

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Newsletter

July 2026



Contact Information

Email address: macombcountymga@yahoo.com
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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

How is everyone's harvest going? I had some beautiful leaf lettuce in a pot. Until one morning when I went out and it had been gnawed down to nubs, lol! The green bean seeds I finally started are popping up. My flowers are looking ever so lovely, with the promise of a beautiful season ahead!

As we celebrate the very special occasion of our nation's 250th birthday, the board would like to wish you a happy and safe 4th of July!



Plants in photo - red, white, blue: American bellflower, cardinal flower, whorled milkweed, Virginia mountain mint.

MCMGA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Macomb County Master Gardener Association

June 2, 2026

Darlene, Jean, Pam H., Pam V

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

Next BOD meeting date – July 7th, 6:30 pm; June 4th, 6:30 p.m. – meet with Dave Putt, plant sale info; June 15th – 6:30 p.m. budget meeting.

MSUE report – David was absent but provided the following information: Twenty new trainees were onboarded, 13 from Macomb County. One more meet and greet scheduled for June 9 in the evening at Urban Seed.

Secretary report – By-law review starting in September, include note in July newsletter and will ask for volunteers at the July meeting.

Treasurers report - May treasurer report was reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Pam H to approve the May treasurer report, it was seconded by Jean, and the motion carried. Pay pal – Darlene discussed the account with Dave Putt, and they saw no reason to keep it-was only used for the plant sale one time.

Education chair report – coordinated with members interested in working on the education committee, only 1 person responded, will reach out again.

Grant chair report – Form update for 2027 – Pam V will work on updates for next year, add to November agenda.

Fundraising Committee report – Jingle Mingle; make and take – Lisa is working on samples for the make and take, baskets and donations. Have received two donations from vendors (Telly's \$25, English Gardens \$100); each committee member asked to request additional donations. Might need funds for wrapping, might need a small budget. Darlene offered to donate a garden basket.

Old Business – Instagram update – pending; Budget discussion – June 15, 2026, discuss fees and electronic fees being paid by charge; membership renewal fees, and other charges. Update historical information on website – Pam V still working on (grants, Lisianthus, and historical board updates). Add donation link to website – might take some time to get to this task (Jean). Added FOG onboarding doc added to website. How long to hold onto documents – Pam V didn't know what resource to use, Darlene offered to look into.

New Business - Board tasks – reviewed June; on track with June tasks; July quarterly meeting will be quick/ Aug education and other tasks prior to Sept meeting. Email distribution – email came in from a member that she isn't receiving newsletters and another email about posting gardening information . Pam H will check email and respond to two emails.

Discussion - Reviewed position descriptions; some crossover; how's everyone feeling – everyone felt comfortable with their assigned tasks. The only change is that Pam H will start emailing newsletters to members.

Motion to adjourn at 7:53 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!

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](#)

AUGUST 2026 MEETING

Date: July 16th, 2026

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

Location: Shadbush Nature Center Garden
Tour

4101 River Bends Dr., Shelby Township

Registration link provided next month

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: July 16, 2026

Presenter: Wayne Pope
Flower and Garden Photography by Smartphone

Date: August 5, 2026

The Extraordinary Caterpillar: A Special
Event Screening (see page 7)

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 Presentations

Date: October 15, 2026

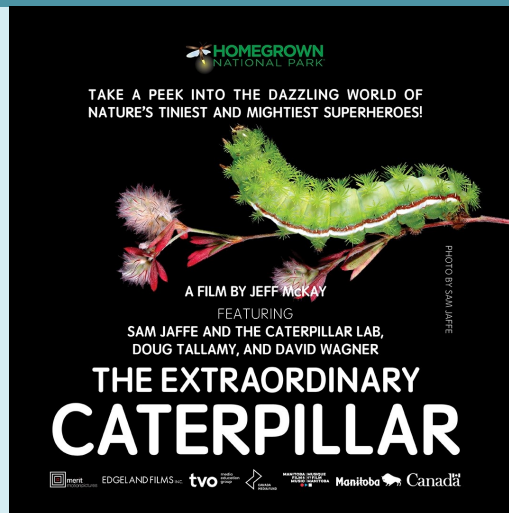
Presenter: Karen Burke
Tea Presentation and Workshop

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](#)

POPPY'S PODCASTS

Granite State Gardening Podcast: A Podcast that will grow on you, University of New Hampshire

Granite State Gardening is a University of New Hampshire podcast for gardeners, landowners and homesteaders in New Hampshire and Northern New England. Hosts Emma Erler and Nate Bernitz share proven tips and solutions for your garden and landscape, giving inspiration and research-based knowhow to cultivate confidence and success wherever and whatever you're growing. Biweekly episodes feature plant recommendations, pest control advice and answers to listener questions.

<https://extension.unh.edu/agriculture-gardens/yard-garden/granite-state-gardening-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:

macombcountymga@yahoo.com

YARDENERS 2026 SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 1st - 9am to 3pm — Yardeners 33rd Annual Garden Tour

Registration, ticket sales and map distribution start at 9:00 am on the grounds of the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum located behind the St. Clair Shores Library at the corner of 11 Mile and Jefferson. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, children 12 and under are free. Tickets are only available on the day of the tour. You will view some of the loveliest yards in St. Clair Shores and get gardening ideas for your gardens from the homeowners. Yardeners and Master Gardeners will also be available to answer questions. Take a few moments to tour the Museum gardens, and visit our vendors. This is a self-guided driving tour with some walking.

Saturday, September 19th - 9am to 11am — Yardeners Fall Plant/Seed Exchange

The plant exchange will be held in the parking lot of the St. Clair Shores Library located at the corner of 11 Mile and Jefferson. Load up your vehicles with your extra plants and divisions. Bag, tag and drag your offerings to trade or give away to other gardeners. No money is involved, come with your plants and enjoy our “tailgate garden party”. Please label all of your plants.

Monday, October 12th - 7pm — “Becoming a Beekeeper” - Presentation by Karen Burke

We are happy to present this much anticipated program! Karen will share what is involved, in time and cost, for successful beekeeping. She will also give us tips on what education and muscle is needed for rewarding honey production. She is the proprietor of honeyhollowapiaries.com and has been a supporter of our annual garden tour. You may have purchased some honey and honey related products from her.

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