

Macomb County Master Gardener Association Monthly Newsletter April 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, click on the link below:

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

What an incredible turnout we had for our March education program! Bevin Cohen is an incredible storyteller who enthusiastically shares his knowledge. It's always wonderful to have him back with us.

Some of the most important nectar sources for our early native bees are blooming – things like maples and willows. Before we know it our ephemerals will be up as well – bloodroot, spring beauty, trout lily. What's blooming in your garden?

Be sure to join us on [April 16th](#) for our Quarterly Membership Meeting. We'll be announcing Grant Awards and discussing some changes to our SOP - Standard Operating Procedures with you.

Our educational component will be Ed Blondin's "Monastic Gardens: Begged Borrowed and Stolen".

MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mar 3, 2026

Attendees: Pam Horner, Darlene Davies-Warner, Jean Persely, Pam Voss, and Lisa Lane.

Jean called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

Next BOD meeting date – April 7th; 6:30 pm

MSUE report – no report.

Secretary report – no report

Treasurers report - February treasurer report was reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Pam V. to approve the February treasurer report, it was seconded by Lisa, and the motion carried.

Education chair report – leave evaluation forms in the meeting room

Grant chair report – no report.

Old Business

- there was a discussion about highlighting a committee in the May newsletter. The grants committee was highlighted in the February newsletter. Will come up with a schedule for highlighting committees.
- Status on Signup Genius – looking into getting a signup genius or other similar registration for the MCMGA. Lisa will look into next month.
- Update on Square app – had it available at the meeting but have not used it yet.
- Fundraising – working on the December Jingle Mingle; will contact current members that volunteer for the committee and come up with other ideas.
- SOP – discussion on if we should include a Memoriam Section. The SOP with the current additions will be reviewed at the next board meeting, with the goal of presenting it to the members at the next quarterly meeting.

New Business

- Instagram – Lisa is going to establish an instagram account for MCMGA
- Emeritus status – Darlene inquired if emeritus status is a dues paying member. By-laws state that all members pay dues unless a waiver is requested.
- New stickers – they were out for the members at the February meeting and they seemed to go over well. They come on one sheet and need to be cut for passing out to members at the registration table.
- Monthly task list – the board needs to review the BOD Annual Tasks Breakdown chart at the monthly meetings to ensure last month’s tasks are completed and next month’s are on our radar screen and being planned for.

Adjourn 8:25 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!

APRIL 2026 MEETING

Date: April 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: Ed Blondin

Topic: Monastic Gardens, Begged Borrowed and Stolen!

Much of the western gardening tradition starts here 900 years before the black plague and owes its aesthetic to Ancient Persia. Throw aside all of your preconceived notions of the dark ages and explore a period of time that is steeped in eroticism, sensuality and strict religious dogma of which influenced the European agriculture economies.

[Register Here](#)

MAY 2026 MEETING

Date: May 21st, 2026

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

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

Presenter: Jennifer Ott

Topic: Weeds: The Wicked, Wild and Wonderful

Join Jen for an in-depth look at the world of weeds! Learn the secrets behind these persistent plants, effective strategies to eliminate them from your garden, professional tips to prevent their return, and discover which beneficial weeds are worth planting. Perfect for anyone looking to manage weeds in a sustainable, informed way.

[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: April 16, 2026

Presenter: Ed Blondin

Topic: Monastic Gardens Begged Borrowed
And Stolen

Date: May 21, 2026

Presenter: Jennifer Ott

Topic: Weeds: The Wicked, Wild and Wonderful

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



 **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

Keeping It Green, Penn State Extension Green Industry Team

Our landscapes have many functions; they add beauty to our surroundings, provide a place to recreate, reduce stress, and clean and cool the surrounding environment. They also provide pollen and nectar for pollinators and provide habitat for birds. Keeping It Green is a weekly podcast in which Penn State extension educators talk with ornamental plant professionals and enthusiasts who add beauty and function to our landscapes. Topics will range from design, installation and maintenance, plant selection, pests, and other current horticulture topics.

<https://extension.psu.edu/keeping-it-green>

Bonus: Member podcast suggestion

"One gardening podcast I love is **Seeds & Weeds by Bevin Cohen of Small House Farm**. Typically just a half hour or less, Bevin packs a lot of info into each podcast in a short amount of time. I'm pinching my pepper plants this year and using tomato cages to keep them upright because I heard it from Bevin."

<https://seedsandweedspodcast.com/>



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

\$3.2 Million in Economic Value to the State of Michigan

Celebrating each of you along with our fellow MSU EMG's around the state! Collectively, we have an INCREDIBLE impact on the state of Michigan!

PS – Be sure to enter all your hours and include the miles you've driven as well.

"You can learn a lot of things from the flowers." - Alice in Wonderland.

Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) are making a real difference in their communities year after year (take it from our flowers). <http://spr.ly/6186B6lBgp>

See the original post here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1HCUM1QoAj/>



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](https://www.kroger.com/rewards)

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