

# Macomb County Master Gardener Association

# Monthly Newsletter

August 2025



## Contact Information

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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://Upcoming Meetings (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](mailto:macombcountymga@yahoo.com)

## Letter from the Board

Hello Valued Members,

We hope the summer is bringing you beautiful blooms, bountiful vegetables and a vast array of beneficial insects. Your hard work and dedication to your projects is noticed and appreciated by MCMGA and many people in our community!

This association has been active for 12 years to support you in your gardening endeavors with our purpose in mind:

- To instruct adults and youth in horticulture science
- To educate the community about environmentally sound horticultural practices
- To promote food security
- To improve the aesthetics of our community

We, the board of directors, were elected to ensure that the mission to accomplish our purpose is achieved. We want to **continue** to foster opportunities to achieve your volunteering goals and to coordinate interesting and informative speakers for our educational programs. There will be three vacancies on the board and elections will be held in September. So here's your opportunity to step forward and keep our organization on track.

If you're interested in learning more about officer responsibilities, please click on this link, <https://macombcountymga.org/directors-&-by-laws>, and view the Roles & Responsibilities document. Any of the officers would be more than willing to speak to you about their experiences. Please reach out to [macombcountymga@yahoo.com](mailto:macombcountymga@yahoo.com) and we will follow up with you.

Thank you for your support,

Your MCMGA Board

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

7/9/2025

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

Ellen called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm

May/June Board meeting minutes previously approved and published in June newsletter.

MSUE updates – Lavender festival this weekend, several volunteers committed. 4-5 Macomb County EMGs participated in the Diagnostic Academy online (statewide), hands on events later this month. Next onboarding is 9/10/25 evening. Grant from banquet donations presented to Macomb Heritage Hall.

**Treasurer's Report:** Darlene will contact outstanding check recipient to cash it. July speaker fee is \$40, make check payable to Friends of St. Clair River. Sara made a motion to accept the treasurers report, Pam seconded; unanimous, motion passes.

**Programs Update:** Bevin Cohen requires no deposit. Ellen to contact Ed Blondin to see if he's available for Part 2 in February 2026. Sara to send the board the pdfs for the July presentation handouts.

**Old Business:** Ellen to contact Dave Putt for status on signups for August meeting.

### New Business:

July meeting agenda to include reminder about September elections, Lisianthus award presentation and reminder about grant receipts August deadline and September presentations.

Next board meeting is Wednesday August 20 @ 1:30pm

Adjourn at 2:23pm

Submitted by Pam Horner

# MCMGA NATIVE PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER



Showy Goldenrod



## Native Plant Sale:

Date: September 14, 2025

Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Octagon House

57500 Van Dyke

Washington



Black-eyed Susan

Pre order Sales have started and end on September 7. Plants will also be available for purchase the day of the sale. Proceeds support our speaker series and grants.

Plants provided by East Michigan Natives, LLC.

Plant size is 2.5" pots. Larger plants (shrubs) should be available, too.

If you wish to pre-order native plants, below is a link to our order form which lists all of the native plants for sale.

[Order Form](#)

Questions: contact Dave Putt at [dputt@yahoo.com](mailto:dputt@yahoo.com)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MMGA Membership

Did you know that your MCMGA membership includes a membership to Michigan Master Gardener Association (MMGA)? To learn more about MMGA and its benefits, please view this YouTube video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

## Website/Online Payment Notice

We appreciate the flexibility of the online payment system for dues, plant sales, etc., but it comes at a cost. With every transaction, comes a 4.3% service fee. MCMGA is willing to absorb that cost to make payments easier for you and us. However we have had several instances where online payments have been duplicated and another service fee is charged. Effective 5/1/2025, if duplicate payments are made, a refund will be made to you via check less the incurred service fee. Thank you!

## 8/21 Ford House Tour - Carpooling Opportunity

If you are registered to attend the tour and interested in carpooling from the Verkuilen Building, please email [macombcountymga@yahoo.com](mailto:macombcountymga@yahoo.com) by 8/19/25.

Planned departure time will be 5:20 p.m.

Thanks!

## Grant Recipient Reminder

Just a reminder that receipts from Grant recipients are due to Ellen Collins or Linda Simpson by the August meeting. You can send them by email ([macombcountymga@yahoo.com](mailto:macombcountymga@yahoo.com)) or put in the mail to our post office box: Macomb County MGA, P.O. Box 380463, Clinton Township, MI 48038. Due date 8/21/25.

2025 grant awardees will present a summary of their grant projects at the September meeting. This can be done as a computer slide show, poster or a picture display and should include how the grant funds were used.

## Lisianthus Award

Ginny Crooks was presented with the Lisianthus award from the Macomb County Master Gardeners at the July 17, 2025 meeting for her dedication to master gardening.

