

MACOMB COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER







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Website: macombcountymga.org Address: Macomb County MGA

P.O. Box 380463

Clinton Township, MI 48038

Board of Directors:

President: Dave Putt

Vice President: Dennis Beltz

Secretary: Ellen Collins

Treasurer: Sara Grix

Dir. At Large: Karen Burke



Spring and warmer weather are heading our way. You still have a few weeks left to prune your fruit trees and other hardwood trees before the sap really starts flowing. You have probably already noticed an increase in the sound of bird calls waking you up in the morning.

**We hope you have taken the time to acquaint yourselves with our new website: https://macombcountymga.org/

You may be starting to think about what to plant in your gardens this spring. Well, we might have the seeds you need! To access our list of seeds in the MCMGA Seed Library visit: https://macombcountymga.org/mcmga-seed-bank

- The deadline to submit a grant proposal to MCMGA is March 15th. You can access the grant guidelines and application form here:

 https://macombcountymga.org/grants. We hope you will take advantage of this program for your MG project.
- We need to submit our membership roster to MMGA this coming week. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so now. Go to:

 https://macombcountymga.org/membership-1 to renew.
- *Please keep in mind that renewing your membership on-line is a two-step process. First, click on the "Membership Application" button and fill out the requested information and submit. Then click on the "Pay Dues Here" button to make your payment.
- *Please save the date for this year's Macomb County Master Gardener Banquet. The event is scheduled to be held at the Verkuilen Bldg on Wednesday, May 4th at 6 PM. There is also a virtual option to attend the banquet. It feels so good to have a real MG banquet again!
- *Our March 21st meeting is virtual. Hope to see you on zoom. To register for our upcoming meetings go to: https://macombcountymga.org/upcoming-meetings
- **#** Have a great month!



Visit us on FaceBook



or, the MCMGA Website



The next meeting of the MCMGA Board of Directors is Thursday, March 10th at 4:00m (via Zoom)



If there's anything that you would like to have included in the next newsletter, or have any comments or suggestions, please send them to the MCMGA

newsletter editor: <u>dawnpiper@mac.com</u>





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MACOMB COUNTY MASTER GARDENER BANQUET

Wednesday, May 4th @ 6:00pm









How to Register

If meeting virtually or in person, please register at: https://macombcountymga.org/upcoming-meetings

Please remember to bring your membership card and wear your MSUE Master Gardener badge to all events (optional if the meeting is via Zoom).

Monday, March 21st @ 6:30pm via Zoom FREE

"The World of Native Bees and Honeybees" (Dave Putt)

MCMGA President Dave Putt will give a presentation on the critical role that native bees and honeybees play in plant pollination.

Tuesday, April 19th @ 6:30pm IN PERSON at the Verkuilen Building FREE "Water Gardening" (Irene Townsend)

Irene Townsend headed the aquatic gardening department at Bordine's Nursery for nearly 20 years. She has traveled extensively throughout Europe to visit water gardens.

A \$5.00 donation requested for non-members

Wednesday, May 11th @ 6:30pm IN PERSON at the Verkuilen Building FREE "Recognizing Invasive Plant Species and Reporting Their Location"

Lake St. Clair CISMA Coordinator, McKenzi Waliczek, will discuss the problems that invasive plants create and how we can play a role in reporting their whereabouts. Free. 6:30 PM. Verkuilen Bldg. (1.0 Education Hour: Environmental Stewardship: Invasive Species).



January 18th (MCMGA) "Winter Sowing - Yes, you can garden in winter!" (Jean Persely)

1.0 Education Hour

(This program was not recorded)

HANDOUT

February 15th: (MCMGA) "Introduction To Orchids" (Kristen Uthus)

1.0 Education Hour

RECORDING



February 2022 MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Dave Putt, Dennis Beltz, Karen Burke, Sara Grix, Ellen Collins

Dave Putt called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

The 1/13/2022 board meeting minutes were approved.

