

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

June 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

It's been another crazy Michigan spring! Are we that surprised? And all the gear needed to endure this weather - from winter coats & gloves, to t-shirts, hats & sunscreen to rain jackets, sweatshirts & boots, we are prepared for all! Let's hope June brings more consistently sunny days and warmer temperatures.

Most of us have started working on our projects - tidying up, weeding, trimming, excited to fill a new space. No time like the present to try something new. Enjoy the company of your gardening friends while being surrounded by the sights, sounds and smells of nature.

REMINDER: There will be 3 openings on the MCMGA board this fall. Serving as an officer is a great way to gain a deeper insight into our organization. If you're curious about what's involved, please ask any of the board members about their experiences and learn how each officer contributes our mission to educate and serve the community. It's a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

Dig in!

Your MCMGA Board

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul." ~ Alfred Austin

MCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

5/14/2025

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

Ellen called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve by Linda, seconded by Darlene, all in favor, motion carried.

MSUE updates – next week class on ornamental grasses - 40 students signed up. Another class on plant diseases, June 4th, still have openings. Meet and greet June 18th at demo gardens. Grant program info was sent out. Next onboarding in September, date TBD. David shared the links to both classes. David will be our support at the 5/29/25 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: April Treasurer Report was reviewed by the board. Motion to approve the April Treasurer's report by Linda, seconded by Sara, all in favor, motion carried. Our current paid membership to MMGA is 75 members.

Programs Update: Bevin Cohen is booked for Mar 19th 2026. He is going to talk about the history of tomatoes and how to take care of your plants. The fee is \$350. Sara also sent email to a contact about tools, still waiting for a response. Ed Blondin – Ellen will see if he can do February 2026, Part II. Emailing folks interested in education to look for additional contacts. Darlene will have a check ready for the May speaker (\$150).

Old Business: None.

New Business: This meeting counts for May and June.

- June 1st, Octagon House plant sale from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Any special set up for the June speaker – she needs a laptop (no fee for June speaker). For the May speaker, the speaker asked MCMGA to make copies of handouts for him.
- Dave Putt mentioned the Ford House tour at the banquet. Sara said that Dave should do a limit on the number of attendees on the Sign Up Genius for members only, keep it below 25. No guests allowed on the Ford House tour.

Adjourn – 5:56 p.m.

Next board meeting: Wednesday, July 9th at 1:30 pm via Zoom.

MSUE 2024 EMG Volunteer Recognition Banquet

2024 Volunteer Recognition Banquet

Thanks to all of the members who attended the Macomb County Master Gardener 2024 Volunteer Recognition Banquet on May 7. It was a delightful evening! The buffet dinner was delicious, the speaker Michelle Serreyn was passionate about gardening with native plants, and the items/baskets offered for silent auction were beautiful. David, Kelley-Jo, Nikki, Shannon, Meghan, Carolyn and Lisa did an outstanding job organizing the event!

The following MCMGA members were acknowledged for their exceptional volunteer efforts in 2024:

- *Master Gardener of the Year Award* - Ellen Collins
- *Forsythia Award* - Darlene Davies-Warner
- *Unsung Hero Award* - Ginny Crooks

New Emeritus Members: Vicki Jastrzebski, David Newlin, Regina Newlin, Tom Podsiadlik

Achieving Basic Certification: Catherine Belkowski, Darlene Davies-Warner, Justine Smith, David Vogtmann, Jameyanne Walch

Achieving Advanced Certification: Katie Baker, Darlene Davies-Warner, Heather Klein, Jennifer Rizzo, Debbie Togger, David Vogtmann

5000 Hours Award: Karen Burke

Congratulations to you all - you deserve the accolades!!

Photos of the event are on the following page.

MSUE 2024 EMG Volunteer Recognition Banquet



Master Gardener of the Year 2024

Ellen Collins



Forsythia Award 2024

Darlene Davies-Warner



Achieving Advanced Certification:
Darlene Davies-Warner, Heather Klein,
Kelly Jo Choate



Usung Hero Award 2024

Ginny Crooks



New Emeritus Members: David Newlin,
Tom Podsiadlik, Vicki Jastrzebski



Achieving Basic Certification:
Shannon Behnke, Jameyanne Walch,
Becky Verhulst

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?v=ErgQKj6aydw>

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!

Lisianthus Award

Advanced Master Gardener Jean Persely has been selected to receive the Lisianthus award by the Macomb County Master Gardener Association. The lisianthus flower is a symbol for appreciation, gratitude and admiration, and the award is bestowed quarterly upon an outstanding member.

2025 Macomb County Outstanding Volunteer

Congratulations to Stephanie Bahorski for receiving the Macomb County Outstanding Volunteer Award for District 5. This award, organized by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, pays tribute to those who have generously contributed their time and energy to make a lasting, positive impact on their community. Through their inspirational endeavors and invaluable services these volunteers promote unity and resilience among the residents of Macomb County. Well done, Stephanie!

Octagon House Plant Sale

Sunday, June 1st, 2025—10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
58230 Van Dyke
Washington, MI

Join the fun for this annual fundraiser which includes both ornamental plants and native plants.

[Events for June 2025 – Loren Andrus Octagon House](#)

Regina High School Garden Club Needs New Leader!

Are you passionate about gardening and eager to inspire the next generation of plant lovers? Regina High School in Warren, MI is looking for a dedicated volunteer to take over their Garden Club and provide basic greenhouse management. This is a great opportunity to make an impact and keep the program thriving. For more details, please contact Stephanie Bahorski at: stephaniegbahorski@gmail.com or at 586-822-5072. Thank you!

