Resources Educator

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 Education hour.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

Education Opportunities

MI AG IDEAS TO GROW WITH

[Click Here For
More Information](#)

February 19, 2024 – March 1, 2024

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

[Click Here
To Register](#)

BEGINNING VEGETABLES

February 19, 2024 1:00PM – 2:00PM

TOP 10 FAQs FROM MICHIGAN HORSE OWNERS

February 19, 2024 6:00PM – 7:00PM

THE THREE FS OF FARMLAND: FINDING IT, FUNDING IT, AND THE FUTURE OF IT.

February 20, 2024 1:00PM – 2:00PM

PRESERVING MI HARVEST - CANNING BASICS

February 20, 2024 2:00PM – 3:00PM

GETTING STARTED WITH BEEKEEPING

February 20, 2024 6:00PM – 7:00PM

BRAINSTORMING FARM GOALS... & HOW TO MAKE THEM HAPPEN!

February 21, 2024 12:00PM – 1:00PM

ENTERPRISE BUDGETING FOR BEGINNING FARM DECISION-MAKERS

February 21, 2024 1:00PM – 2:00PM

PRESERVING MI HARVEST-PRESERVING TOMATOES AND SALSA

February 21, 2024 1:00PM – 2:00PM

PRESERVING MI HARVEST-STARTING A SUCCESSFUL COTTAGE FOOD LAW BUSINESS

February 21, 2024 6:00PM – 8:00PM

CATTLE CHECKUP – HOW TO COMPLETE A GENERAL CATTLE HEALTH EXAM

February 21, 2024 6:00PM – 7:00PM

BREAKING DOWN NUTRIENT CYCLING IN COVER CROPS

February 22, 2024 8:00AM – 9:00AM

ALTERNATIVE WEED CONTROL METHODS

February 22, 2024 9:00AM – 10:00AM

IPM TOOLS IN FIELD CROPS

February 22, 2024 10:00AM – 11:00AM

PRESERVING MI HARVEST-PRESERVING BEANS AND MEATS

February 22, 2024 10:00AM – 11:00AM

VERTEBRAE PEST MANAGEMENT IN FIELD CROPS

February 22, 2024 11:00AM – 12:00PM

BOWLING BALLS, BRUSHES AND BRANCHES:

IMPROVING ANIMAL CARE BY PROVIDING

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR ANIMALS

February 22, 2024 6:00PM – 7:00PM

BEYOND THE FARMERS MARKET: EVALUATING DIRECT MARKET CHANNEL OPPORTUNITIES

February 23, 2024 12:00PM – 1:00PM

POLLINATOR STEWARDSHIP FOR FARMERS, GROWERS, AND GARDENERS

February 26, 2024 10:00AM – 11:00AM

AN INTRODUCTION TO GRAZING MANAGEMENT

February 26, 2024 6:00PM – 7:00PM

THE ART OF IRRIGATION SCHEDULING

February 27, 2024 9:00AM – 9:50AM

WHAT DO PLANTS CRAVE?

February 27, 2024 10:00AM – 11:00AM

THE VALUE OF IRRIGATION UNIFORMITY AND SPRINKLER CHOICE

February 27, 2024 10:00AM – 10:50AM

IRRIGATION ELECTRICAL SAFETY

February 27, 2024 11:00AM – 11:50AM

REVIEW OF 2023 IRRIGATION RESEARCH

February 27, 2024 12:00PM – 12:50PM

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS WITH MICHIGAN'S LARGE VOLUME WATER USE REGISTRATION AND REPORTING TOOLS.

