



## NEWSLETTER - MARCH / APRIL

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

As I sit here writing this letter, the sun is shining and the temperature is near 50. On Wednesday, there is going to be 4 to 6 inches of snow. Go figure, I am just tired of winter.

The Rummage Sale is fast approaching. Please gather up your slightly used items or items you no longer need and bring them down to the sale. I hope the weather cooperates and we have plenty of goods to sell.

Hang in there, soon we will be getting our hands dirty and have sore backs in the garden. It's just around the corner.

Happy Gardening,

Ron Gotowicki  
Co-President

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### Treasurer's Report March 2014

The Treasurer's report is read at every LCMGA and Display Garden Meeting and reviewed by LCMGA Board; each of them receive a hard copy monthly. The hard copy is available at every meeting for your review and questions.

The 990N for 2013 was e-filed and accepted by the IRS this week.

Reimbursement sheets can be found on the website: [lc-mga.org](http://lc-mga.org)

LCMGA dues are still \$10 and due in January; the application was included in the last newsletter and also available on [lc-mga.org](http://lc-mga.org)

Judy Niergarth  
Mary Paine  
Treasurer

## FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on February 26 at the Mayfield Township Hall. 54 members attended along with 4 Horticulture Society guests.

Co-President Ron Gotowicki opened the meeting and Linda Ladoski gave the secretary report. The minutes were published in the December newsletter and approved.

Speaker and author Janet Macunovich gave a very interesting talk and presented a slide show "Year 'Round Landscapes and Gardens". There is a 1½-hour education credit for attending this meeting.

The group enjoyed a break and snacks. Sign-up sheets for volunteers for Bigelow's Plant Sale, Rummage Sale, E. MI State Fair, and Art in the Garden were passed around. Sign-up sheets for the Tea will be available in April.

Pam Frampton spoke about the Bigelow's Plant Sale, a 5-year (so far) Association fundraiser. Perennials and new this year, Herbs will cost \$1.25. There will be 192 selections, 75 new colors or varieties, and orders need to be turned in by Mar. 20. Please call or email Pam, Marylynn Darr, or Judy Niergarth for more information or order forms. Planting dates are Mar. 26, 27, 28, transplant dates are Apr. 17, 23. Sorting orders will be May 22, and the sale/pick-up is May 24. Volunteers are needed. Invite family, friends and neighbors to purchase plants.

Mary Paine reported the E. Mich. State Fair project is in need of a chairman. The dates for the Fair are Jul. 29 – Aug. 2, and volunteers are needed for the Exhibits, Silent Auction, Horticulture Education, Butterfly Tent, Japanese Garden, Updated Earth Tunnel, Hugelkulture, Michigan Mitten, and Fairy Garden Contest.

Sandy Peterson spoke about the Rummage Sale on May 3 (Farmers Market Opening). All clean household items and books are needed – no clothes. Set-up is 7:00 AM, bring items early or contact Mary Ann McDonald to drop off items beforehand. All tables must have a name on them. The Art in the Garden project will depend on getting vendors, artists, crafters, educational activities and volunteer help for the day.

Carl Kern reported the Recycling is up and running and garden plastic is still being collected. The Lapeer Conservation District is now holding their annual Spring Tree Sale. For a brochure or information, online [www.lapeercd.org](http://www.lapeercd.org) or call 810-664-0895 Ext.5.

Carol Skiba spoke about the 11<sup>th</sup> Tea "Say it with Words" Sunday July 13. Rose has tickets and the cost will remain at \$15.00. Volunteers and Door Prizes are greatly needed for the 238 patrons. Re-gifting Hand Cream, Books, Crafts, Quilts, etc, for door prizes is fine. The first Tea meeting, planning and fine-tuning will be held on Tues. Mar. 25, 6:00 PM in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room at Suncrest. Sign-up sheets will be available for volunteers at the April meeting. Georgia needs new faces to help with the tea.

The Sheriffs Garden project is undecided at this time.  
Rose Gotowicki won \$57.00 in the 50/50 drawing.

The next Association meeting will be held Wednesday, April 2, 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Twp. Hall.

