

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

January 2025



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

Happy New Year! We hope your holidays were filled with love, laughter and light!!

As this new year begins, we have a rejuvenation of mind, body and spirit.

And just as a new calendar year unfolds, so does our 2025 Membership year. January begins with the renewal of our commitment to this organization.

Our mission: Furthering the goals of educating others through the dissemination of environmentally sound research-based horticulture information and to enhance the beautification of our community through volunteering and related activities.

And to carry out that mission, we rely on our knowledge and spirit of generosity, to not only help our community at large thru master gardener projects, but to help this organization thrive. Our organization is managing with the support of the board and a handful of dedicated members. But it takes more to make it thrive. More minds equals more ideas - for securing great educational speakers, developing new fund-raising projects, and creating more opportunities to give back to our membership and our community. We want our members to be proud of this organization and excited to share our achievements with others. So we strongly encourage you to select at least one committee volunteer activity listed on the membership form. Just volunteering a couple hours of your time, and in most cases from the comfort of your own home, will make a huge difference! And remember, your time spent counts toward your EMG volunteer hours.

The membership application will be available at the January 16 meeting for in person renewals. It will also be posted on our website so you may renew online with an electronic dues payment or using the tried and true mail in option. Dues will remain \$20 for all members regardless of certification category.

Our fellow member, Jim Selegean, will be speaking on the origins and science of Macomb County soils at our January 16th meeting. We look forward to seeing you then.

The MCMGA Board

MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

12/10/2024

Attendees: Ellen Collins, Sara Grix, Pam Horner, Darlene Davies-Warner, Carolyn Doak, Linda Simpson, and David Lowenstein.

Ellen called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve by Linda, seconded by Sara, all in favor, motion carried.

MSUE updates – David – Volunteer Central is closed, the system will reopen in March. EMGs keep track of hours earned now for input in March when Volunteer Central reopens. Recertification will start Jan 9th through 31st and late recertification fee will be Feb 1 – 10th. No training required this year for recertification. Silent auction committee will be soliciting items for donations. Dig In series will be opening soon, you will receive notification thru Volunteer Central.

Treasurer's Report:

Darlene noted that one \$35 Elderberry workshop fee was cancelled and is being converted to Debbie Togger's 2025 membership dues, and a \$15 donation. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Linda, seconded by Sara, all in favor, motion carried. Copies of the Financial Statements will be available to members at the meetings or by request.

Programs:

Jan – Jim Selegean - Macomb County Soils; doing a soil test, will send out an email with details.

Feb – Tina Kacanowski – Beans – the Poor Man's Jewels; will reach out on equipment needs

Mar – Dan Lepo – trees; Linda will get more specifics; will send a link to fill out the speaker form.

April – Sue Grubba – Plant Health. Need to ask speaker for bio.

May – open

June – Kirsten Lyons – Weeds or Wildflowers

July – Brook Hiller – Go Beyond Beauty

Aug – open

Sept – open

Oct – Ed Blondin - Persian gardens

Nov - open

Other suggested speakers/field trips: George Papadelis from Telly's - not available in May, maybe in the fall. Kevin Drotos - walking tour of Ford Estate Gardens and discuss native plants; free – no speaker fee. Sara is coordinating timing details. Sara didn't hear back from the Mushroom conservatory, however, found another speaker - Lorenzo – talks about identification, foraging, interested in speaking with us. Will check his schedule availability. Sara mentioned Bevin Cohen – has some new talks, \$350 fee – have done seed saving in the past; other talks – tea – virtual; in person would be more fun. Sara will forward their list of topics to see if we have any interest. Cheryl English – Dave Putt reached out to her to see if she has any new topics. Julia Hofley – Ellen can find out a list of topics and contact information. MSU speaker – Sara will reach out to Kristi Evans when it would be a good month to talk about MSU extension and what it has to offer.

Old Business:

Yahoo email account – Ellen, Pam and Dave Putt have access to the yahoo email. Closed.

Zoom – Ellen suggested that she set up in early January to use for next year's meetings.

By-laws – Thanks to Pam for fixing the formatting issues. Bylaw revisions were sent to MMGA. They requested the document with highlighted markups, which has been sent. They will review and confirm when completed.

Transition of Officers - Bank requires IRS form to change organization's responsible party (new treasurer). Document submitted, IRS will send confirmation in 30-45 days.

Membership renewals – Sara is updating the on-line membership application to include committee selection, adding additional fields for home address, and county where certified. Add blurb to newsletter about membership due in January. Sara will create a duplicate document as a .pdf for mail in membership renewals and print hard copies for the January meeting.

New Business:

Linda will update the grant application and guidelines for 2025 and address at the January membership meeting.

Carolyn Doak - My Time Gardens – Jennifer Ott – recent student in the conservation program and willing to give presentations. Carolyn will forward her list of topics to Ellen and Sara.

Adjourn – 7:58 p.m.

