

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

September 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 /By-Laws Review	Page 2
Minutes—July Board Meeting	Page 3
Virtual Garden Tour	Page 4
September/October 2026 Meeting Registration	Page 5
MCMGA Meeting Line-Up	Page 6
Poppy's Podcast	Page 7
Fundraising/Community News	Page 8

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

Native Plant Sale Reminder: This is our largest fundraising event of the year and we are at risk of losing it. Our sales have declined over the past several years. Please – share the event information with your family and friends and encourage them to support our sale for their native plant purchases. [September 20](#), 12:00 – 3:00 at Octagon House, Van Dyke, Washington. Pre-orders are open! Order on our website now to ensure you receive what you want. You may also cash and carry with the species that will be on hand that day. We hope to see you there! The Octagon House will be open for tours on the day of our Native Plant sale, so plan extra time to visit them. Their hours are from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and cost \$7.00.

September 2026

It's that special time of year – MCMGA Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election! We hope you can join us on [September 17th](#), 6:30 pm for our Annual Meeting.

We have 2 board openings that members may run for. Pam H. and Darlene are at the end of their 2-year term. Per our by-laws, both of them are eligible to run again for another 2-year term – which both are running. If you are a member and would also like to throw your hat into the ring for one of the openings, please email us at MacombCountyMGA@Yahoo.com to nominate yourself.

Look for the updated SOP. We discussed this at great length at our April quarterly membership meeting. We were waiting on information regarding the duration we are required to hold onto records. Per our By-laws, we are required to share the updates with you at the Annual Meeting. You will receive the updated SOP ahead of time so you will have ample time to review it. There will be a Q&A period during the Annual Meeting for any questions to be asked.

Our proposed budget for 2027 will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

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

Aug 4, 2026

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

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

Next BOD meeting date – Sep 1st, 6:30 pm;

MSUE report – no report.

Secretary report – By-law review starting in September. Sent the Aug newsletter out to members.

Treasurers report - Darlene provided a copy of the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Jean to accept the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Pam.

Education chair report – Sent out a draft 2027 speaker list. Will coordinate with David L to look for contacts. Working on getting volunteers to work on the education committee. Working on a sign-up genius for volunteers working at the native plant sale in September.

Grant chair report – Pam V sent out a reminder about the presentations at the Sept meeting.

Fundraising Committee report – nothing new. Pam is donating a garden kneeler to raffle at the December function. Lisa said there should be plenty of time to make an ornament and have the presentation. Logo wear update – Pam V went over the Custom Ink pricing and Jean went over the Armada Printing pricing. It was decided to hold the clothing update in October and finalize the vendor over the next month.

Old Business –

Website – blog page – deferred to Sept meeting

Budget discussion – Jean will send a summary

Movie – cold water and popcorn available for sale, doors open at 5:30 p.m. Jean will confirm with Darlene to see if Carolyn was bringing a laptop.

Past newsletters – need update from Pam V at next meeting

How long to hold onto documents – Darlene provided a copy of MMGA's record retention guidance. Pam H can check how many past minutes we have. The document can be included in the SOP or in the by-laws review. Jean will add to the resource web page for board members.

Plant sale – Jean will prepare some handouts for the movie on Wed night; Pam V was going to hang up some flyers in the vicinity and local TV channels ads.

New Business – Casual Days – Board of Commissioners; Apply in the fall and they select in December; Jean signed up to get the announcements. Need to submit a letter on letterhead, include the 501(c) letter, a solicitation license from the State.

Lisa suggested adding the Poinsettia sale to the fundraiser section.

Zelle option – they charge only 50 cents per transaction, should we consider this for the plant sale. Discuss with Darlene.

Need to discuss Lisianthus award – Darlene suggested a member for the award which was agreed by all board members. The award will be presented at the annual meeting.

Discussion

Jean reviewed the task chart, and most items were completed.

Lisa suggested sending a reminder email about the third week of August that elections are being held at the Sept meeting, order form and sign up as a volunteer for the plant sale.

Send out an update of the SOP with the Sept newsletter, as well as the MMGA document retention.

Motion to adjourn at 7:49 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!

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](#)

OCTOBER 2026 MEETING

Date: October 15th, 2026

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

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

Tea Presentation and Workshop

What do you want me to do with this cup of tea? Do you always drink your tea? Do you always make your tea with the standard tea bag? Come and make some "NEW TEA" for a different and fun way to use tea! There will be a short presentation then you will make 10 tea bags to take home and be creative. Cost to make tea bags \$5.

[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: 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

POPPY'S PODCASTS

September: Garden Variety, Iowa State University Extension

The podcast is a partnership between Iowa Public Radio and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. In each episode you hear from horticulturists, foresters, entomologists, and other experts. Gardeners in Iowa and across the Midwest can learn about vegetable gardens, lawns, native plants, trees, and more. Garden Variety is the podcast for all the things you'd like to grow or grow better.

[https://
yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/
article/2022/05/new-gardening-
podcast-now-available](https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/article/2022/05/new-gardening-podcast-now-available)



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.