

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

June 2026



Contact Information

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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

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

MSUE recently held a Foundations of Gardening (FOG) Class. Several attendees are now Macomb County MSU EMG Trainees. We welcome them to Macomb County Master Gardener Association!

While June finds many gardeners knee deep in gardening, your Board will be researching Money Trees! Ok, not quite – but we ARE starting our annual budget review to ensure that we're continuing to be fiscally responsible. Be sure to attend the September Quarterly Membership Meeting when we report back to you – our members.

Bring your tools to our June monthly education event and we'll be learning how to clean, sharpen and maintain our tools. This event is always a hit – I know it helps me to gain confidence to actually maintain my tools. Be sure to sign up - looking forward to seeing you all there!

Upcoming events to watch for:

- June Education opportunity, tool sharpening & cleaning: June 18
- July Quarterly Meeting: July 16
- The Extraordinary Caterpillar Movie: Aug 5
- Field Trip to Shadbush: Aug 22
- Sept Annual Meeting/Grant Review: Sept 17
- Native Plant Sale: Sept 20
- Oct Education opportunity, Tea presentation and workshop: Oct 15
- Nov Education opportunity, Fish & Wildlife topic, Nov 19
- Jingle Mingle—Dec 2

Logo wear sales – coming soon!

MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

May 5, 2026

Attendees: Lisa, Darlene, Jean, Pam H.

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

Next BOD meeting date – June 2nd, 6:30 pm; June 15th, 6:30 p.m. – special budget meeting.

MSUE report – David was absent but provided the following information: There is a Healthy habits and pollinator conference in June in Flint. There is an onboarding class on May 20th, with 20 members, about half are from Macomb County. MCMGA will be present to advertise membership and benefits. Ornamental grasses lecture is on June 30th. There will be a Lavender festival call out for volunteers. MSU extension is also participating in the St. Clair Shores Farmer's Market – might do a volunteer call out for that as well.

Secretary report – submitted roster to Michigan State Extension with 66 members.

Treasurers report - April treasurer report was reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Lisa to approve the April treasurer report, it was seconded by Jean, and the motion carried. Audit was completed last month. Discussion was held on whether we should keep the Pay Pal account for Macomb County Master Gardeners with our P.O. Box. Darlene will discuss with Dave Putt. Darlene requested an invoice for the May speaker.

Education chair report - Emails were sent to the members that signed up for the membership committee. Caterpillar movie flyer and native plant flyer will be posted soon. Dave has a conflict for the native plant sale, is looking for assistance of about 6 volunteers to work that day. Dave will handle the pre-sale, we need to figure out what that involves. There was a suggestion to invite Dave to the June board meeting to discuss the native plant sale since he won't be able to be at the sale.

Grant chair report – Form update for 2027 – tabled for June meeting.

Fundraising Committee report –

Caterpillar movie update, Darlene wanted to know which license to purchase. It was recommended to purchase the 31 to 60 attendees. The cost is \$110. Then we can upgrade if necessary. Handouts from the vendor and any other pertinent handouts can be made available.

Update on Apparel fund raiser – survey completed, plan to pick the top 3 items and working with several suppliers to get the best pricing.

Old Business –

Instagram update – Still working on instagram account set-up.

Jingle/Mingle – Lisa is still working on whether to do a make and take or not; want to reach out to do a simple demo. Lisa will prepare some mock-ups and show them to the board members.

Caterpillar Movie Update- discussed above

New Business

Length of time to store records? Tabled to June meeting

Oakland Count MG Assoc

Joint BOD mtg this fall by zoom to discuss how things are done in each group and how to work together, examples done by Oakland County MGA: Rummage sale @ Telly's/Bus trips

Bylaw review - Last one final Sept 2024. Needs to be done by Sept 2027. Jean inquired when this should be started. Pam H suggested we start in Sept 2026 to develop a committee.

In the process of updating the historical records from newsletters received from a member.

Jean added a FAQ page to the website. Lisa suggested adding the on-boarding summary for MCMGA on the web page as well.

Annual budget discussion – set date for separate meeting, June 15; submit report to members at annual meeting in September; Darlene sent out last year's annual report for the annual budget discussion.

Discussion

Review position descriptions - Tabled for June meeting

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 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!

JUNE 2026 MEETING

Date: June 18th, 2026

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

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

Presenter: Ronald 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](#)

JULY 2026 MEETING

Date: July 16th, 2026

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

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

Presenter: Wayne Pope

Topic: Flower and Garden Photography by Smartphone

Wayne will talk about gardens, essential gear and equipment needed for smartphone photography. He will be going over smartphones for garden work, tripods, lighting, composition and how to remove distractions, angles of photography, technical skills and techniques, and post processing and editing, ethical and practical considerations in public gardens, and protecting plants and habitats while taking pictures.

[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: June 18, 2026

Presenter: Ron Horner

Topic: Tool Sharpening and Cleaning

Date: July 16, 2026

Presenter: Wayne Pope

Flower and Garden Photography by Smartphone

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 Review

Date: October 15, 2026

Presenter: Karen Burke

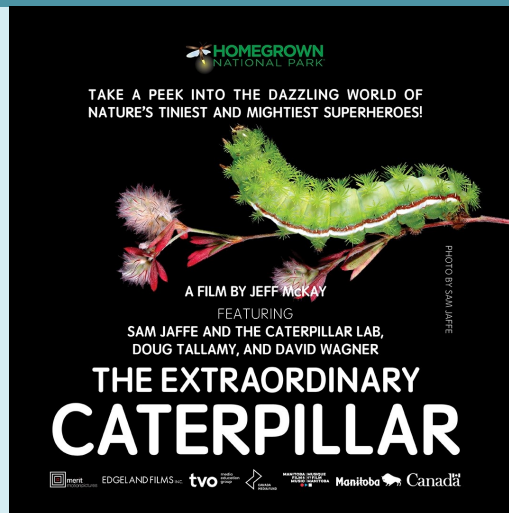
Tea Presentation and Workshop

Date: November 19, 2026

Presenter: Lily Smalstig

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: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

TICKET PRICING: Donation at the event

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](#)



 THE OCTAGON HOUSE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
VOLUNTEER MASTER GARDENERS
“ THE OCTAGARDENERS ”
ARE HAVING A
 PLANT SALE
& GARDEN SHOP
 SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH
10:00AM – 3:00PM

57500 VAN DYKE, WASHINGTON
NORTH OF 26 MILE / EAST SIDE OF VAN DYKE

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS MAINTAINING AND
BEAUTIFYING THE GARDENS SURROUNDING THIS
HISTORIC HOUSE AND MUSEUM**



POPPY'S PODCASTS

WCCO's Smart Gardens, University of Minnesota Extension

Did you know that every state has an Extension? Join us as we check out some other Extensions and hear what they're chatting about!

WCCO listeners' questions on gardening and outdoor living.

<https://www.audacy.com/podcast/wccos-smart-gardens-28766>



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