

# Macomb County Master Gardener

# Monthly Newsletter

November 2024



## Contact Information

Email address: [macombcountymga@yahoo.com](mailto:macombcountymga@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.macombcountymga.org](http://www.macombcountymga.org)  
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://macombcountymga.org)

Please remember to bring your membership card and wear your Master Gardener Badge to all events

## Highlights in this Issue

Letter from the Board	Page 2
Minutes September Board Meeting	Page 3
MCMGA 2024 Meeting Registration	Page 4
Seed Donation	Page 5
Past MCMGA Education	Page 6
Recap of October 2024 Meeting	Page 7
Education Opportunities	Page 8
Fundraising	Page 9

## 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](mailto:macombcountymga@yahoo.com)

# Letter from the Board

What a glorious autumn it's been! This spell of Indian summer was so appreciated by all us gardeners. It's made the cleanup of our flower beds and vegetable gardens so much more pleasurable. Hopefully you applied some of the tips learned from Linda Simpson while collecting some precious seeds for next year's garden. But please don't strip away all withering stalks, seed heads and fallen leaves. Besides providing winter interest, you're furnishing some shelter for beneficial insects and food for wildlife. Let Mother Nature breakdown that organic matter to feed the soil below.

It's the season of the year when we reflect on our blessings and our accomplishments. Let's be proud of the service we've given to our community. Whether it's been a feast for the senses by creating a beautiful visual and aromatic floral display, a place of comfort for those in need of peace or solitude, or an abundance of nutritious food to be shared with those who are hungry, every second of valuable time that you devoted to a project made a difference in someone's life. Be proud of your accomplishments and be grateful for your capabilities to perform the tasks. You are truly appreciated!

As temperatures drop and snow begins to fall, it's important to focus on our own wellbeing. Keeping healthy should be a priority. We're all looking for natural ways to improve our ability to fight off infection. One way to achieve this is to boost our immunity. Our November speaker can help with that! Erin Stewart with Heart & Soul Naturals will talk about the health benefits of elderberries, lead an optional make & take, and offer an array of organic natural health products for purchase. Please join us - this is sure to be an informative presentation.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

Your MCMGA Board

# MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

## MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes 10/1/2024

Attendees: Ellen Collins, Sara Grix, Pam Horner, Katie Baker, Linda Simpson, Carolyn Doak, Darlene Davies-Warner

Ellen called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

### Professional Comments:

Horticulture trivia will be returning Nov 18 and Dec 18 with more dates in Jan and Feb. Nov 18 registration:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/nov2024trivia/>

### Treasurer's Report:

Ellen reported that the organization's finances are healthy. She has some editing to do and will provide board with a new copy. Copies of the financial statements are available to members at meetings or by request.

### Program:

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 Selegan  
Feb. 20, 2025 - Tina Kaznowski: Beans, the Poor Man's Jewels  
March 20, 2025  
April 17, 2025  
May 15, 2025  
June 12, 2025 (changed due to Juneteenth)  
July 17, 2025  
August 21, 2025  
September 18, 2025  
October 16, 2025  
November 20, 2025

\*denotes Quarterly meeting

- All meetings are at the Verkuilen building unless otherwise noted
- Checks and cash for make and take for elderberry workshop will be collected at October meeting or can be mailed in. Talk to Dave Putt about revising signup genius and adding a payment link for credit cards. Need to inform members ahead of time so they can register. There will be two options for the make and take: supplies with honey OR supplies without honey.
- Linda will contact Dan Lepo re: speaking in March 2025 on trees
- Need to change day for June meeting due to a holiday and extension offices being closed
- Sara will reach out to Erin at the Mushroom Conservatory to look into a workshop for 2025

### Old Business:

- Ellen and Sara will schedule a meeting with Dave Putt to discuss the yahoo email account.
- Board will go forward with getting the organization a Zoom account. Board approved - Pam first motion, Linda second motion. \$200 max limit

### New Business:

- Board will provide a \$25 gift toward horticulture trivia.
- New positions for board: Ellen Collins - President, Sara Grix - Vice-President, Pam Horner - Secretary, Darlene Davies-Warner - Treasurer, Linda Simpson - Director at Large (appointed by board and Linda accepted - this is a 1 year position)

### Next board meeting: Tuesday, November 12 at 5:00pm via Zoom

Meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm.

Submitted by Sara Grix

# MCMGA Meeting Registration

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**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 31, 2024. You can pay on-line at the registration link below.

