

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

May 2026



Contact Information

Email address: macombcountymga@yahoo.com
Website: www.macombcountymga.org
Macomb County MGA
P.O. Box 380463
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Board of Directors

Jean Persely—President (2025-2027)
Lisa Lane—Vice President (2025-2027)
Pam Voss—Director at Large (2025-2027)
Pam Horner—Secretary (2024-2026)
Darlene Davies-Warner —Treasurer
(2024-2026)

Upcoming MCMGA Education

To register for events, see page 5 for current meeting links.

Please remember to wear your Master Gardener badge to all events.

Highlights in this Issue

Letter from the Board	Page 2
2026 MCMGA Grant Recipients	Page 2
St. Peter Charity Garden	Page 2
Minutes—April Board Meeting	Page 3
Virtual Garden Tour	Page 4
May/June 2026 Meeting Registration	Page 5
MCMGA Meeting Line-Up	Page 6
The Extraordinary Caterpillar Event Screening	Page 7
Octagon House Plant Sale	Page 8
Poppy’s Podcast	Page 9
Klein Garden	Page 10
Fundraising	Page 11

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

It was so nice to see so many of you at our quarterly meeting in April! Thank you for your patience as we worked through a wide variety of topics to keep you all up to date on the happenings within the organization. We're excited about the upcoming year and beyond! Be sure to join us on May 21st for "Weeds, The Wicked, Wild and Wonderful" with Jennifer Ott of My Thyme Gardens. Register [here](#).

Congratulations to our 2026 MCMGA Grant Recipients.

Each grant is for \$200.

The first recipient, **Armada Senior Center** was submitted by Jean Persley. The project goal is to provide healthy, nutritious food for the community while sharing science-based resources. The Senior Center will be making take home salad pots for seniors to enjoy. This project will be part of a new garden club which holds monthly education programs. The garden clubs anticipates that 25 families will be helped weekly with the salad pots.

The second recipient, **Lakeside Subdivision Pollinator Island Garden** was submitted by Linda Borgacz and Darlene Davies-Warner. The objective of this project is to expand the existing teaching native pollinator garden. The garden supports pollinators and provides examples of what plants should be included in a successful pollinator garden. This garden is available to the community for pollinator education.

St. Peter Charity Garden

Attention plant enthusiasts, as you purchase plants, any extra pots you may have, especially prime winners cups, please send to our charity garden. We reuse, repurpose and recycle. Those nice cups are strong and needed for us. As you may remember our "Sowing seed for those in need" is still our purpose.

MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Apr 7, 2026

Pam V, Lisa, Darlene, Jean, Pam H.

Last BOD minutes approval - Motion to approve by Lisa, and seconded by Jean. Motion carried.

Next BOD meeting date - May 5th, 6:30 pm

MSUE report – David Lowenstein was unable to attend but sent the following information: They need help picking up desserts - Pam H offered to pick them up and will let David know. Gold name badges (volunteers with 1,000 volunteering hours) will be distributed at the banquet. Ornamental grass class in June – info in MSU Extension newsletter. Plans to meet at 3 sites during the summer and asked for recommendations. Asked for help on May 20th (Wednesday_ in the evening for the new onboarding in person class – Jean is available, if anyone else wants to join her. Pam V is available. Darlene will check her schedule.

Secretary report - Pam H. reviewed the monthly committee highlights posted in the newsletter: Membership – January; Grants - Grants are posted early in the new year–Suggest highlighting in the Dec newsletter; Fundraising - suggest highlighting the fundraising committee in June; Seed library – suggest highlighting in the October newsletter; Programs – runs all year; Education – monthly programs; Hospitality – Pam V asked for a list of members who showed interest in helping the hospitality committee; Adv/marketing; Social media; Newsletter; Summarize next month.

Treasurers report - March treasurer report was reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Pam V. to approve the March treasurer report, it was seconded by Lisa, and the motion carried. Currently have 62 full paid members/2 alumni members that are not reported to MMGA. Jean suggested running the membership list by MSU to confirm MSU EMG recertification, Pam H will follow up. The MMGA membership was paid through Zelle– set up with the bank, cheaper than mailing. Audit will be completed tomorrow.

Education chair report

Lisa reported on the Signup genius progress; is set up using the MCMGA account - pretty easy to use, goes to our emails each time someone signs up now. Can submit the password to the board, add to document summary; working on how to build a report. Working on how to get the education information on the website; right now they are signing up on facebook or the newsletter. 5 people interested in education; send email to plan for next year; email list of members to Lisa.

Grant chair report - Pam V reported that we received two applications – Darlene needs the names to make out the checks payable, provide in an email; announce at this month's meeting.

Fundraising Committee report - Pam V reported on updates: the Fundraising committee held a meeting on 4/6/26 and went over several ideas. Currently the main source of fundraising income is the Kroger rewards program and the native plant sale. Other ideas that they will work on include: garden mum sale, merchandise sales, basket raffle for the Jingle Mingle, garden related vendor show, bus trip. These ideas will be reviewed in more detail and discussed at future meetings.

