

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter December 2025



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://Upcoming%20Meetings%20(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

Letter from the Board

Phew, I managed to get all my plants in the ground – I sure hope you did too!

Your Board of Directors (BOD) has been hard at work discussing and planning for the continued success of our organization. I'm so thankful for the dedicated BOD group who spent 2 hours discussing various aspects of our organization at our November monthly BOD meeting!

Be sure to join us at our January 15th Quarterly Membership Meeting for more discussion and updates. We'll be learning how to take care of our gardening tools – grab your hand tools and join us!

Wishing you and your family a joyous holiday season. Stay warm, see you in the New Year!

Jean Persely, President

MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

11/13/2025

Attendees: Pam Horner, Darlene Davies-Warner, Jean Persely, Pam Voss, and Lisa Lane. Jean called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve by Darlene, and seconded by Lisa, motion carried.

MSUE updates – David was absent, but sent an email with the following updates: A new EMG coordinator was hired and will be in training for the next two months. The spring recognition event is tentatively scheduled for May 6, 2026 – speaker: Carolyn Miller of the MSU Arboretum will discuss her work with invasive species. The event will include a free dessert reception.

Treasurer's Report: October treasurer report was reviewed by the board. A motion was made to write off the \$10 missing payment from the plant sale, seconded, and the motion passed. A motion was made to approve the October treasurer report, was seconded, and the motion carried.

Education Chair Report: Ed programs are booked thru May and working to confirm remainder of year. Discussion held about rotating days of week (Tues, Weds, Thurs) to make programs available for more people with fixed schedules.

Grant Chair Report: 2025 Grant review – all reporting has been finalized and receipts turned in. Discussion held regarding grant amount and quantity. Tabled for further discussion at December meeting. Jean suggested grant application include payee name and mailing address and consider an electronic report vice poster board. Discussion held, all in agreement. Pam V will update documents to reflect changes.

Old Business: Electronic payment (Darlene) – Darlene provided a summary of various options for credit card payments including Zelle, Square, Clover GO, and Venmo along with the associated fees. Darlene recommended going with Square– it is free, cost is \$10 for one credit card reader, plus processing fees (2.6%, and \$0.15 per transaction). Everyone agreed, Darlene will set it up through MCMGA. The credit card processing fee will be paid by the member for each transaction.

General Discussion – There was a general discussion on the following: 1. Updating the website to include: past board members, listing of podcasts, past Lisianthus awardees; 2. Updating membership form to include speaker/topic suggestions and interest to host a garden walk; 3. Meeting schedule rotation; 4. Potential to schedule winter meetings on-line starting in 2027; 5. Pursue price estimate for two website candidates; 6. Update mission statement on website and SOP; 7. Update roles and responsibilities per meeting discussions.

Adjourn at 8:49 pm

Next meeting date: Zoom meeting - December 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Recurring meetings 1st Tuesday of each month.

Submitted by Pam Horner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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?>

MCMGA Hoodie for Sale \$15

- New, never worn
- Large, unisex, hoodie
- Please contact Ruthann at:

rabajorek@aol.com



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!

Webmaster Inquiry

The MCMGA is looking to obtain pricing for managing our website.

This would include doing monthly updates, posting monthly newsletters, updating the meeting notices monthly, and other website related actions.

If anyone has any contacts, can you provide them to Pam Horner, Secretary at:

pamhorner@wowway.com

Volunteer Hours

Upcoming workdays with Lake St. Clair CISMA for anyone that wants to get a jump on next year's hours. These are for in and around Macomb County:

- 1/13/26: Fort Gratiot County Park, 1-3pm with St Clair County Parks
- 1/20/26: Woodsong County Park, 1-3pm with St Clair County Parks
- 2/3/26: Columbus County Park, 1-3pm with St Clair County Parks

Education—Log Your Ed Hours for MCMGA Past 2025

Education Programs:

Date	Title	Presenter	Hours
1/16/2025	On the Origin of Macomb County's Soil-the Science Behind the Soil in our Backyards	Jim Selegean	1
2/20/2025	Beans, the Poor Man's Jewels	Tina Kacanowski	1
3/20/2025	Trees-Can Mankind Live Without Them	Dan Lepo	1.5
4/17/2025	Plant Health Care	Sue Grubba	1
5/29/2025	Fungi of Michigan	Lorenzo Lo Piccolo	1
6/12/2025	Weeds or Wildflowers	Kirsten Lyons	1
7/17/2025	Go Beyond Beauty for Wildlife, Clean Waters and Beautiful Gardens	Brooke Hiller	1.25
8/21/2025	Ford House Native Plant Garden Tour	Kevin Drotos	1
9/18/2025	Gardening Exercises	Shawn Hubbard	1
10/16/2025	Persian Gardens: Bringing Paradise Home	Ed Blondin	1.5
11/20/2025	Tall Grass Prairie Plantings in the Home Garden	Cheryl English	1

JANUARY 2025 MEETING

Date: January 15th 2026

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

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

Presenter: Ron 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.

Meeting registration link will be available in the January newsletter.

RECAP OF NOVEMBER MEETING

TOPIC: Tall Grass Prairie Garden at Home

SPEAKER: Cheryl English



Our education event in November was a must see as Cheryl English was our presenter. Cheryl explained to us the many benefits of Tall Grass Prairie. These plants have an amazing root system which when established do well in drought among other things and provide much habitat. Cheryl also brought along some of her pottery inspired by nature as well. Thank you Cheryl English for your wonderful presentation—we always learn so much from you!

See our Facebook page for some of the slides, and photos from the evening, along with some suggested resources:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17XSr47Y2G/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

POPPY'S PODCASTS

WINTER BIRDS

Are you ready for winter birds? What about the Winter Finch Forecast? We just may see some of the boreal birds arriving in our yards. I've had red-breasted nuthatches since October. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see redpolls, pine siskins, evening grosbeaks and more? Check out this podcast from Wild Birds Unlimited with Matt Young from the Finch Research Network as they talk all about the Winter Finch Forecast.

<https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-irrv5-19c0978>

Be sure to check out the WBU podcast for a variety of bird, wildlife and nature topics. <https://www.wbu.com/podcast/>



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 Jean.Persely@outlook.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](http://KrogerCommunityRewards.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