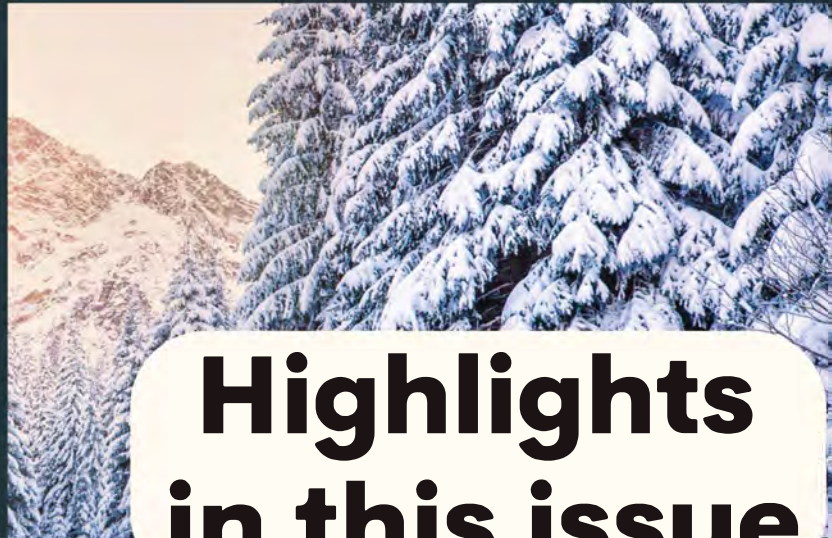


Macomb County Master Gardener

Monthly Newsletter

January 2024



Highlights in this issue

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.

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General Information

Follow us on Facebook:

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Next Board of Directors Meeting is TBD

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 New Year!

We ARE going to have a great gardening season this year!

The seed and plant catalogs will be arriving soon, if not already! We have been checking out all the new varieties to try. If you have not started your winter gardening you may want to get that going soon also. Also it is time to start your list of when to start your seeds. We are going to hopefully showcase 2 of our projects this year. We hope you will join us for these visits and talk to the coordinators.

Also we have some important information regarding our yearly dues and guest fees. As prices of almost everything have increased in the past several years, the administration costs of our organization are no exception. With that being said, the Board has decided to raise the dues by \$5 for all members to cover cost increases for speaker fees, post office box rental, postage, and other fees. This is the first dues increase since the organization was established in 2013. The increase will be effective January 1, 2024.

We hope you all support our decision.

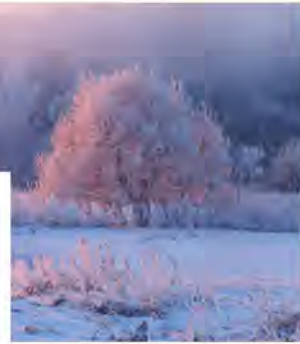
On a positive note, we also decided to raise the grant award to \$200. Just as the costs to run MCMGA have increased, so have the costs to fund our projects. We hope our project leaders get excited about this news and take advantage of applying.

We are going to be more strict in the administration of guest fees this year as one of our webinars did have the max signed up to attend and less than half showed up to listen. We are sure there were some that did not get to sign in that would have loved to hear the talk. So, the board has decided that we need to implement this fee.

We have an exciting line up as Katie has been working very hard filling in the blanks with some "new topics" that should be very interesting. If you would like to make a request, please write it on a piece of paper and hand it to Katie at a meeting.

For our meetings, we will be back at the Verkuilen Building except for a zoom or field trip here and there. At the Verkuilen Building, we will have less time constraints offering us more time to visit, listen to the lecture and have time for questions. Remember our January meeting is our membership renewal meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Save the Date MCMGA 2024 Lineup



Date: Thursday, January 11th 2024

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

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

Presenter(s): MCMGA Board

Topic: New Membership Camaraderie Games

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



Registration MCMGA Meetings



Date: Thursday, January 11th 2024

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

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

Presenter(s): MCMGA Board

Topic: New Membership Camaraderie Games



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"

Registration Link will be available at a later date



Events & Education



Horticulture Trivia

January 22, 2024 7:00PM - 7:45PM

Location: Zoom

Cost: \$5 (Free for the first 50 Michigan Extension Master Gardeners)

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.

Prize: Top two scorers will receive a \$25 electronic gift cards 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 the Macomb County Master Gardener Association and Ball Horticultural Company for sponsoring this month's trivia!