Caterpillar movie – Darlene noted that the showing of the film was approved by MSU extension to be held at their facility. The room can hold up to 80 people. We also need to purchase a license to show the film and the costs are based on the number of attendees (31 to 60 - \$110, 61 to 120 - \$180) – discussion was held on how to advertise and which license to purchase. Darlene will inquire if we can upgrade the license if we pick the 31 to 60 and more people sign up. Need two dates to show the movie at extension – came up with Aug 5, August 12 and 13. There was a discussion on how to sign up and pay, Darlene said we need to advertise that this is a donation only otherwise we have to purchase another license. The amount of suggested donation was discussed. Darlene will continue to work on. Can sell water and snacks; need to advertise.

Old Business - Jingle Mingle - Holiday greens container, make/take – work in progress; Fundraising - Discussed above; Caterpillar Movie Update- discussed above; Instagram update – not started yet

New Business—Annual budget discussion – set date for separate meeting, June – June 15th; zoom mtg; Darlene will send out last year's annual report.

Discussion

Monthly Task List from BOD Annual Tasks Breakdown chart – ensure last months are done, this month and next months are on our radar and being planned for.

SOP: Jean reviewed changes made to-date. Jean plans to go thru the changes at the quarterly meeting.

Quarterly Meeting Agenda—Reviewed agenda for the upcoming

VIRTUAL GARDEN TOUR—MACOMB COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Do you have a garden that sparks joy, demonstrates innovative techniques, or simply showcases the beauty of your hard work as a Master Gardener? We want to feature YOU!

We're thrilled to announce an exciting new feature for our upcoming newsletters: "Virtual Garden Tours of the Master Gardeners"! We're inviting our dedicated Master Gardener Volunteers to share a virtual tour of their personal gardens with the rest of our association.

This is a wonderful opportunity to inspire fellow gardeners, showcase diverse garden styles, and share practical tips and beautiful visuals.

Why Participate? This virtual tour series aims to:

- **Inspire & Educate:** Give members a peek into the real-world application of Master Gardener principles.
- **Showcase Diversity:** Highlight the variety of garden types, plant choices, and design aesthetics within our volunteer ranks.
- **Build Community:** Foster connection and shared learning among our volunteers.
- **Celebrate Your Hard Work:** Provide a platform to proudly display your gardening achievements!

What We're Looking For— We're interested in all types of gardens, whether they are:

- A meticulously planned vegetable patch
- A vibrant pollinator haven buzzing with life
- A serene native plant landscape
- A charming container garden on a balcony
- A sustainable rain garden
- Or any space that reflects your passion for gardening!

How to Participate – It's Easy! If you're interested in sharing your garden, here's what we need:

1. **A Few Photos:** Select 5-10 high-quality photos that best represent your garden. Think about different angles, close-ups of interesting plants, or features you're particularly proud of.
2. **Short Descriptions:** For each photo, provide a brief caption (1-3 sentences) explaining what's shown, any challenges you overcame, or a helpful tip related to that area.
3. **A Brief Narrative:** Write a short introduction (100-200 words) about your garden. What's its history? What are your favorite aspects? What gardening philosophy guides you?

If you're excited to share your garden with our association please send your photos, descriptions, and narrative to our mailing address Macomb County MGA PO Box 380463 Clinton Township, MI 48038 or email Macombcountymga@yahoo.com We can't wait to virtually stroll through your beautiful gardens and be inspired by your dedication and creativity!

MAY 2026 MEETING

Date: May 21st, 2026

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

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

Presenter: Jennifer Ott

Topic: Weeds: The Wicked, Wild and Wonderful

Join Jen for an in-depth look at the world of weeds! Learn the secrets behind these persistent plants, effective strategies to eliminate them from your garden, professional tips to prevent their return, and discover which beneficial weeds are worth planting. Perfect for anyone looking to manage weeds in a sustainable, informed way.

[Register Here](#)

JUNE 2026 MEETING

Date: June 18th, 2026

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

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

Presenter: Ronald Horner

Topic: Tool Cleaning and Sharpening Workshop

Join us for a tool cleaning and sharpening workshop. Ron will discuss cleaning procedures, and sharpening tools to help bring your gardening tools back to life and make your work easier and safer. You are welcome to bring a hand tool for sharpening demonstrations.