February 27, 2024 1:00PM – 1:50PM

UPGRADES TO OLDER PIVOT CONTROL SYSTEMS AND 360 RAIN- A QUICK LOOK AT A ROBOTIC IRRIGATION AND NUTRIENT APPLICATION SYSTEM

February 27, 2024 2:00PM – 2:50PM

THE PRAIRIE RIVER WATER USE ISSUE – STATE AGENCY AND USER GROUP ROUND TABLE

February 27, 2024 3:00PM – 3:50PM

SMALL BATCH CHEESE MAKING

February 27, 2024 6:00PM – 7:00PM

MANAGEMENT OVER MEDICATION: TIPS FOR MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LIVESTOCK HERD ON YOUR SMALL LIVESTOCK FARM

February 27, 2024 7:00PM – 8:00PM

FARM BUDGETS: GROWING YOUR FARM INTO A BUSINESS

February 28, 2024 9:00AM – 10:00AM

WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY VEGETABLES

February 28, 2024 10:00AM – 11:00AM

GRAIN PROCESSING AND ITS EFFECTS ON RUMEN HEALTH IN BEEF CATTLE

February 28, 2024 6:00PM – 7:00PM

THE WORLD UNDER OUR FEET: BIOLOGICAL SOIL HEALTH IN VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

February 29, 2024 10:00AM – 11:00AM

MITIGATING HERD DISEASES THROUGH SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

February 29, 2024 6:00PM – 7:00PM

PASTURE POULTRY

February 29, 2024 7:00PM – 8:00PM

BECOMING AN INSECT INVESTIGATOR

March 1, 2024 10:00AM – 11:00AM

COMMERCIAL HYDROPONIC PRODUCTION: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR EQUIPMENT

PURCHASES

March 1, 2024 12:00PM – 1:00PM V

Education Opportunities:



Introduction to Lakes

Dates: January 30, 2024 - April 5, 2024

Location: Online

Price: \$115 if registration extended until February 5th

Details: In this Six-week class with participants will advance through the program together learning about: lake ecology, watersheds, shorelines, aquatic plant management, Michigan water law and community involvement. Access to new units will be provided on a week-by-week, unit-by-unit basis.

Each unit takes approximately 2 hours to complete.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Everyone who completes Introduction to Lakes Online is also eligible to receive a free one-year membership to the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association.

[Click Here For Syllabus](#)

Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professional Training and Certification Program

Class Dates: March 12 & March 13, 2024

Field Date: June 12, 2024

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day

Where: Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center
4300 Main Park Rd, Shelby Township MI 48316

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

Includes: A hands on field day, online certification exam, A natural shoreline manual.

Lunch, snacks, and park entry fees are included each day of the program

Certification: Participants must complete both the two-day classroom training (March 12-13), pass the exam, and participate in the hands-on field day (June 12) to become certified.

Certification is valid for three years. Recertification requires a recertification fee.

Cost: \$395

Seating is limited to 30 participants. Deadline to register is March 1, 2024.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

2024 Great Lakes Day

[Click Here To Register](#)

Topic: Celebrating Science and Water

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 **Time:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. ET **Location:** Zoom

Registration: This event is free, but registration is required.

9:00 am - 9:25 am Are you Great Lakes Literate?

9:30 am - 9:55 am Status of PFAS in the Great Lakes

10:00 am - 10:25 am Pathway to Resilience

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Keynote speaker

1:00 pm - 1:25 pm Conservation efforts in the Keweenaw Heartlands: A partnership with The Nature Conservancy

1:30 pm - 1:55 pm Vegetation and marsh bird relationships with invasive Phragmites australis occurrence and management in Saginaw Bay

2:00 pm - 2:25 pm What is Marine Debris?

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm What can YOU do? Practical ideas to help and communicate about our Great Lakes

Classes, Conferences & Trips



Michigan Beekeepers Association Conference

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Dates: Friday, March 1st & Saturday, March 2nd 2024

Registration: Opens in 2024

Location: Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan

[Click Here To Register](#)

Wildflower Association of Michigan Conference

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024

Location: Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan

Pricing: General Public - \$100;

WAM members - \$80; Students - \$25

[Click Here To Register](#)

This year's conference is composed of two sections. An in-person conference at the Kellogg Convention Center in East Lansing, Michigan on Sunday, March 3, 2024 and four one-hour webinars held throughout the year.

