

# Macomb County Master Gardener Association

## Monthly Newsletter

### October 2025



#### Contact Information

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

#### Board of Directors

Jean Persely—President  
Lisa Lane—Vice President  
Pam Voss—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

Welcome to another amazing start with a new MCMGA Board of Directors! We have 2 returning and 3 new members. I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge and wholeheartedly thank the previous Boards that have gone before us. For 12 years, we've had dedicated and devoted fellow EMG's serve on our Board to ensure that we continue our mission of educating and beautifying our communities. I am thankful to each and every one of them who have helped to mold our association into what we are today and am humbled, grateful and excited to serve as your President of the MCMGA.

As a founding member of our initial Board of Directors (VP), it is paramount to me that we continue to move forward. I'd like to continue what other Boards have accomplished and maintain an open line of communication. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any other Board members with any questions, comments, concerns, ideas, etc. We are all here to continue to serve the needs of our members and to ensure the future success of our association. You can reach us at: [MacombCountyMGA@yahoo.com](mailto:MacombCountyMGA@yahoo.com) or you can email me directly at [Jean.Persely@outlook.com](mailto:Jean.Persely@outlook.com)

Now, we all know that the active gardening season is coming to a close, so... get the last of your plants you still have sitting in pots into the ground – sooner than later; plant those bulbs before they rot on a shelf in your garage; clean up any diseased plant materials you have; then rest and let your garden continue to provide habitat for wildlife thru the remainder of Fall, Winter and well into the Spring season. Sit and reflect on this year's gardening successes and failures. What can be learned from them? What can be done differently in the future? Remember – the best garden is next year's garden!

Grab a warm cider, a friend or loved one and sit and enjoy the fruits of your labors – there is still much joy to have from our gardens during the inactive garden season as the leaves senesce and put on a show!

Your MCMGA Board

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

Ellen called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve by Darlene, and seconded by Linda, motion carried.

**MSUE updates** – onboarding support needed for 9/10; Linda is planning on attending. Had a presence at the State Fair.

**Treasurer's Report:** August treasurer report was reviewed by the board. Ellen made a motion to approve the treasurers report, Sara seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Check ready for Sept speaker. Darlene is filing the annual financial report.

**Programs Update:** Shawn Hubbard is presenting in September and bringing his own laptop. He is sending a copy of his presentation after the meeting and we can share that with the attendees. Ed Blondin is speaking in October. Cheryl English is in November – will be presenting about Tall Grasses and Sara will be sending a reminder to her ahead of time. One person suggested a topic on growing mushrooms (Ethan from Six Rivers) – waiting to hear back. Sara asked Ellen to send a message to the contact for the Michigan Butterfly Network and Erin Parker from the Metroparks Nature Center. Ellen is trying to have Ed Blondin do a secondary presentation in Feb 2026. Sara suggested we ask David Lowenstein if he has any new topics to present on. Pam suggested a topic on the Six Rivers Conservancy and the Native Garden Certification. Pam will look into and let Sara know if there is a potential speaker. Pam is waiting to hear back from Jim Selegean for presentation ideas for next year.

**Old Business:** The Board of Directors reviewed the SOP and determined that no updates are required at this time.

**New Business:** Plant sale is this Sunday. Dave asked if anyone from the board will be there. Pam offered to volunteer to help, will send an email to Dave Putt.

Ellen was contacted by a Veteran's Group for assistance from the Master Gardeners. Ellen is going to meet with them to determine what they are looking for.

Adjourn at 8:45 pm

Next board meeting is scheduled on Oct 23 @ 7:30 pm

Submitted by Pam Horner

# 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!

## MCMGA Sweatshirt for Sale \$15

- New, never worn
- Large, unisex, hoodie
- Please contact Ruthann at:  
rabajorek@aol.com



# **Oakland Community College Gardening Program: GARDENING THROUGH THE SEASONS**

**October 14, 2025  
6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.  
Speaker: Jean Persely**

Hi!

I'm thrilled to share with you that I have been invited to offer gardening programs via Oakland Community College (OCC), Auburn Hills Campus starting with the Fall 2025 semester!

Please share this information on your social media, newsletter, etc. as appropriate.

To kick off, we'll be breaking down our gardening tasks to help gardeners feel a bit less overwhelming with 'Gardening Through The Seasons' on October 14 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

This gardening class is designed for beginning gardeners as well as experienced green thumbs.

Let's be real - gardening can feel overwhelming.

When and how do we do specific gardening tasks?

What about pollinators, seeds, weeds, Winter Sowing, volunteer plants, pruning, invasive plants?

Let's walk thru the garden during all seasons: explore, learn, discover!

This course is ideal for anyone interested in managing their garden with ease.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

This is the OCC Facebook event that can be shared: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1Zpqs5mvHJ/>

Keep an eye out for the Spring semester native plant series that will be offered!

Until then, enjoy the wildlife visiting and living in your garden!



## **MCMGA Meeting Registration**

### **Persian Gardens: Bringing Paradise Home**

October 16, 2025

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Presenter: Ed Blondin

Owner—Hortulus Gardens & Landscape

Long before Islam took hold in this region, the Persian Empire dominated the Western world. Their legacies range from Aqueduct and drip irrigation to a staggering number of plants we all assume as 'our own'. Insightful and thought-provoking, this lecture illustrates how the Persian Empire aesthetic influenced our modern American back yard!

