

# Macomb County Master Gardener Association

# Monthly Newsletter

# May 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

What a difference several warm sunny days and a good soaking rain will do to ignite Spring into bloom! Nature has many details that we sometimes miss, so look a little closer and absorb all the magic and beauty she displays.

The following excerpt from The Comfort of Crows by Margaret Renkl focuses on one.

## *Praise Song for Solomon's Seal*

*The purple-tinged stalks pop up out of the ground with their foliage tightly furled, but very soon the leaves will open up like a teenager who has learned she's beautiful, like the lonely person loved. The striped leaves are all you notice at first, the perfect embodiment of springtime: cool and green and growing. Then in a day or two, the white flowers appear, dainty and delicate, miniature bells nodding toward the damp soil on purple stems, nearly hidden under the showy leaves.*

*Bend down. Lean closer. The flowers will stir in the wake of your smallest breath. These bells are ringing for anyone who listens to the rustle of wind in the leaves, to the hush of sweat bees moving from flower to flower in the cool spring air.*

*"Set me a seal upon your heart as a seal upon your arm," the poet says in the Song of Solomon, "for love is strong as death." Here is this profusion of flowers as proof.*

Take some time to explore your garden more closely this Springtime, maybe you'll find some surprise and delights.

Your MCMGA Board

# MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

4/9/2025

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

Ellen called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve by Linda, seconded by Darlene, all in favor, motion carried.

MSUE updates – none

**Treasurer's Report:** Darlene sent in dues for Michigan Master's Gardeners, a total of 67 members. Will send any new payments that are received as well. Darlene will prepare checks for the April speaker (Sue Grubba) and the grant recipients to distribute at the next meeting. March Treasurer Report was reviewed by the board. Motion to approve the March Treasurer's report by Ellen, seconded by Pam, all in favor, motion carried. Copies of the Financial Statements will be available to members at the meetings or by request.

**Programs Update:** no updates to 2025 programs (complete); Sara recommended registering the conference room with Carolyn for 2026 meeting dates. Ellen will follow up with Carolyn.

**Grants Update:** The grant committee reviewed the applications received and decided to award all 4 grants. The grants will be presented at the April meeting. Linda will provide the names to Darlene so checks can be prepared in advance.

**Old Business:** Basket is coming along for the silent auction. Darlene is also donating a couple small baskets at no cost to the association. Ellen has a several packages of landscape fabric to include in the baskets. Ellen suggested that we include a notice in the newsletter about the new double payments refund process in the newsletter. Board members agreed.

## New Business:

Quarterly meeting agenda – Grants – Linda will present grants, Ellen will present Lisianthus award. Pam suggested letting the members know we sent in the Michigan Master Gardener's membership so they know they are members of that organization as well. Ellen suggested adding a note in the newsletter with the link to the MMGA presentation from a couple months ago. Ellen emailed Stephanie Bahorski to see if she wanted to make an announcement about the vacancy at Regina High School at the upcoming meeting. Remind members that Board elections are in September, three 2-year terms to be filled. Ellen suggested that we write up an article and include that in the next newsletter.

Adjourn – 6:46 p.m.

Next board meeting: Wednesday, May 14th at 7:00pm via Zoom – will cover both May and June board meeting.

Submitted by Pam Horner

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Newsletter Correction

This notice is being republished to correct a name misspelling. Thank you to the following members for distributing the vegetable and herb seeds packets to 12 different organizations in Macomb County. Your help is truly appreciated!

Ellen Collins      Jean Persely  
 Darlene Davies    Linda Simpson  
 Carolyn Doak      Terri Wolf

## 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!

## 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?v=ErgQKj6aydw>

## Friends of the Tomlinson Arboretum Tree Planting & Clean Up Saturday, May 10 10:00 a.m.

Volunteers can meet at the Arboretum west entrance on 18 mile road, east of Garfield Rd. Volunteers are encouraged to wear work clothes and bring a pair of gardening gloves. We will be planting 18 new trees, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Sat. May 17 at 10 a.m.