\*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](#)**

# SEED DONATION

We received a donation of vegetable and some flower packets from Home Depot. We'd like you to have the opportunity to select some seeds for your next year's gardens. There's a minimum of 25 seeds in a vegetable packet, but mostly at least double that. They will be available only at the November meeting for free. If you are interested in seeds, plan to come to the meeting. Anything leftover after the November meeting will go to food pantries.

Vegetables: tomatoes (specific varieties listed below), cucumbers (vining & bush/reg & picklers), peppers (bells & lots of hot varieties), arugula, lettuces & spinach (seeds & seed tapes), brassicas (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Choi, collards, mustard greens), onions (bunching & yellow Spanish), radishes (round and long), carrots (reg, short & mixed colors), squash (zucchini, summer, crookneck, spaghetti, butternut), beets, eggplant (black, white & green), melons (cantaloupe, watermelon, honey dew), pumpkins, bush beans (green, yellow), snap peas, corn, peas, Lima beans, okra

Herbs: Basil (genovese, sweet), cilantro, garlic chives, dill (mammoth & fern leaf), oregano (Greek & Italian), parsley, sage, mint, thyme, rosemary, chamomile

Flowers: forget me not, lavender, marigold red, morning glory, nasturtium, cosmos, poppy, Shasta daisy, sweet pea, wildflower mix, zinnia, sunflowers (mostly mammoth, few Mexican orange & few other yellow varieties)

## Tomato varieties:

Roma VF - compact determinate, 2 oz fruit  
 Supersteak hybrid - indeterminate, 1-2 lb fruit  
 Bodacious hybrid - indeterminate, 10-12 oz fruit  
 Delicious - indeterminate, 1-2 lb fruit  
 Cloudy day - indeterminate, 4-6 oz fruit  
 Fourth of July- indeterminate, 4 oz fruit  
 Bush steak hybrid - determinate, 8-12 oz fruit  
 Early treat hybrid - indeterminate, 4 oz fruit  
 Big pink hybrid - indeterminate, 8-10 oz fruit

## Organic:

Burpees long keeper - indeterminate  
 Delicious - indeterminate, 1-2 lb fruit  
 Rutgers - indeterminate, 4-6 oz fruit  
 Brandywine Red - indeterminate, 1-2 lb fruit  
 Roma - compact determinate, 2 oz fruit

## 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 Better 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
10/10/24	"A Seed is a Promise"	Linda Simpson MCMGA Board Member

# **Recap of October Meeting Presentation**

**10/10/24**

## **“A SEED IS A PROMISE”**

**Linda Simpson  
MCMGA BOARD MEMBER**

Linda provided many seed saving tips, below is a condensed list:

- Temperature, light, nutrition, moisture and pollination affect blossom/frit development and therefore seed formation
- Select the plants with best desired qualities
- Harvest timing is critical to get maximum seed viability and seedling vigor; for vegetables, horticultural ripeness is the state when people like to eat a fruit; physiological ripeness is necessary to get a mature seed embryo.
- When growing plants specifically for FLOWER seeds, allow for triple or more spacing for improved air circulation and help deter diseases and pests; mature the spent blooms or pods on the plant as long as possible, seed heads should be brittle; try to collect seeds from at least six plants that show the characteristics you want; dry flower heads completely in bags or on screens; threshing, rubbing may be preferred to extracting seeds from capsules or follicles.
- Physiological ripeness is necessary for good seed in vegetables. The seeds inside need to mature to be viable; bean pods need to be dried thoroughly before removing the seeds; some seeds need to be fermented to remove hormones; collect seeds from early ripening tomatoes or peppers, largest, etc.; cucumber should be large soft and yellow; squash and pumpkin seeds should stay on the vine up to 2 weeks after maturity before collecting seed
- Seed storage—every seed has its own internal dormancy; proper storage of seed in a cool, dark place is needed to keep the desired dormancy; store in jars with air-tight lids or envelopes placed in sealed plastic bags and refrigerate, use within 12 months, hard seeds, beans, corn etc can go in freezer if storing for long term, 6 weeks to 6 months is average storage time for hard seed; native flower and wildflowers seed do better when given a natural dormancy outdoors.

“Bad seed is a robbery of the worst kind: for your pocket-book not only suffers by it, but your preparations are lost and a season passes away unimproved.” - George Washington



# Education Opportunities



**Location: Online via Zoom**

**Cost: Free (with pre-registration)**

**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 \(msu.edu\)](#)



# 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**