Congratulations Ginny.

# SAVE THE DATE-MCMGA 2025 LINE UP

**Date: August 21st 2025**

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

Location: Edsel and Eleanor Ford House  
1100 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI  
Presenter: Kevin Drotos, Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Landscape and Natural Areas Manager  
Topic: Ford House Garden Walking Tour  
MCMGA members only

**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: Shawn Hubbard  
Topic: Gardening Exercises

**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: November 20th 2025**

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building  
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036  
Presenter: Cheryl English  
Topic: Tall Grass Prairie Planting

## NO DECEMBER MEETING

## Education—Log Your Ed Hours for MCMGA Past 2025

### Education Programs:

Date:	Topic:	Presenter	Hours
1/16/2025	On the Origin of Macomb County's Soils— The Science Behind the Soil in Our Backyards	Jim Selegean	1.0
2/20/2025	Beans, the Poor Man's Jewels	Tina Kacanowski	1.0
3/20/2025	Trees—Can Mankind Live Without Them	Dan Lepo	1.5
4/17/2025	Plant Health Care	Sue Grubba	1.0
5/29/2035	Fungi of Michigan	Lorenzo Lo Piccolo	1.0
6/12/2025	Weeds or Wildflowers	Kirsten Lyons	1.0
7/17/2025	Go Beyond Beauty for Wildlife, Clean Waters and Beautiful Gardens	Brooke Hiller	1.25

# MCMGA Meeting Registration

## Native Plant Walk at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate

August 21, 2025

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kevin Drotos, Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Landscape and Natural Areas Manager

Join us with Kevin Drotos, Landscape and Natural Areas Manager, for a guided tour that will focus on native plants at Ford House. This historic estate features an intact Jens Jensen landscape, restored historical gardens, natural areas, modern gardens, and planted bioswales. As a group, we will walk the grounds to discuss native plants and their place in the landscape.

See carpooling announcement on page 5 of this newsletter.

[Register Here](#)

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## Gardening: It Can Be a Growing Pain

September 18, 2025

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Presenter: Shawn Hubbard  
Physical Therapist

Learn about functional exercises and body mechanics to prevent injury and decrease pain.

Also we will conduct our board member elections and our 2025 grant awardees will present a summary of their grant projects.

[Register Here](#)

# Dig In Series 2025

**Location: Online via Zoom**

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

**Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m.**

## **NO AUGUST MEETING**

**Date: September 9th 2025**

Presenter: Becca Krans

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

Topic: Smart Ways to Bring Native Plants into  
Your Landscape

**Date: October 14th 2025**

Presenter: Julie Crick

MSU Extension Natural Resources Educator

Topic: Guiding Neighborhood Trees through  
Climate Change

**Date: November 11th 2025**

Presenter: Lindsey Kerr & Colleagues

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educators

Topics: Garden Gifts, Tools and Books

## **NO DECEMBER MEETING**

# POPPY'S PODCASTS

## The Garden Mixer With Marianne Willburn & Leslie Harris

[thegardenmixer.com](http://thegardenmixer.com)

A garden mixer is traditionally an al fresco cocktail party. You know...milling around in uncomfortable shoes, meeting old friends, making new ones, enduring small talk in order to spark big talk, networking, laughing, and constantly glancing around for someone offering good nibbles on a platter. All with a great cocktail in hand.

Leslie and Marianne take the best parts of that and put it in a podcast.

Gardening shouldn't be boring. Garden podcasts REALLY shouldn't be boring. These girls aim to help you find the fun in what you're doing. This bi-weekly conversation provides guidance for beginner gardeners, encouragement for experienced gardeners, and amusement for all. Marianne and Leslie mix up opinions, strategies, the occasional guest, and cocktails as they discuss all things gardening.



### Meet the Hosts

Marianne Willburn has been a garden writer, speaker, & columnist since 2009, writing for publications such as *Better Homes and Gardens*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The American Gardener*, and *Horticulture* magazine. She is the author of *Tropical Plants and How To Love Them* and *Big Dreams, Small Garden*, and met her future podcast partner when Leslie Harris interviewed her about her column for *The American Gardener*. They hit it off, and serendipitously cemented that friendship over numerous gin and tonics.

In 2014, Leslie Harris decided to make her avocation into her vocation. She started a gardening business that concentrated on the maintenance and installation of containers and garden beds with a wonderful crew of horticulturists. Seven years later, she spun off her crew and began to concentrate on consulting, speaking, and her gardening podcast, *Into the Garden with Leslie*. In 2024 Leslie asked Marianne to join her and they created *The Garden Mixer* together.

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Macomb County Master Gardener Association

You will see group name on right side of page

Questions/Problems:

877-576-4377

**FUNDRAISING**