The Friends will be providing pizza and beverage after the event.

## Yardeners Native Plant Sale Friday, June 6th, 2025—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Yardeners of St. Clair Shores are hosting East Michigan Native Plants for the day to provide the opportunity to purchase native plants. No pre sales. Plan to come by and shop at the native plant mobile nursery. You can check out the plants that may be available at [www.eastmichnatives.com](http://www.eastmichnatives.com). The sale will be held at the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum behind the St. Clair Shores Library parking lot at 11 Mile Rd and Jefferson.

## Belle Isle Conservancy

This is a general call out for volunteer support on Belle Isle! The Rotary Club has long been the force behind planning, planting and tending the native grass garden outside of the former Police Dispatch building on island (right down the road from the Aquarium). Their lead volunteer has reached out and asked for help this year.

**May 3rd | 10a-1p** - need 15-20 volunteers, age 15 or older. Duties will include mulching!!!

If you're able to help, please sign up in Volgistics, or let me know!

**Dee Dee Martin**, Volunteer and Program Coordinator, Belle Isle Conservancy

[martind@belleisleconservancy.org](mailto:martind@belleisleconservancy.org)

[Volgistics](#)

## Regina High School Garden Club Needs New Leader!

Are you passionate about gardening and eager to inspire the next generation of plant lovers? Regina High School in Warren, MI is looking for a dedicated volunteer to take over their Garden Club and provide basic greenhouse management. This is a great opportunity to make an impact and keep the program thriving. For more details, please contact Stephanie Bahorski at: [stephaniegbahorski@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniegbahorski@gmail.com) or at 586-822-5072. Thank you!

# SAVE THE DATE-MCMGA 2025 LINE UP

**Date: May 29th 2025**

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

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

Presenter: Lorenzo Lo Piccolo

Topic: Fungi of Michigan

**Date: June 12th 2025**

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

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

Presenter: Kirsten Lyons

Invasive Species Specialist

St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission

Topic: Weeds or Wildflowers

**Date: July 17th 2025**

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

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

Presenter: Brook Hiller

Friends of the St. Clair River

Topic: Go Beyond Beauty Program

**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**

# **MCMGA Meeting Registration**

## **Fungi of Michigan**

**May 29, 2025**

**Presenter: Lorenzo Lo Piccolo**

Did you know that fungi have a kingdom of their own? Join Lorenzo Lo Piccolo to learn about these intriguing organisms. The program will cover topics such as:

1. Introduction to the fungi kingdom
2. Foraging tips and sustainability
3. Fungi identification and safety
4. Discuss specific Michigan species throughout the seasons.

The presentation will reference curated fungi samples.

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

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## **Weeds or Wildflowers? Yes!**

**June 12, 2025**

**Presenter: Kirsten Lyons**

**Park Naturalist - Invasive Species Specialist**

**St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission**

Class Description: What makes a plant a weed? What's a wildflower? How do we know which ones to pull and which to protect? What soil stories do plants tell? Can we eat the weeds we're pulling out? Learn how restoration gardeners, ecologists, volunteers, and land managers use conservation terms and concepts to study nature, prioritize field work, avoid burnout, and have fun! This interactive presentation will help you and your plants this growing season. A question and answer session will be held at the end.

