

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter January 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, click on the link below:

[Upcoming Meetings \(macombcountymga.org\)](http://Upcoming%20Meetings%20(macombcountymga.org))

Please remember to 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 from your BOD!

Grants

It's that time of year where we are thinking about our grants. We're incredibly fortunate to be able to give micro-grants to our members for their projects. To apply, please visit [our grants page](#). If you'd like to be on the committee to review the incoming grants, please email us at macombcountymga@yahoo.com.

Membership renewal

It's also that time of year to renew your membership. You'll find the membership form in the newsletter or on [our website](#). Your MCMGA membership dues also includes your Michigan Master Gardeners Association (MMGA) dues – we submit those for you. You can pay in-person at our January meeting by cash or check – our all new Square should also be up and running! Forms can be mailed in with a check, or you can pay online. Please note that you only need to submit your membership fee one time. If you need to be refunded it will be made via check, minus the fees incurred.

Virtual Garden Walks

We'd like to start hosting virtual garden walks through our member gardens. Would you like to be featured? Include several photos and a paragraph or two about your garden in an email to us at macombcountymga@yahoo.com. Further details are in the newsletter on page 4. We'll be featuring a different garden each month!

Fundraising

Our plant sales have dropped drastically the past couple of years. We are at risk of losing this as a fundraiser. We'll be working together to ensure that we don't lose this sale, but we also need to look at additional fundraising opportunities. Do you have any thoughts, ideas, suggestions? We'd love to hear from you!

MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2025

Attendees: Pam Horner, Darlene Davies-Warner, Jean Persely, Pam Voss, David Lowenstein, and Lisa Lane. Jean called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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

Next meeting – Jan 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

MSUE report – Maggie Marowski has started as the new EMG coordinator. She is getting trained in the volunteer system, will be the EMG coordinator starting in January. The annual banquet will include a free dessert menu. Anyone due for recognition are being worked through now. Program at the Ford House on April 17th – will be a cost associated with it.

Treasurer's Report: November treasurer report was reviewed by the board. In January the website is up for renewal and the tax IRS form is due. The Square should be up and running for the January meeting. A motion was made to approve the November treasurer report, was seconded, and the motion carried.

Education Chair Report: January is a quarterly meeting, Lisa will represent Jean at the meeting.

Grant Chair Report: Changes are being made to the grant application package per last month's discussion.

Old Business:

Membership form – Need to add updated form to website and send with January newsletter for renewal. Bring copies of the form to the January meeting. Grant recipients for 2025 were posted on website, working on previous years. Webmaster search discussion - Pam is coordinating with two local firms. Jean noted any of us can do any updates; perhaps hire someone when we need help for a short term effort.

Lisianthus Award– add previous winners to website. BOD discussed the frequency of this award and recommended this be an annual award. Darlene made a motion to switch the Lisianthus award to annual, Lisa seconded and it will be awarded at the Sept meeting. Will be added to the SOP.

New Business – discussion was held on the following items:

Budget planning for 2026.

Newsletter - adding a Member garden highlights in the newsletters; to be announced at the Jan meeting.

Education programs: Pam V will be snacks and drinks

Lisa will put together an agenda for the Jan meeting and send to the board for review.

Fundraising - Should have a discussion on the Jan agenda to discuss other fundraisers. Pam V will chair.

Update SOP: mission statement; Eligibility – add 'Emeritus, Alumni, FOG attendee or graduate'; Dues – update to current rate; change General membership to Education program; update BoD composition - The Board of Directors shall consist of five members. The Executive Committee shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. Secretary & Treasurer may come from membership. Committee shall be Directors-at-Large; Committee members or Directors expecting to be reimbursed.... Incidental purchases up-to \$100 for immediate need can be done then presented at next BOD mtg; Guest fee updates- Members are free – guest is free. If a presenter is a high price, charge members a fee, plus additional fee for guests. Non-members – suggest donation of a certain amount. A sign will be posted at the registration desk.

Adjourn at 8:49 pm

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!



Macomb County Master Gardener Association

2026 Membership Form

Name			
Address			
City, State, ZIP			
Email			
Phone	Home		Cell

I am a:

- Certified Master Gardener
- Certified Advance Master Gardener
- Master Gardener Volunteer in Training
- Master Gardener Emeritus
- Master Gardener Alumni
- Foundations of Gardening

Attendee/Graduate

I am interested in volunteering:

(Please select one or more)

- Education Committee
- Hospitality Committee
- Grant Committee
- Advertising
- Fundraising

Attendee/Graduate

Year Certified as EMG: _____

Speaker topics and/or name suggestions you'd like to see: _____

Signature

Date

Membership dues are \$20. Membership period is January thru December.