[Register Here](#)

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### **Tall Grass Prairie Planting**

November 20, 2025

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Presenter: Cheryl English

Tallgrass prairie, while among the most endangered habitats in North America, is also one of the most productive in terms of ecological services. Learn how you can incorporate this unique guild of plants —and the organisms that rely on them—in your home garden.

[Register Here](#)

# SAVE THE DATE-MCMGA 2025 LINE UP

**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-Bringing Paradise Home

**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 Selegan	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
5/29/2025	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
8/21/2025	Ford House Native Plant Garden Tour	Kevin Drotos	1.0
9/18/2025	Gardening Exercises	Shawn Hubbard	1.0

# Dig In Series 2025

**Location: Online via Zoom**

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

**Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m.**

**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**

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



## POPPY'S PICKS

### **Gardenfit** by American Public Television

Did you find the September presentation “Gardening: It can be a growing pain” informative? If so, you may appreciate this series.

Discover how to take care of your body while taking care of your garden with expert gardener Madeline Hooper and personal fitness trainers Adam Schersten and Jeff Hughes. Tour gardens across America and learn gardening tips and techniques to avoid stress and injury. The guests include designers, painters, sculptors, ceramicist's, photographers, culinary pioneers, and musicians. You can find full episodes and shorts on YouTube.com or if you are a PBS subscriber on [pbs.org](https://www.pbs.org).



### About Madeline Hooper

After a trailblazing public relations career that included creating and building the leading marketing-PR firm DeVries Global, and then a career as a ballroom dance competitor and teacher, Madeline de Vries Hooper immersed herself in the world of gardening. She was invited to become a trustee of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and then of the Berkshire Botanical Garden, where she has been Vice Chair for the past 10 years. She has visited many of the finest gardens in the United States and Europe and developed relationships with leading horticulturalists, garden designers, and plantspeople.

However, her passion for gardening left her with many aches and pains. A friend recommended she work with a personal trainer and she learned new techniques and exercises to relieve her pain and enable her to garden more enjoyably and productively. These newfound habits were the inspiration for the GardenFit television show and workshop program. Madeline and her husband live in Columbia County, New York, where for the past 20 years they have devoted themselves to maintaining Rockland Farm, a 10-acre garden they created from scratch.

Continued on next page

## POPPY'S PICKS

**GardenFit** by American Public Television, continued

### About Adam Schersten

Adam started his career working for a coastal engineering firm in Florida as a boat captain and went on to teach SCUBA diving. It was through both these experiences that he realized the importance of maintaining one's fitness in order to enjoy nature for as long as possible. After being encouraged by a personal training friend to turn his passion for fitness into a real profession, Adam moved to New York City. His 11 years of experience as a personal trainer began with Equinox before becoming an independent trainer working with a wide range of NYC professionals and celebrities. He then went on to form his own corporate wellness and training company, First Move Wellness, which conducts workshops that address the pain and posture of an increasingly computer-bound workforce. He wrote The Esquire Guide to Bodyweight Training which embraces the concepts of calisthenics to help people improve their fitness with minimal or no equipment.

As a Vermont native and water-sport enthusiast, moving to NYC required finding new ways to enjoy nature. Adam coped by walking around his neighborhoods with a tree identification book and learning about all of the city's trees. He ultimately joined the Bonsai club at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and for the past ten years has nurtured trees on a rooftop garden while also maintaining a jungle of houseplants.

### About Jeff Hughes

Jeff, who served as the GardenFit Season 1 trainer, is an award-winning fitness trainer with more than three decades of experience. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and began working as a fitness trainer at the Turnberry Spa in Miami, renowned for its celebrity clientele. He went on to own and operate fitness businesses in Los Angeles and New York City, and has maintained a private training business since 1988. Jeff has created programs for a wide variety of clients: from high-school athletes to Hollywood celebrities, CEOs and corporate professionals, to skiers, golfers, farmers, moms and dads.

In 2004, Jeff moved to Columbia County, New York, where he opened his TrainerFit Studio. This is where he coined the phrase "train the mind, the body will follow," which incorporates a cognitive slant to conventional fitness training practices. Jeff's training philosophy is that bodies accept new habits because they make sense and his training sessions are therefore filled with logical balance and strength techniques taught as habits. He trains one-on-one and creates programs that fit each client's physical and lifestyle needs. Jeff competed in the 2015 OCB Big East Natural Physique Championships in New York and won 1st place in the master's category as well as 3rd, 4th and 5th in other categories. He has coached both high school football and track & field and taught college-level physical education.

# POPPY'S PODCASTS

## **Plantastic Podcast with Dr. Jared Barnes**

Plants can't talk, but we can! The Plantastic Podcast is a show for plant killers, green thumbs, and everyone in between. Listen along as Dr. Jared deconstructs the practices of the best plants people of our time so that you can better cultivate your plants and yourself.

You may remember Dr. Barnes from our online Master Gardener conference a few years back. He runs Plantastic Podcast with a wide range of garden topics and interviews from the gardening world, both national and international. Truly, a topic for everyone!



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 [Jean.Persely@outlook.com](mailto:Jean.Persely@outlook.com).

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