Smart Gardening Conference

Date: Saturday, March 9, 2024

Time: 9 am - 5 pm EST

Conference Cost: \$100.00

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Location: Wayne County Community College District

[Click Here To Register](#)

Topics Include: What is Smart Gardening?, The Butterfly Effect: Micro Plantings for Macro Impact; Urban Agriculture and Gardening; What "Mite" the Problem Be? The Fascinating Lives of Gall-forming Insects and Mites; Captivating Combinations - Plants and Garden Designs to Inspire

Maplefest 2024

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Dates: Saturday, March 9, 2024 - Sunday, March 10, 2024

Location: 28115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi MI 48377

Hourly Limited Timeslots from 9 am - 2 pm Saturday and Sunday

Cost: \$17 per person 2yr and under free

[Click Here To Register](#)

2024 SEMBA Spring Conference

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024

Time: 7:30am - 3:30pm

Location: Wayne County Community College, Belleville MI

[Click Here To Register](#)

Pricing: Admission is Free but you must register to attend due to limited space
Honeybees & Pollinators - Beginning & Advanced Beekeeping - Pollinator Gardens

Exhibits - Family Friendly Event - National Speakers

Speaker Highlights:

Cory Stevens: Why Virgin Queens are the Best
Jamie Walters, President of the Ohio Beekeepers Association: Spring Splits and Backyard Queen rearing
Declan Schroeder from Marla Spivak's Lab: The latest research on virus resistance in honey bees
Location: Wayne County Community College, Belleville MI

Classes, Conferences & Trips Planning Ahead



A Garden Study Tour of Western Canada & its Landscapes

Dates: July 22 - 30, 2024

Day 1: Calgary Marriott Downtown, Calgary, Alberta

Day 2 – 3: Sutton Place Hotel Revelstoke, Revelstoke, BC

Day 4 – 5: Delta by Marriott Okanagan Resort, Kelowna, British Columbia

Day 6 – 8: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia

Cost: Double \$5,699pp or Single \$7,399pp

[Click Here For
More Information](#)

Master Gardener Conference

Dates: August 23 & 24, 2024

Location: Interlochen Center for the Arts

Registration: Will open in early 2024

Details: The Interlochen Center for the Arts will serve as host, 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.

[Click Here For
More Information](#)

2025 International Master Gardener Conference

Dates: Monday August 25 - Thursday August 28, 2025

Theme: There is No Planet B

Location: Virtual

Hosted by the Texas Master Gardener Program

[Click Here For
More Information](#)

Friends of the St Clair River



JANUARY SEED CLEANING SCHEDULE

1/9
1/16
1/23
1/30

TUESDAYS 10AM - 12PM

THUMB COAST WATERSHED CENTER
301 N. NINTH STREET
ST. CLAIR

WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES 2024

Friends of the St. Clair River

Join us for our upcoming seed cleaning workdays at our Thumb Coast Watershed Center on Tuesday, February 6, 13th, and 20th from 10am to 12pm. Our Thumb Coast Watershed Center seed library is located outside our office at 301 N. Ninth Street in St. Clair w For questions about our seed library program and seed cleaning workshops, email brooke@scriver.org.

Join us Fridays at Columbus Park for eco-stewardship activities in parks and natural areas all over St. Clair County as we manage invasive species and take in all that nature has to offer. No experience? No worries! Dress for the weather and bring your work gloves. Email brooke@scriver.org for more information.

WildWoods Stewardship Workdays
Every Friday - Starting Nov 10

Friends of the St. Clair River

Winter Stonefly Search

Saturday, February 17, 10 a.m.

Date: February 17, 2024
Location: 1670 Bauman Road, Columbus MI
Duration: 3 hr
Details: Rivers are full of life, even in the depths of winter! Join Friends of the St. Clair River staff and Stream Team volunteers as we enter streams on a hunt for the elusive winter stonefly.

Back from the depths! Sturgeon Fest is coming Saturday, June 1, 2024 on the shores of Lake Huron at the Fort Gratiot Lightstation Park in Port Huron. Details at www.SturgeonFestival.com

FRIENDS OF THE ST. CLAIR RIVER

STURGEON AND FRIENDS FEST

SturgeonFestival.com **JUNE 1, 2024**

Save the date!

River Bash
A benefit on the banks of the Black River

Thursday, April 11, 2024

SAVE THE DATE for our 2nd annual River Bash, a Benefit on the Banks of the Black River, is back! Thursday, April 11, 2024, 5:30 p.m. More details to come. www.scriver.org

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