[Register Here](#)

MCMGA Meeting Line-Up

Meeting Time/Location (except as otherwise noted)

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

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

Date: May 21, 2026

Presenter: Jennifer Ott

Topic: Weeds: The Wicked, Wild and Wonderful

Date: June 18, 2026

Presenter: Ron Horner

Topic: Tool Sharpening and Cleaning

Date: July 16, 2026

Presenter: Wayne Pope

Flower and Garden Photography by Smartphone

Date: August 22, 2026

Shadbush Nature Center Garden Tour

Time: 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Location: Shadbush Nature Center
4101 River Bends Dr., Shelby Township

Date: September 17, 2026

Annual Meeting/Grant Review

Date: October 15, 2026

Presenter: Karen Burke

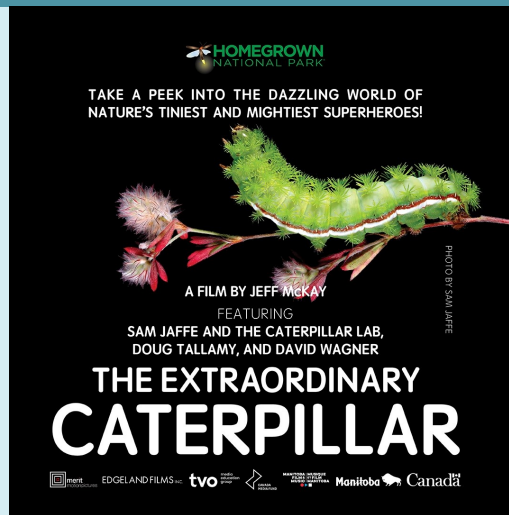
Tea Presentation and Workshop

Date: November 19, 2026

Presenter: Lily Smalstig

Date: December 2, 2026

Jingle Mingle/Silent Auction



The Extraordinary Caterpillar: A Special Event Screening

DATE: August 5, 2026

LOCATION: Robert A. Verkuilen Building, Entrance E
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036

TIME: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

TICKET PRICING: Donation at the event

Peek into the world of nature's tiniest superheroes. The Macomb County Master Gardener Association is hosting a special screening of *The Extraordinary Caterpillar*, a beautifully shot 60-minute documentary that reveals the vital-and often overlooked-role caterpillars play in our ecosystems.

Watch the trailer here!

<https://vimeo.com/1117213704>

From blooming meadows to city parks and backyard gardens, this inspiring film celebrates the magic of nature while showing families practical ways to make a difference. Along the way, you'll see the groundbreaking work of The Caterpillar Lab, entomologist David Wager, and Doug Tallamy, co-founder of Homegrown National Park.

What you will get:

- Inspiring stories about why caterpillars are essential to healthy ecosystems
- Simple steps you can take to create habitat in your own yard or community
- A chance to ask questions during a live Q&A
- Free handouts to help you take action right away

This is a chance to see nature in a whole new light—and be part of the movement to bring it home. We hope you will join us.

[Reserve Your spot](#)



 **THE OCTAGON HOUSE** 

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
VOLUNTEER MASTER GARDENERS
“ THE OCTAGARDENERS ”**

ARE HAVING A

 **PLANT SALE** 

& GARDEN SHOP

 **SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH** 

10:00AM - 3:00PM

**57500 VAN DYKE, WASHINGTON
NORTH OF 26 MILE / EAST SIDE OF VAN DYKE**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS MAINTAINING AND
BEAUTIFYING THE GARDENS SURROUNDING THIS
HISTORIC HOUSE AND MUSEUM**



POPPY'S PODCASTS

Good Growing, Illinois Extension

Talking all things horticulture, ecology, and design from our neighbors at Illinois Extension:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/podcasts/good-growing>

Remember to send us your favorite podcast suggestions!



Would you like to suggest a podcast to be included in our newsletter? Submit a few words about a gardening or nature based podcast that we can include in future newsletters to:

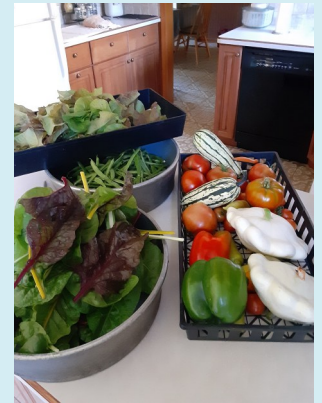
macombcountymga@yahoo.com

Klein Garden

Our front and back yard has transformed over the last 10 years to a vegetable and flower haven. This property in Harrison Township was first built and owned by my husband's parents, who began gardening here with their 6 kids. Today my husband and I have been a team in conditioning soil, building garden beds (13 in all and still counting), and planting, and harvesting all kinds of vegetables.

Today in addition to our garden beds we have 4 other ground gardens. We grow potatoes in the front yard and squash and eggplant along the driveway. Pumpkin, squash, tomatoes and green beans inhabit the far back yard. I have learned to dry cooking herbs, make herbal teas and even homemade chamomile, calendula, cucumber mint, and other soaps.

I fell in love with gardening after retiring and have to give credit to the Master Gardening ladies at the St. Peter Charity Garden. It was there that I was inspired to learn more, grow more, and to share our harvests with local pantries. Gardening gives us all life. Looking forward to many more seasons!



FUNDRAISING

Macomb County MGA Native Plant Sale

September 20, 2026

Octagon House
57500 Van Dyke
Washington, MI
Noon to 3:00 p.m.



Kroger Rewards Program



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