Professional Comments

Dave Putt reported for David Lowenstein that planning for the MG banquet is underway. Registration will open in mid March. The speaker will be Elly Maxwell, an entomologist from Dow Gardens. Please check with David Lowenstein or Pam Voss when booking the meeting room at the MSUE Macomb location.

Website Update

Dave Putt reported that the new website, macombcountymga.org, has been up and running for 2 weeks. The domain name and website costs \$200 annually through Go Daddy. Dave will share the user name and password with all board members. The board supports the addition of a donation feature. The blog is the only area where content is limited.

Dennis Beltz contacted MMGA and Dawn Piper to update the website address. The bylaws are posted on the website under the "about us" selection; the SOP will also be posted.

Treasurer Report

Sara Grix shared the treasurers report and financials are healthy. The board agreed not to state the association's bank balance in the board minutes. The check signing card has been completed - Dave, Dennis and Sara have authority.

Membership Renewals

Sara Grix reported that 47 memberships applications were mailed-in/collected at the January meeting. Dave reported that 5 renewals were completed online. Online renewal is a 2-step process: fill out the application and then submit payment. Dave will ensure this process is clear on the website.

The MMGA paperwork needs to be submitted no later than mid March. Alumni members were certified MGs at one time but no longer and they are not covered by MMGA insurance. Karen Burke suggested having Pam Voss or Jean Presley review the membership roster to confirm the certification status of all members so reporting to MMGA is accurate. Ellen Collins will check with MGSOC to see if their members are also MMGA members.

2022 Grants

As of 2/8/2022, no grant applications were submitted. Karen asked Dave to send out an email reminder to the membership.

Program

Speakers have been scheduled through May 2022. Karen suggested Pam Gors, Wild Birds Unlimited owner, as a future speaker. Ergonomic gardening is another topic being pursued. Dennis is investigating a speaker on lavender through Blake's Orchard.

New Email Provider

Defer until next meeting.

Other Expenditures

Dave reported that the board previously approved \$125 for a MCMGA table skirt and banner. A higher resolution logo is needed. Karen suggested contacting Jean Persley regarding the logo.

Macomb County MG Banquet

The banquet will be held on May 4 in the meeting room at the MSUE Macomb location.

Lavender Festival - Weekend of July 15

MCMGA participation is TBD.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday 3/10/2022 at 4PM

Meeting minutes submitted by Ellen Collins 2/11/2022





Ss. John and Paul Church Orchard

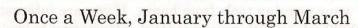
What? Outdoor Winter Pruning 2022

Where? 7777 28 Mile Rd.

When?

Washington Twp.

Park on the west side of the church Meet at the Shed behind the church



Friday mornings 10-12 a.m.: Jan. 21, Feb. 4, March 11 Saturday afternoons 1-3 p.m.: Jan. 29, Feb. 12, March 19 Sunday afternoons 1-3 p.m.: Feb. 20, March 6, March 27

Who? All Master Gardeners are welcome!

Why? Winter Pruning offers a great opportunity to learn how to prune apple trees while having fun with fellow Master Gardeners. Come join the fun!







FUNDRAISING





AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at

smile.amazon.com. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shop-

ping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the organization of your choice.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile? On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

This link will take you to <u>smile.amazon.com</u>, where you will automatically be asked if you want to support the Michigan Master Gardener Association, Inc. (Clinton Township, MI)

How can I learn more about AmazonSmile?

Please see complete AmazonSmile program details.



The Kroger Family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Every community is unique, but our common goal is to partner with the neighborhoods we servand help the people live healthier lives.