Yardeners Native Plant Sale

Friday, June 6th, 2025—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Yardeners of St. Clair Shores are hosting East Michigan Native Plants for the day to provide the opportunity to purchase native plants. No pre sales. Plan to come by and shop at the native plant mobile nursery. You can check out the plants that may be available at www.eastmichnatives.com. The sale will be held at the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum behind the St. Clair Shores Library parking lot at 11 Mile Rd and Jefferson.

SAVE THE DATE-MCMGA 2025 LINE UP

Date: June 12th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Kirsten Lyons
Invasive Species Specialist

St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission
Topic: Weeds or Wildflowers

Date: August 21st 2025

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

Location: Edsel and Eleanor Ford House
1100 Lake Shore Rd, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI
Presenter: Kevin Drotos, Edsel and Eleanor Ford
House, Landscape and Natural Areas Manager

Topic: Ford House Garden Walking Tour
MCMGA members only

Date: July 17th 2025

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

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

Presenter: Brook Hiller
Friends of the St. Clair River
Topic: Go Beyond Beauty for Wildlife,
Clean Waters and Beautiful Gardens

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 - 8:00 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 - 8:00 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

MCMGA Meeting Registration

Weeds or Wildflowers? Yes!

June 12, 2025

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kirsten Lyons

Park Naturalist - Invasive Species Specialist

St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission

Class Description: What makes a plant a weed? What's a wildflower? How do we know which ones to pull and which to protect? What soil stories do plants tell? Can we eat the weeds we're pulling out? Learn how restoration gardeners, ecologists, volunteers, and land managers use conservation terms and concepts to study nature, prioritize field work, avoid burnout, and have fun! This interactive presentation will help you and your plants this growing season. A question and answer session will be held at the end.

[Register Here](#)

Go Beyond Beauty for Wildlife, Clean Waters and Beautiful Gardens

July 17, 2025

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Presenter: Brooke Hiller

Friends of the St. Clair River

Class Description: This presentation gives an overview of the Go Beyond Beauty program, highlights the top invasive ornamental plants in Michigan, offers resources for removal and replacement, and advises individuals on how to get involved with the program. Go Beyond Beauty was developed to recognize gardening professionals who have committed to not selling or using high priority invasive ornamental plants, and recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations who also make this pledge. Go Beyond Beauty educates professionals and the public on the importance of using native plants in landscaping projects and offers ideas for native plant alternatives in place of traditional ornamental plants that have found their way into our natural areas and are compromising the health of our ecosystem.

[Register Here](#)

Education Opportunities



Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Date: June 10, 2025

Time: 6 p.m.—7 p.m. EST

**Topic: Cultivating Connection: Refugee Stories and
The Transformative Power of Gardening**

**Presenter: Phimmasone Owens
University of Michigan, Founder of
Refugee Garden Initiatives**

**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 \(msu.edu\)](#)

Dig In Series 2025

Location: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free (with pre-registration)

Time: 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Date: June 10th 2025

Presenter: Phimmasone Owens, University of Michigan, Founder of Refugee Garden Initiatives
Topic: Cultivating Connection: Refugee Stories and The Transformative Power of Gardening

Date: September 9th 2025

Presenter: Becca Krans
MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator
Topic: Smart Ways to Bring Native Plants into Your Landscape

Date: July 8th 2025

Presenter: Kelly McClelland, MSU Extension Community Food Systems Educator
Topic: Growing Together: Strategies, Structures, and Impact of Community Gardens

Date: October 14th 2025

Presenter: Julie Crick
MSU Extension Natural Resources Educator
Topic: Guiding Neighborhood Trees through Climate Change

NO AUGUST MEETING

Date: November 11th 2025

Presenter: Lindsey Kerr & Colleagues
MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educators
Topics: Garden Gifts, Tools and Books

NO DECEMBER MEETING

POPPY'S PODCASTS

Two Minutes in the Garden by Gary Will

Welcome to Empress of Dirt's Two Minutes in the Garden podcast. Get bite-sized informative updates on gardening basics, gardening myths and other subjects of interest to gardeners both new and experienced. This is a straight-forward, science-based podcast. When Gary hears garden, nature, and environmental topics discussed, debated, or questioned, he looks into the research and see what it has to say. It's brief, fun and an intimate series of factual 10-minute episodes.

You can find the podcast on most of your podcast apps or on this website:

Two Minutes in the Garden - Gardening Podcast — Empress of Dirt



Meet the Host

Gary Will, former start-up entrepreneur, pursues the science behind gardening principles. Gary shares his gardening interest with his wife Melissa Will. Melissa, a.k.a. Empress of Dirt, is a self taught, eco-beneficial focused gardener. She created her own website, empressofdirt.net, to document her gardening journey.

Education

Don't forget to Log Your Ed Hours for MCMGA Past 2025

Education Programs:

Date:	Topic:	Presenter
1/16/2025	On the Origin of Macomb County's Soils— The Science Behind the Soil in Our Backyards	Jim Selegean
2/20/2025	Beans, the Poor Man's Jewels	Tina Kacanowski
3/20/2025	Trees—Can Mankind Live Without Them	Dan Lepo
4/17/2025	Plant Health Care	Sue Grubba
5/29/2035	Fungi of Michigan	Lorenzo Lo Piccolo

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