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

2024 Plant Quest

January 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th 2024

Time: All sessions 6 - 7:15 p.m. ET Location: Online, via Zoom

Cost: \$40 - Early registration until January 7th or \$50 until January 27th

Date: January 8, 2024

Topic: *15 Plants You Wish You Had Planted this Year!*

Presenter: Matthew Ross, Horticulturist and Executive Director, The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park

Date: January 15, 2024

Topic: *Taming the Wild - Native Plants for the Residential Landscape*

Presenters: Nikki Melin and Shannon McEnerney, Horticulture Specialists at Midwest Groundcovers

Date: January 22, 2024

Topic: *Foliage, Foliage, and More Foliage - Using Leaves to Light Up the Landscape!*

Presenter: Bryce Lane, North Carolina State University (retired) Department of Horticultural Science, Emmy winning UNC TV's "In the Garden with Bryce Lane".

Date: January 29, 2024

Topic: *New and Exciting Trees and Shrubs for Forward-Thinking Gardeners*

Presenter: Vinnie Simeone, Horticulturist, Author and Director of Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, New York

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

Education Opportunities



Wild Ones Webinar Cultivating Change

Date: January 25th

Time: 6 PM (CT)

Location: Virtually Online

Presenter: Lorraine Johnson

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

Learn about the pivotal role of gardening as an act of stewardship in the face of climate and ecological challenges. Discover the profound connections between individual gardens and the broader world and learn how these green spaces can serve as catalysts for positive ecological and social change. Join Wild Ones for a practical and insightful discussion on gardening's positive impact on the environment and our future.

Grand Traverse Conservation District Webinars

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Date: January 9, 2024

Time: 6 pm - 7 pm EST

Topic: Field Botany to Front Yard

Presenter: Matthew Ross

[Click Here To Register](#)

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](#)

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 6 pm - 7 pm EST

Topic: Conservation of Vernal Pools in Michigan

Presenter: Abby Pointer

[Click Here To Register](#)

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 Workshops

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Two dates from which to choose:

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024

Time: 1 to 5 p.m. ET

OR

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024

Time: 1 to 5 p.m. ET

Location: Virtually via Zoom

Cost: \$40.00 per participant

[Click Here To Register for January](#)

OR

[Click Here To Register for February](#)

Education Opportunities



Dig In Series

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Date: January 9, 2024

Time: 6 pm -7 pm EST

Topic: Evidence-Based Therapy Gardens: The Brains behind the Beauty

Presenter: Chris Imler, MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

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.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Education Hours - Each session will count as 1 EMG Continuing Education hour.

[Click Here To Register](#)

Classes, Conferences & Trips



Introduction to Lakes

Dates: January 30, 2024 - April 5, 2024

Location: Online

Price: \$95.00 if registered by January 12, 2024 or \$115 if registered by January 28, 2024

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.

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 More Information](#)

[Click Here For Syllabus](#)

MI Ag Ideas to Grow With Conference

Dates: February 19 - March 1, 2024.

Location: Virtual Online via Zoom

This two-week educational experience features a variety of tracks focused on livestock production, fruit and vegetable production, crop production, beginning farmers, irrigation and drainage, farm stress, the environment, and community food systems.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

Michigan Beekeepers Association Conference

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

Registration: Opens in 2024

Location: Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Wildflower Association of Michigan Conference

Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024

Location: Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan

Pricing: General Public - \$100;

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

Registration: will open in early 2024

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.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

Classes, Conferences & Trips



Smart Gardening Conference

Date: Saturday, March 9, 2024

Time: 9 am - 5 pm EST

Conference Cost: \$100.00

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

Location: Wayne County Community College District

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

Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professional Training and Certification Program

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership is pleased to offer the 2024 Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professional Training and Certification Program.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

When: March 12 - March 13, 2024 & June 12, 2024

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

Where: Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center

Cost: \$395

[Click Here To Register](#)

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

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](#)

Friends of the St Clair River



Join us for our upcoming seed cleaning workdays at our Thumb Coast Watershed Center on Tuesday, January 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th 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.

Join us at the Thumb Coast Watershed Center January 9, 2024 at 6pm for Jean Persley's Winter Sowing presentation. Native seeds and potting soil will be provided by Friends of the St. Clair River. Bring your own milk jug or other seed sowing container. Registration for Make & Take is capped at 30 participants. To register for this event, email brooke@scriver.org.

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

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