One of the ways in which we do this is through our Kroger Community Rewards program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Go to:

https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards

Sign in or create a digital account (Kroger Plus Card). Link your card to: CQ024 (organization #) or Macomb County Master Gardener Association.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact the <u>Customer Service Center</u>



MSU Extension: Gardening in Michigan

MSU Extension: Gardening in Michigan GARDENING NEWS

MSU Extension: Gardening in Michigan PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

MSU Extension: Gardening in Michigan SMART GARDENING

SELF-PACED "Smart Gardening with Vegetables 101" (REGISTER HERE) \$15.00

MSU Extension: "MI Ag Ideas To Grow With" (REGISTER HERE)

March 1st @ 12:00pm "Accessible Garden Design" via Zoom FREE!

March 8th @ 12:00pm "Backyard Mushroom Culture" via Zoom FREE!

March 22nd @ 12:00pm "Climate Change & the Future Garden" via Zoom FREE!

... and many more!

MSU Extension: Gardening In Michigan (Facebook) 🌞



Friday, March 11th @ 12:00pm - Edible Flint's Kelly McClelland helps us bring back Conversations in the Community, exploring how this great organization is creating connections through gardening and implications for your own community.

Find more information at https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/cabin-fever-conversations-returns-for-another-season. Eager to catch up on older episodes? View all our past episodes here: https://www.canr.msu.edu/tag/cabin-fever-conversations.

Black Cat Pottery 🦮

https://www.blackcatpottery.com / News & Events

CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area)

Spring Invasive Species Summit FREE!

Saturday, March 19th 10am - 12:30pm

REGISTER HERE

Cranbrook House & Gardens
http://housegardens.cranbrook.edu

Explore Cranbrook Gardens For Free! (map)

Friendly Garden Club of Sterling Heights
Visit us on Facebook / gailstraughen@gmail.com

Master Gardener Society of Oakland County MGSOC Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 8th @6:30pm via Zoom FREE! "Waking Up The Garden" (Janet Macunovich)

9th Annual Education Garden Conference
"Gardening And All That Jazz – Growing With Style"
Saturday, April 30th 9:00am – 4:00pm Registration Fee: \$50
REGISTER HERE



https://meadowbrookhall.org/programs/meadow-brook-garden-club-programs/

March 25th @ 10:00am via Zoom

"Wild Flowers in Michigan Gardens" (Cheryl English)

Non-members wishing to attend please send a request to MBGCmembers@gmail.com*protected email* to request a link.

Michigan Gardener
https://www.michigangardener.com
(See all back issues)

Michigan Master Gardener Association **
www.michiganmastergardener.org
(See calendar of events)

Oudolf Garden (Belle Isle) Detroit 🌿

https://oudolfgardendetroit.org. https://oudolfgardendetroit.org/videos/

Rochester Garden Club **
http://rochestergardenclub.org



Shelby Gardeners Club 🐠

https://www.shelbytwp.org/gardeners/

Thursday, March 10th @ 1:00 pm FREE!

Landscaping for Birds (George White)

Location: Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center, 4101 River Bends Dr, Shelby Twp,

(East off Ryan at Hamlin; between Auburn & 22 Mile Road)

Troy Garden Club



http://troygardenclubmi.com/events/

Wednesday, March 9th @ 12:00pm Guest fee: \$5.00

"Insects in our Gardens" (David Lowenstein)

Location: Big Beaver United Methodist Church

3753 John R. Road, Troy, MI 48083 (S. of Wattles)

Wildflower Association of Michigan 🌻



https://wildflowersmich.org

Sunday, March 6th @ 10:00am - 4:15pm via Zoom (\$50.00)

35th Annual Michigan Native Plant Conference

"Native Plants Come of Age"

REGISTER HERE

Wild Ones 🥦



https://wildones.org

Wednesday, March 23rd @ 7:00pm via Zoom FREE!

"Weed Ordinances" (Roseanne Plante)

REGISTER HERE

Wild Ones: North Oakland Chapter 💸

https://northoakland.wildones.org/

https://www.facebook.com/wildonesnorthoak/

Yardeners of St. Clair Shores 388



scsyardeners@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook and Watch our YouTube Channel!