Next board meeting: Tuesday January 7th at 7:00pm via Zoom

SAVE THE DATE-MCMGA 2025 LINE UP

Date: January 16th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Jim Selegean, Environmental Engineer—USACE

Topic: On the Origin of Macomb County's Soils—
The Science Behind the Soil in Our Backyards

Date: July 17th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Brook Hiller, Friends of the St. Clair River

Topic: TBD

Date: February 20th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Tina Kacanowski
Topic: Beans, the Poor Man's Jewels

Date: August 21st 2025

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

Location: Edsel and Eleanor Ford House
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Presenter: Kevin Drotos, Edsel and Eleanor Ford House,
Topic: Ford House Garden Walking Tour

Date: March 20th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Dan Lepo, Tomlinson Arboretum
Topic: Trees

Date: September 18th 2025

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

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

Presenter: TBD
Topic: TBD

Date: April 17th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Sue Grubba, Master Gardener,
Owner, Creative Scapes
Topic: Plant Health

Date: October 16th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Ed Blondin, Master Gardener,
Owner—Hortulus Gardens & Landscape
Topic: Persian Gardens

Date: May 29th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Lorenzo Lo Piccolo
Topic: Fungi of Michigan

Date: November 20th 2025

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

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

Presenter: TBD
Topic: TBD

Date: June 12th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Kirsten Lyons, Invasive Species Specialist,
St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission
Topic: Weeds or Wildflowers

NO DECEMBER MEETING

MCMGA Meeting Registration

“On the Origin of Macomb County’s Soils— The Science Behind the Soil in Our Backyards”

January 16th, 2025

Presenter: Jim Selegean, Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The soils in our gardens are largely a product of processes that occurred at the end of the last ice age (~10,000 years ago). To better understand why there are orchards in Romeo and flat clayey landscapes across much of Macomb County, we need to examine the glacial history of the area. This lecture will also discuss some fundamentals of soil science (pH, organic matter, texture, etc.) and how to improve even the worst soils.

Jim has offered to analyze some soil samples following his presentation. We'd like to give priority to EMG projects, and if there's time left, personal samples may be tested. If interested, please bring a small soil sample (2-3 tablespoons) to the meeting for testing.

[Register Here](#)

Beans—“The Poor Mans Jewels”

February 20, 2025

Presenter: Christina (Tina) Kacanowski

This class is all about beans—the history and varieties of beans, some of the people who are responsible for many of the varieties of Phaseolus vulgaris that exist today, and one woman’s discovery that she didn’t know beans.

[Register Here](#)

Education Opportunities



Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Date: January 14, 2025

Time: 6 p.m.—7 p.m. EST

Topic: Gardening in the Great Lakes Watershed

Presenter: Erica Clites

MSU Extension Michigan Sea Grant Educator

Using native plants in your home garden can help address many of the top challenges in the Great Lakes watershed including habitat loss, stormwater flooding and excess nutrients. Learn how Michigan Sea Grant works with partners throughout the state to support conservation of Great Lakes resources as well as how you and your home garden can help.

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 2025 DIG IN!! Extension Master Gardeners | ANR Events Management System \(msu.edu\)](https://msu.edu)

Dig In Series 2025

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Date: January 14th 2025

Presenter: Erica Clites

MSU Extension Michigan Sea Grant Educator

Topic: Gardening in the Great Lakes Watershed

Date: July 8th 2025

Presenter: Kelly McClelland

MSU Extension Community Food Systems Educator

Topic: Growing Together: Strategies, Structures, and Impact of Community Gardens

Date: February 11th 2025

Presenter: Sharron 'Ronnie' Miller

MSU PhD Candidate Pollination Ecology Lab

Topic: Reconnecting Native Bees, Land Management and Humans

NO AUGUST MEETING

Date: March 11th 2025

Presenter: Deanna F. Hedland

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

Topic: The Lure of Lilacs : Springtime Scents, Bountiful Blooms, and Captivating Colors

Date: September 9th 2025

Presenter: Becca Krans

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

Topic: Smart Ways to Bring Native Plants into Your Landscape

Date: April 8th 2025

Presenter: Molly Wozniak

GiLLS Invasive Species Coordinator

Topic: Keeping an Eye on Invasive Species

Date: October 14th 2025

Presenter: Julie Crick

MSU Extension Natural Resources Educator

Topic: Guiding Neighborhood Trees through Climate Change

Date: May 13th 2025

Presenter: Marianna Szucs

MSU Associate Professor, Dept of Entomology

Topic: The Devil Devastating Your Lillies: The Scarlet Lily Beetle

Date: November 11th 2025

Presenter: Lindsey Kerr & Colleagues

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educators

Topics: Garden Gifts, Tools and Books

Date: June 10th 2025

Presenter: Phimmasonne Owens, University of Michigan, Founder of Refugee Garden Initiatives

Topic: Cultivating Connection: Refugee Stories and the Transformative Power of Gardening

NO DECEMBER MEETING

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 Saturday, March 15, 2025

Get your application 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](#)

The September 2024 bylaw changes have been approved by MMGA and that they are posted on the website.

**MCMGA By-Laws and Standard Operating
Procedures can be found [HERE](#)**

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