Linda Ladoski  
Secretary

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing by mail or email before the deadline on May 7, 2014 to: Linda Ladoski: [tladoski@greatlakes.net](mailto:tladoski@greatlakes.net)

### MARCH

#### Newsletter

- 3/19 5:30 PM - E. MI State Fair Meeting  
Suncrest / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Activities Room
- 3/19 6:30 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Activities Room
- 3/20 Bigelow's Plant Sale  
Order Deadline
- 3/25 6:00 PM - Garden Tea Meeting  
Suncrest / 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Room
- 3/26 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale  
Planting / Bring Lunch
- 3/27 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale  
Planting / Bring Lunch
- 3/28 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale  
Planting / Bring Lunch

### APRIL

- 4/2 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Mayfield Twp. Hall / Bring Snacks
- 4/16 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 4/16 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest / Activities Room
- 4/17 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale  
Transplanting / Bring Lunch
- 4/19 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display  
Garden / Group Workday
- 4/23 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale  
Transplanting / Bring Lunch

### MAY

#### Newsletter

- 5/3 7:00 AM - Assoc. Rummage Sale  
Farmer's Market / Downtown Lapeer
- 5/21 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 5/21 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest Pavilion
- 5/22 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale  
Sorting Orders / Bring Lunch
- 5/24 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Bigelow's Plant  
Sale / Orders MUST be picked up

### JUNE

- 6/4 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Pizza & Plant Exchange / Pavilion
- 6/18 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 6/18 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest Pavilion

### JULY

#### Newsletter

- 7/11 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Tea Prep  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/12 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Tea Prep  
Clean / Decorate / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/13 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM - "Tea"  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/29 - 8/2 Eastern Michigan State Fair  
Inlay City Fairgrounds

### AUGUST

- 8/6 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Mayfield Twp. Hall / Bring Snacks
- 8/20 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 8/20 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

### SEPTEMBER

#### Newsletter

- TBD Art In The Garden (no date yet)
- 9/17 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/17 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

### OCTOBER

- 10/1 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Mayfield Twp. Hall / Bring Snacks
- 10/15 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 10/15 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 10/25 10:00AM - 2:00PM - Display Garden  
Group Workday / Fall Clean-up

### NOVEMBER

#### Newsletter

- 11/1 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden  
Group Workday / Final Fall Clean-up
- 11/19 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest / Activities Room

### DECEMBER

- 12/5 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Recognition - Awards / Dinner  
Christmas Party / Gift Exchange

## LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

### WEBSITES:

Lapeer County Master Gardener Association: [www.lc-mga.org](http://www.lc-mga.org)  
Display Garden: [www.displaygardenonsuncrest.org](http://www.displaygardenonsuncrest.org)  
MAIL ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 543 Lapeer, MI 48446

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Co-President: Georgia Ellis  
Co-President: Ron Gotowicki  
Vice President: Ken Mitchell  
Treasurer: Pam Frampton  
Secretary: Linda Ladoski  
Director: Mary Paine  
Director: Ron Klocek  
Director: Jane Schade  
VMS Ambassador: Mary Paine

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Alzheimer's Garden: Mary Lou LaFond  
Display Garden on Suncrest: Mary Paine  
E. Michigan State Fair:  
Membership: Sandy Peterson  
N. Branch Jr-Hi. Butterfly Garden:  
Otter Lake Gardens: Rhonda Laur  
Seven Ponds Butterfly Garden:  
Sheriff's Food Pantry Garden:

### PROJECT CHAIRMEN:

Archives: Rose Gotowicki  
Bigelow's Plant Sale: Pam Frampton  
Display Garden Tea: Carol Skiba  
Display Garden Tour: Mary Paine, Jackie Delisi  
Garden Plastic Recycling: Jane Schade, Carl Kern  
Newsletter: Linda Ladoski  
Project Red: Carol Billig  
Raffles (50/50): Rick Talaski  
Rummage Sale: Mary Ann McDonald, Sandy Peterson

## Eastern Michigan State Fair

Please plan on supporting the Fair again this year: We will have sign-up sheets at the April and June meetings to staff the building. It is a great opportunity to visit the Fairgrounds. You will get a pass for the day(s) you volunteer but it does not include rides. You can still visit all the other exhibits and activities.

The Fair exhibits are a great opportunity to demonstrate our mission " **to instruct adults and youth in horticulture science, to educate communities about environmentally sound practices thru horticulture-based activities, to promote food security, and to improve the aesthetics of the community.**"

So far we have tentatively planned to repeat the Butterfly house with different educational info; demonstrate a Japanese Garden, repeat the hugelkulture with more detail/photos and add keyhole gardens to that area; perhaps add potatoes in burlap bag, upside down tomatoes (we need help here); repeat the MITT with public gardens, provide more MG information table, silent auction?, and free used garden magazines/books. We want to return the earth tunnel, it needs an update and maybe lights inside???

We need a couple more exhibits and many more helpers. Of course, it is a great opportunity for volunteer hours. The first Fair Meeting will be March 19, 2014, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM, Suncrest, in the 2nd floor Activities Room.