Office Use Only

Application received

Dues Paid \$

Cash

Check

Check #

MCMGA SEED LIBRARY

The MCMGA maintains a seed library for members, free of charge. The seed library is prepared by MCMGA members after collecting seed heads at the end of the season. Saving seeds properly assures purity in the next generation. A seed is a promise of future life. Learning how to avoid cross pollination, timing flower development, collecting the best of a species seeds assures healthy future plants. Many nature lovers want to preserve and protect plants. Our goal is to provide healthy seed to our members.

Proper storage, labeling and testing are done before the seeds are put into the library. First the seeds are stored in refrigeration for a minimum of six weeks to give them a dormancy period, which is required for germination. After the dormancy period is complete, the seeds are tested for viability via several methods to determine the percent that will sprout. The testing usually involves placing seeds in the dark in damp paper towels, some seeds can also be tested in water. Seeds that are viable are packaged up and labeled and added to our seed library.

Volunteers are working on the seed library now and the seed library will be available to the members at the regular monthly meetings in the late winter and early spring. An assortment of seeds will be available, both native and non-native flowers and vegetable plants.

If you would like to learn and participate, please let us know.

Linda Simpson

Seed Library Chair

JANUARY 2026 MEETING

Date: January 15th 2026

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

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

Presenter: Ron 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](#)

FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING

Date: February 19th, 2026

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

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

Presenter: Erin Parker

Topic: The Magic of Monarchs—From Michigan to Mexico and Back Again

Join Huron-Clinton Metroparks' Erin Parker as we follow the journey of our migrating monarchs from Michigan to their overwintering grounds in Mexico and back again. Learn how you can support monarchs at each stage of their life cycle with your own garden! We'll also explore the Michigan Butterfly Network's butterfly monitoring program to support community science around butterflies!

[Register Here](#)

MCMGA Meeting Line-Up

Date: January 15, 2026

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Ron Horner
Topic: Tool Cleaning and Sharpening Workshop

Date: February 19, 2026

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Erin Parker
Topic: The Magic of Monarchs - From Michigan
to Mexico and Back Again

Date: March 19, 2026

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Bevin Cohen
Topic: Let's Talk Tomatoes!

Date: April 16, 2026

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: To Be Determined
Topic: To Be Determined

Date: May 21, 2026

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

Location: Robert A. Verkuilen Building
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Presenter: Jennifer Ott
Topic: Weeds: The Wicked, Wild and Wonderful

POPPY'S PODCASTS

Grow Like Wild by Rebecca McMackin

I was first introduced to Rebecca on YouTube when I heard her Ted Talk, if you haven't heard that I highly recommend it: https://youtu.be/qxgE0q1_m6U?si=6w-9gPZz6rLneOo4

I recently discovered she also has a monthly podcast which is also a newsletter in case you don't prefer to listen to it. Rebecca breaks her podcast into three parts : The first is what she is up to, the second part is resources which is jammed packed, and the third part is news which covers things she has learned. Rebecca writes her podcasts once a month timed with the full moon.

I have only listened to a couple episodes but I really enjoyed them. You would need some time to go back and look into everything she talks about but she provides an episode webpage for all the details.

[https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/grow-like-wild/
id1838303246?i=1000740826772](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/grow-like-wild/id1838303246?i=1000740826772)



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

2026 Macomb County Master Gardener Association (MCMGA) Grants Available

Grants are available for up to \$200 for any educational group, not-for-profit organization or other groups /persons providing horticultural education and /or horticultural therapy.

Applicants must be based in, located in and serve residents of Macomb County. A MCMGA Extension Master Gardener (EMG) must be a member of this project. EMG's can join the MCMGA by clicking the online Membership link below.

Membership

The deadline to turn in grant applications is March 15, 2026. Please review the guidelines and application by clicking the Grants link below.

**Click Here for the
Grant Application**

**Click Here for the
Grant Guidelines**

2026 Wildflower Association of Michigan Annual Native Plant Conference March 7 and 8, 2026 Kellogg Convention Center

Join us for the 39th annual Michigan Native Plant Conference, where people come together to learn, connect and celebrate their passion for native plants.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Doug Tallamy

Registration is now open!! For conference details, please visit:

WAM Conference - Wildflower Association of Michigan

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](http://KrogerCommunityRewards.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