Monday March 14th @ 7:00pm FREE!

"Aquatic Creatures Featuring Michigan Frogs" (Gordon Lonie)

All 2022 presentations will be held at the St. Clair Shores Public Library at 11 Mile & Jefferson





HUMMINGBIRDS

By Ellen Collins

Hummingbirds, any of about 320 species of small, often brightly colored birds of the family Trochilidae, are native to the



Americas. The greatest variety and number of species occur in South America. About 12 species are found regularly in the US and Canada. They are the smallest of birds, most measuring 2-5 in. in length and weigh 0.05-0.85 oz. with a lifespan of 3-5 years. The tiniest, being the bee hummingbird, is found only in Cuba and often mistaken for a bee. It measures 2.25 in. long and weighs less than a dime.

The largest is the giant hummingbird, found throughout the Andes mountains in South America. It can weigh 0.63-0.85 oz. and measure approximately 9 in. in length. With its elongated wings, it occasionally glides in flight, a very rare behavior among hummingbirds. Only the ruby-throated hummingbird breeds in eastern North America. This species generally spends the winter in Central America, Mexico and Florida and migrates north for summer and to breed. It is the most common hummingbird east of the Mississippi in North America. They are 2.8-3.5in in length and weigh 0.1-0.2 oz. as adults with a wingspan of 3.1-4.3in.



Hummingbirds have compact, strongly muscled bodies and long bladelike wings. Unlike the wings of other birds, they articulate to the body only from the shoulder joint. The architecture of the wing permits hummers to fly not only forward but also straight up and down, sideways, and backward and to hover. They beat their wings at the same rate during directional or hovering flight. The rate varies to the

size of the bird - the larger the bird, the slower the rate. In the tiniest of species, the wing beat rate is 80 per second; the giant hummingbird beats its wings only about 10 times per second. The muscle fiber in their pectoral muscles retain a rich supply of blood and oxygen flowing into their muscles as they fly, so they don't tire even with the rapid wing rate. The body feathers are sparse and often metallic and scalelike in appearance. The males display a variety of brilliance and ornamentation which has a twofold purpose. Females find it attractive and other males are repelled. Males are very feisty and territorial. A female will visit a male's territory, at which time the male performs a courtship display to entice the female to mate. If she likes it, she will mate with him. If not, she moves on to another territory. A male hummer will mate with any females he can attract to his territory.

Females do all the nest building, incubating and caring for the babies themselves. They are typically 15–20% larger than the males to be able to perform all these functions. The female builds the nest, about the size of a quarter, with tiny bits of leafy material and lichen and weaves it together with spider silk on the branch of a tree. There are 2 white eggs in a clutch. Each egg is the size of a coffee bean or tic tac. Ruby-throat eggs incubate for 11–16 days until hatching. The new birds weigh 0.02 oz. when they hatch. When the chicks hatch, they need protein, not sugar, to grow. So the mother hummer spends most of her time catching small insects and spiders for the nestlings. The ruby throats will begin to fly when they are about 21 days old; the males do not get the full red gorget until their first winter. Most hummingbirds die their first year, but when they've survived a full annual cycle, their life expectancy goes up dramatically. The record age of a ruby throat is 9 years, 1 months. Most hummers that survive past 7 years of age are females, with males rarely surviving past 5 years.



The hummingbirds bill is usually long and slender for securing nectar from flowers and it can account for half of the birds entire length. The tongue, which is twice as long as the bill, is forked into two narrow tubes and stays compressed in the bill, then shoots out and springs open to reach the flower's nectar. When immersed in the nectar, the tongue splits and the flaps for each tube unfurl. As the tongue is retracted, the flaps snap shut to trap, seal and deliver the nectar to the bird's mouth. All this effort takes less than 1/20th of a second and is repeated thousands of times a day. Hummers eat most any soft-bodied bugs they can swallow whole, like fruit flies, gnats, aphids and tiny spiders, plus their eggs and larvae. No animal on earth has a faster metabolism. These birds eat 1.5-3 times their body weight per day. When perched, the hummers look like they're resting, but they're not.

