

Macomb County Master Gardener

Monthly Newsletter

October 2024



Contact Information

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Macomb County MGA
P.O. Box 380463
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Board of Directors

Ellen Collins—President
Sara Grix—Vice President
Linda Simpson—Director at Large
Pam Horner—Secretary
Darlene Davies-Warner—Treasurer

Upcoming MCMGA Education

To register for events, click on the link below:

[Upcoming Meetings \(macombcountymga.org\)](http://Upcoming%20Meetings%20(macombcountymga.org))

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

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

At our annual meeting in September, we voted for officers to fill 3 open positions on the MCMGA board. We want to welcome Darlene Davies-Warner and Pam Horner to the board. These two relatively new EMGs will join Sara Grix and Ellen Collins who are fulfilling their final year of their terms. The reorganization of the positions is listed on the first page of the newsletter. There is one open position remaining. We encourage you to step forward and take this opportunity to help guide our organization into the future. Feel free to reach out to any board member, past or present, with questions.

As we usher in our new board members, we say "Well Done!" to a few dedicated members who have served so dutifully. We are so grateful for Karen Burke's leadership as President, for Vice President Katie Baker's efforts scheduling our educational programs, and for Linda Simpson's guidance as Director at Large selecting the recipients for this year's grants. Thank you ladies for all your hard work. You are truly appreciated!

Also at the last meeting, we voted on the recent bylaws revisions. The quorum voted to accept the changes as presented. The revisions will be forwarded for approval at the state level. This process could take several months, but the board will keep you apprised of the status.

As summer winds down, keep your eyes open for those spent blooms, dried out pods, etc. It may signal the end of this year's growing season but it also holds the promise of the future. This year's flowers and crops will provide those precious seeds for next years bounty. And the circle of life continues. Our October educational program will address tips that will help ensure that your seed saving efforts are successful. We look forward to Linda Simpson's presentation, "A Seed is a Promise," on October 10.

Happy autumn!!

The MCMGA Board

MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes 9/10/2024

Attendees: Ellen Collins, Sara Grix, Pam Horner, Katie Baker, Linda Simpson, Carolyn Doak, David Lowenstein
Ellen called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Professional Comments:

- Fall FOG - 20 Macomb & participants from 9 other counties
- Meet and Greet at Urban Seed on September 18th
- On boarding: 3 people from Macomb county and 4 people from St. Clair county.

Treasurer's Report:

Ellen reported that the organization's finances are healthy. Income of \$145.95 from native plant presales. Expenses of \$406.48 for August speaker and snacks for education meetings. Copies of the financial statements are available to members at meetings or by request.

Program:

- *Sept. 19, 2024 (Elections) - Dave Putt: The Role Played by Michiganders in the Development of Modern Horticultural Science (in person)
- Oct. 10, 2024 - Linda Simpson - Advice and Tips on Seed Saving
- Nov. 21, 2024 - Erin Stewart of Heart & Soul Naturals: All About Elderberries (in person - with a make and take option)
- Dec. 2024 - No meeting
- *Jan. 16, 2025 - Jim Selegean
- Feb. 20, 2025 - Tina Kaznowski: Beans, the Poor Man's Jewels

*denotes Quarterly meeting

- All meetings are at the Verkuilen building unless otherwise noted
- Cost of make and take for elderberry workshop will be collected at October workshop. Need to inform members ahead of time so they can register.
- Katie will reach out to speaker on volume of honey needed for the syrup and total volume of finished elderberry syrup. Sara will investigate timing and cost of purchasing a jar of syrup to sample at the October meeting.
- Linda will contact Dan Lepo re: speaking in March 2025 on trees

Old Business:

- Jean will be at the September meeting to answer questions about the bylaws

New Business:

- Pam Horner volunteered as candidate for the board.
- Questions about acquiring a paid Zoom account for the association: Is there a limit to the number of people that can attend a Zoom? Is the account accessible to more than one person?