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

# Education Opportunities



**Location: Online via Zoom**

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

**Date: May 13, 2025**

**Time: 6 p.m.—7 p.m. EST**

**Topic: The Devil Devastating Your Lillies:  
The Scarlet Lily Beetle**

**Presenter: Marianna Szucs  
MSU Associate Professor, Dept of Entomology**

**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 \(msu.edu\)](https://msu.edu)

# Dig In Series 2025

**Location: Online via Zoom**

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

**Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m.**

**NO AUGUST MEETING**

**Date: May 13th 2025**

Presenter: Marianna Szucs

MSU Associate Professor, Dept of Entomology

Topic: The Devil Devastating Your Lillies:  
The Scarlet Lily Beetle

**Date: September 9th 2025**

Presenter: Becca Krans

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

Topic: Smart Ways to Bring Native Plants into  
Your Landscape

**Date: June 10th 2025**

Presenter: Phimmasone Owens, University of  
Michigan, Founder of Refugee Garden Initiatives

Topic: Cultivating Connection: Refugee Stories and  
The Transformative Power of Gardening

**Date: October 14th 2025**

Presenter: Julie Crick

MSU Extension Natural Resources Educator

Topic: Guiding Neighborhood Trees through  
Climate Change

**Date: July 8th 2025**

Presenter: Kelly McClelland, MSU

Extension Community Food Systems Educator

Topic: Growing Together: Strategies, Structures,  
and Impact of Community Gardens

**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

## A Way to Garden by Margaret Roach

A Way to Garden is the latest horticultural incarnation of Margaret Roach, birthed in March 2008 with her own words as its primary DNA, mingled with ideas shared in weekly expert interviews. Those conversations are from the companion [A Way to Garden public-radio show and podcast](#), which entered its 15th year in March 2024, and has won praise from “The Guardian” newspaper and multiple medals from Garden Writers of America.

Her website and podcast is named for a book she wrote early in her garden career, and in the life of her garden. “A Way to Garden” was named best book of 1998 by the Garden Writers of America.

You can listen on Apple Podcasts or Spotify, or at [awaytogarden.com](http://awaytogarden.com).



### About the Host

Margaret Roach has been writing about gardening for more than 30 years. She was garden editor at “Newsday” newspaper (one of the country’s largest dailies) and then for Martha Stewart, where she was the first garden editor of “Living” magazine and later EVP/Editorial Director of her magazines, books and internet.

She walked away from a career and “success” to explore personal creativity again. The book she wrote about dropping out, [“And I Shall Have Some Peace There.”](#) was published in February 2011; her next, a garden memoir and handbook called [“The Backyard Parables.”](#) in January 2013.

Since April 2020, she has also written the “In the Garden” column for The New York Times.

# Education

**Don't forget to Log Your Ed Hours for MCMGA Past 2025**

## Education Programs:

Date:	Topic:	Presenter
1/16/2025	On the Origin of Macomb County's Soils— The Science Behind the Soil in Our Backyards	Jim Selegean
2/20/2025	Beans, the Poor Man's Jewels	Tina Kacanowski
3/20/2025	Trees—Can Mankind Live Without Them	Dan Lepo
4/17/2025	Plant Health Care	Sue Grubba

**Macomb County 2025 EMG Volunteer Banquet**  
**May 7, 2025**  
**MSU—Macomb Extension Office**  
**32996 Dunham Rd, Clinton Township, MI 48036**  
**Assembly Rooms A&B**

This is the annual awards and recognition dinner for Macomb County Extension Master Gardeners. This event will recognize Macomb County Master Gardener of the Year, Unsung Hero, Forsythia, and Green Thumb recipients. A keynote lecture on "My 25 Year Journey: My (Mostly) Love Affair with Native Plants" will be presented by Michelle Serreyn, educational programmer for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at the Outdoor Adventure Center in downtown Detroit.

Volunteers and friends and family of volunteers from Macomb and surrounding Counties are welcome to participate. Volunteers can claim 1 hour of continuing education for attending this event.

We are holding a silent auction with the proceeds being used for consumer horticulture programming in Macomb County. If you have a craft, tickets to a sporting event or cultural institution, or gift card you'd like to donate, please email David Lowenstein.

Bidding for silent auction open 6 - 6:45 p.m. Awards ceremony begins at approximately 6:45 p.m., followed by the lecture.

**Price for in-person attendance: \$25 (includes dinner).**

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

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