Mary Paine / Ken Mitchell

## Display Garden on Suncrest - March 2014

It's almost spring-somewhere, not my yard though. I was at the Garden Sunday to get a measurement. The sidewalk was clear from the parking lot, and the snow "looked" not so deep. I walked toward the Water Garden and promptly sunk into snow over my boots. Made for interesting walking, by leaning forward I kept my balance and measured the Herb Garden and obelisks. There is not much showing above the snow except under the big blue spruce where the mulch is exposed.

So the next **Display Garden Meeting March 19** will not include the workday and will not be in the Pavilion. We will meet at **Suncrest in the 2nd floor Activities room that is located adjacent to the North elevator at 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM.**

If anyone is interested in ordering annuals from Votec again I need to know so bring your lists. Their price is competitive, the quality is great and the plants are available early, usually prior to Memorial Day.

Take a look at your bed and if you need perennials, please save some money and order from Bigelow's; if you have plants that need to be split (there are many) - let's make a list for sharing/or make available for the Plant Exchange or the Silent Auction at the Fair.

I am so anxious to get out and garden and very tired of moving snow around. (4-5 inches again today.) See you at next week's meeting.

Mary Paine  
Display Garden Committee Chairman

## **VMS Update - 2014 RE-CERTIFICATION NEWS**

The 2014 re-certification process is closed as of March 7th.

2014 re-certification cards are being prepared by MSUE and should be mailed to you in within 30 days. If during re-certification, you ordered a Master Gardener manual, this will be shipped to you some time in March. You should receive an email when a shipment date is confirmed.

### **DEC. 31, 2014 IS THE DEADLINE FOR ENTERING YOUR 2014 HOURS!!**

Annual hours required for certified Master Gardeners are 15 volunteer hours and 5 education hours. If you were short in reporting hours for 2013, you must also complete and enter into the VMS all of your lapsed 2013 hours by the end of the year.

To enter your volunteer and education hours, you may enter as much detail as you prefer or to simplify the process, you may enter one entry for all "like kinds" of hours. For example, if you work in the Grand Ideas Garden each week, you may enter the hours for each week or simply wait until the end of the work season, and enter one entry with the total hours.

Questions: Contact Diane Brady at: [bradydi1@msu.edu](mailto:bradydi1@msu.edu).

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

Lapeer Conservation District Tree Sale - Volunteers are needed for the tree pick up dates: April 24 - Noon - 5:00 PM, April 25 - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM, April 26 - 9:00 AM - Noon.  
Please contact Mary Brown at 810-664-0895 ext. 5 to volunteer. To request a catalog, go online to: [www.lapeercd.org](http://www.lapeercd.org)

### **Education Opportunity**

Lapeer County Tornado / Skywarn Training Class - April 17, 2014 - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM.  
National Weather Service Detroit / Pontiac presents: "Lapeer County Tornado / Skywarn Training Class" at Lapeer East High School, 933 S. Saginaw St. Lapeer, MI 48446.  
Please pre-register at: [www.LapeerSkywarn.org](http://www.LapeerSkywarn.org) or call Mary Piorunek at 810-667-0242. For more information on being a spotter, click on: [www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/skywarn.php](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/skywarn.php)

### **Education Seminars**

March 22, 2014 – St. Clair County Master Gardeners present "Practical Knowledge For The Avid Gardener, a Symposium" in Clyde, MI. Contact Sandy Billings: [sanderan51@yahoo.com](mailto:sanderan51@yahoo.com)  
810-367-3399

March 29, 2014 – Huron County Master Gardeners present "12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Into Gardening Conference and Yard & Garden Expo" in Bad Axe, MI. Contact Marie: [www.holtropc@gmail.com](mailto:www.holtropc@gmail.com)  
989-859-1294

April 21, 2014 – 2014 Bee Symposium - 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Regional Technology Center-MTEC, Mott Community College, 1401 E. Court St. Flint, MI. RSVP to: [mkenedy15@charter.net](mailto:mkenedy15@charter.net)  
810-275-8822

April 26, 2014 – Oakland County Master Gardeners present "Gardening And All That Jazz", an educational Gardening Conference. Register: [www.mgsoc.org](http://www.mgsoc.org) 248-770-0524

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014 - 6:30 PM**

**MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP HALL  
1900 N. SAGINAW  
LAPEER, MI 48446**

**\*\* SPEAKER: RUTH VRBENSKY \*\*  
\* BUSINESS MEETING \*  
\* BYO-CUP AND SNACKS \***

**(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)**