

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

August 2026



Contact Information

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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.

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General Information

Follow us on Facebook:

[Macomb County Master Gardener Association](https://www.facebook.com/macombcountymga)

Follow us on Instagram:

[https://www.instagram.com/mcmga2026?
utm_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/mcmga2026?utm_source=qr)

If there is anything you would like to have included in Community News, please send an email to:

macombcountymga@yahoo.com

Letter from the Board

For many of us, we're in the midst of peak gardening season. Hope you're enjoying the fruits of your labor! Attached is a bit of color from Jean's garden: Blue vervain, Michigan lily, Dense blazing star

Lots of exciting things happening the next couple of months! Details in the newsletter.

Our first ever movie showing – The Extraordinary Caterpillar – is happening on [August 5th](#)!

We'll be visiting the Shadbush Nature Center for a presentation and tour on Aug 22d.

Our next meeting is the annual meeting held on [Sep 17th](#).

Start making your list for our annual fundraiser native plant sale held on [Sep 20th](#). As soon as the plant sale is live on our website, we'll be sure to let you know! Grab some friends, have a nice lunch together and then stop by and shop til you drop!



BY-LAWS REVIEW

MCMGA members—it is time to review our by-laws for any changes, they are due to be updated in September 2027. We are looking for a few volunteers to assist in this review starting in the fall. We have plenty of time for this review and plan to go over them a few times over the next year. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary (Pam Horner by phone at 586-610-4461 or by email: pamhorner@wowway.com).

MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

July 8 2026

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

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

Next BOD meeting date – Aug 4th, 6:30 pm;

MSUE report – Lavendar festival is this weekend, the largest event in Macomb County. Not sure if we will have an on-boarding in the fall, only have 4 registered so far and need a minimum of 8 to 10, may move them to the spring. Hoping to restart horicolutural trivia in the winter. David recommended members take the Smart Gardening class and help in outreach projects.

Secretary report – By-law review starting in September, include note in Aug/Sept newsletter and will ask for volunteers at the July meeting.

Treasurers report - Pay pal – Darlene is coordinating with Dave Putt to get that account closed. Darlene presented the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Jean to accept the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Lisa.

Education chair report – Booked speaker for January 2027 – virtual – Shawn McCoshum– written several books, no speaker fee, can do a donation. Lisa is going to get a list of his topics. Would like to have the speaker line up for 2027 done by the end of year. Reaching out to members interested in helping with speakers. The education survey included about 5 topics that people were interested in. Jean suggested that we tap David and his counterparts for presentations.

Grant chair report – will send out a reminder that a presentation is due in Sept for the grant recipients.

Fundraising Committee report – For the Jingle Mingle Lisa came up with a decoration idea to use at the meeting, members can bring in a photo and do modge podge on the top. Lisa and Darlene have donations to use for the raffle basket. Pam V asked how many baskets we should have for the raffle. Suggestion was made to sell poinsettias as a fundraiser. Jean suggested we could do a pre-order the previous month. Pam V will inquire if Hessel's would be interested in participating in a pointsettia sale.

Old Business – Instagram update - Started instagram account today – plan to announce it on Facebook and then include in the newsletter; Budget discussion– want to have a draft ready for Sept meeting, suggested a meeting date of July 20th – 6:30 p.m. to finalize; Extraordinary Caterpillar movie – August 5th -6:00 p.m. start time. Popcorn and water will be provided for a small donation. General admission-a suggested donation for adults for \$5 each, one free child with adult, cash only. Update the newsletter and websites with these details; Pam V is working on the past newsletters review; Moved donation link discussion to October agenda; Darlene will work on document hold period next month.

New Business

- Board tasks – reviewed June and budget planning – completed. On track for this month.
- Aug program already set up;
- SOP review – discuss at the Aug meeting.
- Discussed the Lisianthus award and giving away an online gift card of choice for \$50;
- Need sign up genius for native plant sale volunteers and article for newsletters-Jean will check with Dave on the plant pricing;
- Darlene received a notice to renew the LARA license now. It is due in October. It was decided to go ahead and pay now;
- Darlene will submit remaining MMGA memberships;
- Jean brought up non-MCMGA items in newsletters – a suggestion was made to include a note for non-member events. For Yardeners, it is a project in MSUE, and is in Macomb County, so let's include it. Should we come up with criteria – member news/community news/happenings. Does not have to be master gardener related.

Motion to 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!

AUGUST 2026 FIELD TRIP

Date: August 22nd, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. to noon EST

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

SHADBUSH NATURE CENTER GARDEN TOUR

Join us for a 45 minute presentation of the nature center and it's work, followed by a 15 minute break. After the break we will spend 45-60 minutes touring the habitat restoration project, the Teaching Gardens, and invasive species management projects.

[Register Here](#)

SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

Date: September 17th, 2026

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

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

Annual Meeting & Elections/Grant Recipients Presentations

The September meeting will consist of an Annual Meeting/Elections and presentations from this year's grant recipients to showcase their projects. There will be two vacancies on the board and elections will be held at the September meeting. If you are interested in learning more about officer responsibilities, please visit: [Directors & By Laws](#) and view the Roles & Responsibilities document. Feel free to reach out to the current board members at The Extraordinary Caterpillar on 8/5 or the Shadbush Nature Center Garden Tour on 8/22 to find out more details. You can also send an email to macombcountymga@yahoo.com.

[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: August 5, 2026

The Extraordinary Caterpillar: A Special
Event Screening (see page 7)

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 Presentations

Date: October 15, 2026

Presenter: Karen Burke

Tea Presentation and Workshop

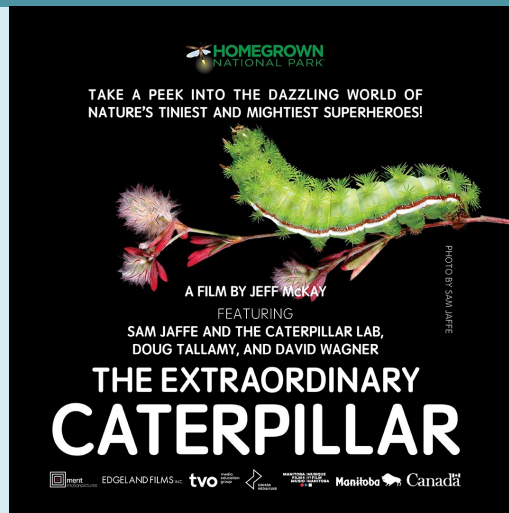
Date: November 19, 2026

Presenter: Lily Smalstig

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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: Doors open at 5:30 pm, Movie showing at 6:00 p.m. (1 hour),
Q&A following movie

TICKET PRICING: Donation \$5 adult (includes one free child)

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](#)

POPPY'S PODCASTS

Getting Dirty in Your Garden, North Carolina State Extension

Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers produce an award-winning syndicated radio show and podcast. Our stories explore gardening in our region, the intersection of horticulture and innovation, and the people who are leading the way.

<https://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/getting-dirty-in-your-garden/>



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

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Saturday, September 19th - 9am to 11am — Yardeners Fall Plant/Seed Exchange -The plant exchange will be held in the parking lot of the St. Clair Shores Library located at the corner of 11 Mile and Jefferson. Load up your vehicles with your extra plants and divisions. Bag, tag and drag your offerings to trade or give away to other gardeners. No money is involved, come with your plants and enjoy our “tailgate garden party”. Please label all of your plants.