Their bodies are actively digesting. They have a tiny stomach and a crop, a little storage pouch in their esophagus. It takes about 4 minutes to drain half the nectar into the stomach and intestines. It takes 10 minutes for a fruit fly to pass through from one end to the other. Once the crop is full, the hummer can't eat again until the crop is half empty. These birds perch or rest nearly 80% of their day but the rest time is focused on refueling their tiny bodies.

Hummingbirds are very intelligent and are able to remember places and individual people from one year to the next. They communicate by chittering and other vocalizations and fly toward one another agressively to chase each other away. Hummers are not capable of walking because their legs and feet are not strong and their legs aren't in the ideal location relative to their center of gravity. They can hop a bit, assisted by their wings. Hummingbird vision is much more discriminating than human's. They see things at a farther distance and able to see a wider spectrum of colors into the ultraviolet range. They are especially attracted to the color red and can react to sights more quickly. Hummers can hear higher pitched sounds and hear tiny differences in sound quality than our ears cannot detect.

When it's cold, a hummer fluffs its feathers to trap warm air and protect its body temperature about 105 degrees. At night and when its too cold or rainy to find food, hummers go into a sleep-like state called torpor. The bird's body temperature drops and its heart rate slows down to keep him warm and conserve energy. The

body temp can drop almost 50 degrees and heart rate slows from 500 beats per minute to fewer than 50. The bird appears lifeless. In the morning, the hummer shivers to warm up its body by making its muscles contract and release rapidly. When its body temp is 68 degrees, it takes about an hour for it to warm up enough for normal activity.

Hummers migrate in response to hormonal changes that are triggered by the changing length of daylight. They travel by day except when crossing over the Gulf of Mexico. Flying nonstop over the gulf is an important part of the natural selection process that makes these little birds so tough. Before migrating, hummers go on a feeding frenzy, a state called hyperphagia. They double their weight by gorging to add fat as an energy reserve. In good weather, they can fly 600 miles without stopping. They head over the gulf when night falls and must keep going 500 miles until they reach the other side. The ones that don't add enough fat won't make it and their genes are not passed on. Hummers time their return to the breeding grounds according to location. Hummingbirds that live in the southern part of the US begin their return migration as early as February. Birds that live further north in the East, time their return to coincide with the flowering of their food plants or sapsucker migration. Hummers follow Yellow-bodied sapsuckers north because those birds drill holes, called sapsucker wells, in trees each spring. Sap running from these holes is an important fuel for ruby throats in early spring. Males return first to their breeding grounds, females follow a few days to a couple of weeks behind. Predators such as crows, jays, cats, mice, frogs and fish eat baby hummers. Migration typically takes about 2 weeks, since hummers spend time feeding, resting and waiting for good weather. Spring migration can be faster if weather is favorable because hormones are making the birds more restless so they can start the nesting cycle. Fall migration begins in the August/September timeframe. Males leave first ensuring more insects and nectar is available for babies. By late August, you may only see females and juveniles at your feeders. By mid-September, the hummers you see are likely migrants on the move, not your familiar summer residents. Keep your feeders up, clean and filled at least 2 weeks after you see your last hummingbird to help any stragglers. In October, ruby throats are on their wintering grounds. In November, the hummers are replacing their flight, body and wing feathers - their most important flight gear. The remainder of the winter, the hummers are focused on feeding and completing their molt.



Here's a list of some Zone 5 perennials that will attract hummers: Bee Balm, Cardinal Flower, Day Lily, Foxglove, Honeysuckle, Phlox, Bleeding Heart, Columbine, Coral Bells, Penstemon, Butterfly Bush, Lupine, Hosta, Rose of Sharon, Trumpet Vine, and Hollyhock.