Next board meeting: October 1st at 5:00pm via Zoom

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

Submitted by Sara Grix (notes recorded by Linda Simpson and Ellen Collins)

Save the Date—MCMGA 2024 Meetings/Presentations

Date: Thursday, October 10th 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. EST

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

Presenter: Linda Simpson, MCMGA Board Member

Topic: “Advice and Tips on Seed Saving”

Date: Thursday, November 21st 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. EST

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

Presenter: Erin Stewart, Heart and Soul Naturals

Topic: “All About Elderberries” with an optional Make-and-Take
Workshop

No December Meeting

REGISTRATION—MCMGA Meetings

Date: Thursday, October 10th 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. EST

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building

21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenter: Linda Simpson, MCMGA Board Member

Topic: “A Seed is a Promise”

Do you know there's a difference between saving vegetable seeds and flower seeds? What about the best methods of sorting and storing your seeds? What is seed viability and what is the etiquette of a seed library?

Join MCMGA as we learn why seed saving is so important. Learn how to correctly collect seeds to ensure better viability, how to store for the short term vs. long term, and how to test your seeds for success in this hands-on workshop. One seed is all it takes to sprout a lifetime of knowledge!

About Linda Simpson:

Linda Simpson is a retired Speech and Language Pathologist who always loves a challenge. She was drawn to Master Gardening because of her passion, like others, for plants, how they get along, and their amazing existence. Linda volunteers her time at the Charity Garden and MCMGA seed library amongst others. The most interesting people she has met are Master Gardeners.

[**Register Here**](#)

Date: Thursday, November 21st 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. EST

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building

21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenter: Erin Stewart, Heart and Soul Naturals

Topic: “All About Elderberries*” with an optional Make-and-Take
Workshop

Elderberry is a fruit with antioxidants and vitamins that may boost your immune system and help with cold and flu symptoms. Even better—it's native! Join MCMGA and Erin with Heart and Soul Naturals in an “All About Elderberries” presentation covering the benefits, lifecycle, and uses for elderberries. The presentation itself is free for MCMGA members, a \$10 donation from guests.

During the free presentation, attendees will also learn how to make their own elderberry syrup. For an added price, attendees can put together a kit of ingredients for the elderberry syrup to make themselves at their home. The kit includes: all organic Elderberries, goji berries, rose hips, ginger root, cinnamon sticks & whole cloves. Also includes all organic reusable cheesecloth. Any allergens may be omitted from individual's kits.

Two options are available: the aforementioned items with a 16oz jar of locally sourced raw honey for \$35 OR the aforementioned items without honey for \$20 where one would supply their own honey when making the syrup. Both kits make a final product of 32oz.

As Erin and her team need time to properly source ingredients for us, the sign-up deadline and payment is due October 31st. Cash or checks made payable to MCMGA will be accepted at the October 10th meeting. Members can also mail checks to our P. O. Box. Payment made in the mail must be received by 10/31/2024. Payments also accepted on our website.

*Precautions: People with Autoimmune disorders should avoid elderberry. People that are on immunosuppressant drugs should avoid elderberry products. This information has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. For educational purposes only.

[**Register Here**](#)

Events and Education

Don't forget to Log Your Ed Hours for MCMGA Past 2024 Education Programs:

Date:	Topic:	Presenter
1/11/2024	"New Membership Camaraderie Games"	MCMGA Board
2/13/2024	"Growing a Beter Garden Without the Work"	Luke Marian, MI Gardener
3/21/2024	"We Laughed, We Cried, We Could've Died"	Jean Persely and Lisa Lane
4/25/2024	"Bird Songs in Your Garden"	Bob and Pam Gors, Wild Birds Unlimited
6/16/2024	"Three-Season Gardening for April Through November Blooms"	Diane Reynolds
6/20/24	"Dividing Perennials"	Mary Gerstenberger
7/18/2024	"Incredible Edible Weeds."	Ellen Collins
8/15/2024	"Intro to Foraging" and On-site Exploration	Rachel Mifsud, Will Forage for Food
9/19/24	"The Role Played by Michiganders in the Development of Modern Horticultural Science"	Dave Putt Advanced Master Gardener

