

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

September 2025



Contact Information

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Macomb County MGA
P.O. Box 380463
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Board of Directors

Ellen Collins—President
Sara Grix—Vice President
Linda Simpson—Director at Large
Pam Horner—Secretary
Darlene Davies-Warner —Treasurer

Upcoming MCMGA Education

To register for events, click on the link below:
[Upcoming Meetings \(macombcountymga.org\)](http://Upcoming Meetings (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

Valued members,

Our largest fundraising activity, the Native Plant Sale, is September 14. Please help us spread the word. Presale orders end on September 7. Details can be found on page 4.

At the September 18th Quarterly meeting, members will be voting to fill 3 open positions on the board. To date, no one has commit to run, therefore nominations will be accepted at the meeting. We strongly urge you to consider stepping forward to share your talents, your positive outlook, and your desire to keep this organization whole and moving forward.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to assign another member to vote for you, please download the proxy form on our website, fill it out and sign in the appropriate spots. You may mail the form to our P. O. Box by 9/11/25 or have your designated voter bring it to the meeting and present it to the secretary.

[Proxy Link](#)

Also this year's grant recipients will be displaying how their projects benefited from the funds.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Your MCMGA Board

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

8/21/2025

Attendees: Ellen Collins, Sara Grix, Pam Horner, Darlene Davies-Warner, Linda Simpson.

Ellen called the meeting to order at 2:37 pm

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

MSUE updates – onboarding support needed for 9/10; Ellen is planning on attending.

Treasurer's Report: July treasurer report was reviewed by the board. Pam made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Linda seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Corporate report due to State of Michigan October 1st – can file on-line.

Programs Update: One person suggested a topic on growing mushrooms (Six Rivers) – waiting to hear back. 2026 – only one speaker is booked. Darlene suggested Linda doing a seed presentation. Jean had suggested the Michigan Butterfly network and Erin Parker from Metroparks Nature Centers. Pam will ask Jim Selegan if he has any ideas to present for next year.

Old Business: Donation to Ford House – Darlene proposed \$150, Linda seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Sara will get the details for submitting the donation to Ford House and send to Darlene.

Sept speaker cost is \$125. Sara will send speaker info to Darlene so she can have a check prepared. Grant receipt – Linda received one package already and 3 others are forthcoming and Linda will send out a reminder to them to be ready to set up their display and give a short presentation.

New Business:

A couple members were asking about the upcoming elections. Ellen will contact them about if they want to be on a ballot. Need to include an announcement in the September newsletter about the upcoming elections and options for voting, including providing a proxy. Proxy mail-in deadline is 9/11/25.

Lisianthus award – The Lisianthus award will be presented at the September meeting. The award is given once a quarter.

Sept meeting – need blank ballot for the meeting.

Displays will be set up at the meeting of current year grant recipients.
Ellen asked the board to review the SOP and see if any updates needs to be made.

Adjourn at 3:28 pm

Next board meeting is Sep 9 @ 7:30 pm
Submitted by Pam Horner

MCMGA FALL 2025 NATIVE PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER

Our annual MCMGA plant sale is on Sunday, September 14, 2025, see details in the flyer below. On-line pre-orders are on-going and end September 7. There will be a great selection of plants on the day of the sale. For more details on plants available for sale and pre-ordering, see the link below:

NATIVE PLANT SALE



FALL 2025
NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sunday
Sept 14, 2025
12 Noon - 3:00 pm

The Octagon House
57500 Van Dyke Rd
Washington Twp, MI

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
THE MACOMB COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION

plants grown and provided by:
 East Michigan
Native Plants
Durand, MI LLC

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?>

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!

Flora and Fauna Survey Tomlinson Arboretum

Steve Thomas, the senior ecologist and consultant for the native wildflower prairie in the Tomlinson Arboretum, will be holding a flora and fauna survey on Saturday, September 6, at 2 pm. The general public is invited along with friends, family and Master Gardeners.

You are invited to meet near the West entrance to the Tomlinson Arboretum in front of the ITC sign by the native wildflower prairie. Parking is available along 18 Mile Road near the ITC sign.

Steve Thomas will be explaining the value of native plants in our ecosystem and the necessary connections they have with other native insects, birds, and other fauna. If you have any questions, contact Loretta Macklem @ 586-610-3007.

MCMGA Meeting Registration

Gardening: It Can Be a Growing Pain

September 18, 2025

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.*

Presenter: Shawn Hubbard

Physical Therapist

Learn about functional exercises and body mechanics to prevent injury and decrease pain. Also we will conduct our board member elections and our 2025 grant awardees will present a summary of their grant projects.

[Register Here](#)

*A Macomb County Master Gardener's meeting/elections will be held immediately following the presentation, approximately at 7:30 p.m.

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Persian Gardens: Bringing Paradise Home

October 16, 2025

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Presenter: Ed Blondin

Owner—Hortulus Gardens & Landscape

Long before Islam took hold in this region, the Persian Empire dominated the Western world. Their legacies range from Aqueduct and drip irrigation to a staggering number of plants we all assume as 'our own'. Insightful and thought-provoking, this lecture illustrates how the Persian Empire aesthetic influenced our modern American back yard!

[Register Here](#)

SAVE THE DATE-MCMGA 2025 LINE UP

Date: September 18th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Shawn Hubbard

Topic: Gardening Exercises

Date: October 16th 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm EST

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

Presenter: Ed Blondin, Master Gardener

Owner—Hortulus Gardens & Landscape

Topic: Persian Gardens

Date: November 20th 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm EST

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

Presenter: Cheryl English

Topic: Tall Grass Prairie Planting

NO DECEMBER MEETING

Education—Log Your Ed Hours for MCMGA Past 2025

Education Programs:

Date:	Topic:	Presenter	Hours
1/16/2025	On the Origin of Macomb County's Soils— The Science Behind the Soil in Our Backyards	Jim Selegian	1.0
2/20/2025	Beans, the Poor Man's Jewels	Tina Kacanowski	1.0
3/20/2025	Trees—Can Mankind Live Without Them	Dan Lepo	1.5
4/17/2025	Plant Health Care	Sue Grubba	1.0
5/29/2025	Fungi of Michigan	Lorenzo Lo Piccolo	1.0
6/12/2025	Weeds or Wildflowers	Kirsten Lyons	1.0
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	1.0

Dig In Series 2025

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Date: September 9th 2025

Presenter: Becca Krans

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator

Topic: Smart Ways to Bring Native Plants into
Your Landscape

Date: October 14th 2025

Presenter: Julie Crick

MSU Extension Natural Resources Educator

Topic: Guiding Neighborhood Trees through
Climate Change

Date: November 11th 2025

Presenter: Lindsey Kerr & Colleagues

MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educators

Topics: Garden Gifts, Tools and Books

NO DECEMBER MEETING

Cost: FREE! All certified EMGs and Trainees must register one time and have access to the entire series. Please do not share the recording links with non-registrants and/or non-EMGs.

Education Hours—Each session will count as 1 EMG Continuing hour.

[Event Registration for 2025 DIG IN!! Extension Master Gardeners | ANR Events Management System \(msu.edu\)](#)

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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

FUNDRAISING