Sources: Journey North, Wikipedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, Cornell Lab



Southeast Michigan LIST OF SPRING PLANT SALES

&



**Last day to order is Wednesday, April 6th **

GOT MILK (weed)?

(Not necessarily native to Michigan, but all are hardy in Zone 6)

Clasping milkweed, Asclepias amplexicaulis
Common milkweed, Asclepias syriaca
Green comet milkweed, Asclepias viridiflora
Oval-leaf milkweed, Asclepias ovalifolia
Poke milkweed, Asclepias exaltata
Prairie milkweed, Asclepias sullivantii
Purple milkweed, Asclepias purpurascens
Showy milkweed, Asclepias speciosa
Swamp milkweed, Asclepias incarnata
Tall green milkweed, Asclepias hirtella
Whorled milkweed, Asclepias verticillata







A GREENER WORLDLE

https://agreenerworldle.org

Guess A GREENER WORLDLE in 6 tries.



This is inspired by <u>WORDLE</u> (the guessing game created by <u>Josh Wardle</u>). It was produced by the International Institute for the Environment and Development (IIED), which works with partners to <u>build a fairer, more sustainable world</u>.

Each guess must be a valid 5 letter word, and the GREENER WORLDLE will be a word that is related to climate change and the environment. Hit the enter button to submit.

After each guess, the colour of the tiles will change to show how close your guess was to the word. You want the tiles to turn green, just like the planet...

Examples



The letter **P** is in the word and in the correct spot.



The letter **E** is in the word but in the wrong spot.





The letter **W** is not in the word in any spot.

A new GREENER WORLDLE will be available each day!



Coreopsis lanceolata
LANCE-LEAF COREOPSIS



Asclepias tuberosa
BUTTERFLY WEED



Anaphalis margaritacea
PEARLY EVERLASTING



Lobelia siphilitica
GREAT BLUE LOBELIA



Futrochium maculatum
JOE PYE WEED



Zizia aurea
GOLDEN ALEXANDERS



Vernonia fasciculata
COMMON IRONWEED



Symphyotrichum laeve SMOOTH BLUE ASTER



Silphium perfoliatum

CUP PLANT



Silphium laciniatum
COMPASS PLANT



Lobelia cardinalis
CARDINAL FLOWER

Discus Botanicis Latinis

(Let's Learn Botanical Latin!) ORIGINS or ŊABIGAG

| 1 | Alpine |
|----------|----------------|
| 2 | Asia |
| <i>3</i> | Canada |
| 4 | China |
| 5 | Cold Areas |
| 6 | Fields |
| 7 | Hills |
| 8 | Japan |
| 9 | Marshes |
| 10 | Mountains |
| 11 | Near Rivers |
| 12 | Northern Woods |
| 13 | Rocks |
| 14 | Sandy Places |
| 15 | Seaside |
| 16 | Siberia |
| 17 | Virginia |
| 18 | Woodlands |

| A. maritima | |
|---------------|--|
| B. rivularis | |
| C. glacialis | |
| D. arenaria | |
| E. orientalis | |
| F. japonica | |
| G. sibirica | |
| H. chinensis | |
| I. borealis | |
| J. alpestris | |
| K. canadensis | |
| L. sylvestris | |
| M. ruprestis | |
| N. alpinus | |
| O. virginiana | |
| P. pratensis | |
| Q. saxatilis | |
| R. palustris | |

TRIVIA NIGHT ORIENTATION

Have you tried out Trivia Night, a monthly program in the fall/winter provided by David Lowenstein? It's really fun, informative AND there are GREAT gift card prizes! Some members may be a bit hesitant to try it out, for a variety of reasons. SO, if we can gather together 15 members, David has offered to provide an orientation session just for MCMGA members! AND, it will be TOTALLY anonymous if you prefer! However, there will not be any prizes awarded for this orientation session. But, it will get you comfortable and confident to vie for the BIG prizes this fall. If interested, please let (me) know!