Recap of September Meeting Presentation

9/19/24

“The Role Played by Michiganders in the Development of Modern Horticultural Science”

**Dave Putt
Advanced Master Gardener**

William James Beal – 1833 – 1924 - professor at Michigan Agricultural College starting in 1870, predecessor to MSU – He taught botany, horticulture, landscape gardening, forestry and history. He built the first laboratory devoted entirely to the study and teaching of botany in the US. Introduced microscopes to the classroom. He was the father of the study of modern botany bringing the use of microscopes into the classroom with plant specimens. He created a botanical garden on campus in 1871. In the fall of 1879, Professor William James Beal began an experiment to determine seed longevity to study how long seeds of our common plants could remain dormant in the soil and remain viable. This experiment in seed longevity is still active today, and has become the one of the longest continuously monitored scientific experiments in the world. He also conducted the first controlled experiments of crossing open pollinated varieties of corn for the purpose of increasing yield. His project was inspired by the writings of Charles Darwin on plant hybridization.

Liberty Hyde Bailey - 1858 – 1954 - was a student at the Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) and studied botany. Born on a farm in Michigan in 1858, Liberty Hyde Bailey graduated from the Michigan Agricultural College with a B.S. degree in botany in 1881. After working with the renowned botanist Asa Gray at Harvard, he returned to Michigan to teach horticulture and landscape gardening and earning a M.S. Degree in 1886 from the Michigan Agricultural College. In 1888, he came to Cornell to build a new curriculum in practical and experimental horticulture. With state funding, he also began a program at Cornell to teach nature study in rural schools. Through extension bulletins, lectures, demonstrations, and farm visits, Bailey built support for his programs among New York State farmers and in the State Legislature. He was a prolific writer and many of his books are still for sale today. He is the Father of Modern Horticulture. One of his most famous books was *The Holy Earth*, and is still for sale today.

Dexter Mason Ferry – 1833 – 1907 – Father of Modern Seed Business - Detroit was home to the world's largest seed company, D.M. Ferry & Co., named after owner. The firm, which dates back to 1856, was renowned for its quality, selling only fresh seeds, and was the first company to sell fruit, vegetable, and flower seeds in packets. The company's headquarters was located at Brush and Monroe streets in downtown Detroit. He also was president of the First National Bank of Detroit, the Union Trust Company and several other companies. He was also a charter benefactor of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Ferry Street was named after him in 1874. He is buried in Detroit's Woodmere Cemetery.

Education Opportunities

Dig In!

2024



Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

NOTE: DATE CHANGE

Date: October 1, 2024

Time: 6 p.m.—7 p.m. EST

Topic: Spotted Lanternfly—Update on a Sticky Situation

**Presenter: Deb McCullough, PhD,
MSU Department of Entomology**

Date: November 12, 2024

Time: 6 p.m.—7 p.m. 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 hour.

[Event Registration for 2024 DIG IN!! Extension Master Gardeners | ANR Events Management System \(msu.edu\)](https://msu.edu)

Volunteer Opportunity

LOCATION: CROCKER HOUSE

15 Union Street

Mt. Clemens

DATES:

October 14, 2024

October 15, 2024

The Crocker House MG Project is planning a Fall Clean-up for Monday, October 14, and Tuesday, October 15, weather permitting. MG Volunteers needing hours are welcome to join us. We will start at 10:00a.m. and work until 2:00p.m. Volunteers are welcome to come for all or part of that time. Bring your own tools. Crocker House is located at 15 Union Street, Mt. Clemens. If you have questions, please contact Mary Gerstenberger, Crocker House Project Coordinator at mgmgerst4x4@gmail.com.

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:

877-576-4377