

Macomb County Master Gardener

Monthly Newsletter

November 2023



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Contact Information

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Macomb County MGA

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Board of Directors

Karen Burke - President

Katie Baker - Vice President

Linda Simpson- Director at Large

Sara Grix - Secretary

Ellen Collins - Treasurer

General Information

Follow us on Facebook:

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Next Board of Directors Meeting is Wednesday, November 15th 4:30pm (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



HELLO EMGS, HAPPY FALL!

As we are busy putting our gardens to bed (a little pun there), we reflect back on what we have accomplished in our gardens and projects this year.

Maybe it was a bountiful harvest for yourself or your project. We hope all of you have exceeded your goals.

Now is time to rest and be thankful for all we have this year. We are sure everyone has something they could add to that list. Give yourself a good break and relax before you plan for next year's garden.

You may want to take some time and journal on what you learned this year, what went beyond your level of expectation or maybe something you learned from a workshop or class. Don't forget to clean your tools for next year.

The board is very busy planning our activities for next year so stay tuned.

We hope everyone enjoys the Thanksgiving Holiday!

Board Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023

Attendees:

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

Karen called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

The September 2023 board meeting minutes were approved.

Professional Comments:

- Geology of Macomb County Soils lecture: Oct. 30th 7-8pm: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/geology-of-macomb-county-soils>
- Master Gardener Banquet 2024 - Two Macomb County volunteers have volunteered to help with the banquet. They will be meeting soon with David Lowenstein to get a date on the calendar for 2024.
- First horticultural trivia was a success - Jean Persely won! There will be four more trivia nights in the future.
- Hours reminders are rolling in from state and local office - make sure you get your hours into Volunteer Central.
- 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. We have a couple of new members from the September meeting. If you would like a detailed account of the financials, please contact Ellen Collins.

Program:

- November 14 @ 6:30pm - Plant This Not That: Native Alternative to Common Landscape Plants - Valerie Malaney (Zoom meeting)
- December - no meeting
- Program ideas for 2024:
- Luke from MI Gardener 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
- Karen and Sara will look into a speaker for foraging. Looking into a foraging/mushroom walk.
- January 2024 meeting: possibility fun trivia night or a make and take. Prizes to give out for the trivia.
- Sara is pursuing an educational class about mushrooms through the Mushroom Conservatory
- Erin Stewart - Heart & Soul Naturals: ideas for classes- tinctures, elderberries, intro to herbalism
- workshops run 1.5-2.0 hours
- unsure of the fees
- Ideas from members: small fruit/brambles, mushrooms/fungi, common insects in your garden, field trip to a master gardener site, birds
- Diane Reynolds - three seasons in the garden. Katie will contact her to see when she can do this presentation. Tour of demo garden and talk about three seasons (possibility of June)
- Ellen - edible weeds (possibly for July or August)

Old Business:

- Board will start reviewing old SOP. Updating parts of SOP and will share with membership in January.

New Business:

- Possibility of selling extra potting mats, but need to figure out the logistics of this.
- Make a donation of a prize for horticultural trivia night
- Tea towels have been ordered and are in. Jean Persely will be passing them out at the Macomb Soils workshop. Anyone who cannot get them from Jean will be contacted to get their towels a different way.
- Officers: Karen - President, Ellen - Treasurer, Linda - Director-at-large, Katie - Vice President, Sara - Secretary
- How are some ways for us to get new members?
- Discussed making a set day/time for our education classes each month - first or third Thursdays of the month

Next board meeting: November 15th at 4:30pm

Meeting was adjourned at 6:16pm.

Submitted by Sara Grix

Education Opportunities



Plant This ... Not That



[Click Here For More Information](#)

**Plant This Not That:
Native Alternative to
Common Landscape Plants -
Valerie Malaney will discuss
the Native Alternatives to
Common Landscaping Plants**

6:30pm

November 14, 2023

(Zoom meeting)



[Click Here To Register](#)

Dig In Series

November 14: Garden Gifts, Tools and Books

Presenter: Lindsey Kerr and MSU Extension

Consumer Horticulture Educator and Colleagues

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

Preserving the Harvest

Preserving MI Harvest in the Fall

Nov 2 - Satisfying Soups

Nov 9 - Pie Fillings for Holiday Pies

Nov 16 - The Gift of Preservation

[Click Here For More Information](#)

[Click Here To Register](#)

Volunteer Information

New Project in Macomb

Do you still need a few volunteer hours for this year?
Would you like to be the project leader on a small garden –
work solely at your own pace next year?

Please contact Terri Wolf (irret.91@gmail.com) for more information.

The garden, contains plants and flowers that bloom continuously throughout the growing season. Some are native plants, others are perennials and they show the different ways plants grow and are visited by various insects and animals. The bees are abundant and help to pollinate other plants. Deer have been seen in the area munching on the buffet. Plantings will also include consideration for the nurturing and feeding the butterfly population and helping the monarch butterflies.

Education and Volunteer Hours

Have you entered your 2023 Volunteer and Education Hours?
This is a reminder to report your completed education and volunteer hours in Volunteer Central on a regular basis, which will let us know you are working toward your annual 20-hour goal.

This will allow VC Assadors time to connect with you to resolve any questions or issues you may have.

Please do not wait until the end of the year to report your completed hours. You must record your hours by December 1, 2023

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