



NEWSLETTER MARCH / APRIL 2017

“No winter lasts forever, No spring skips its turn.” ~ Hal Borland

Spring Greetings Everyone:

We have had a strange winter so far this year. A mild spring like weather, hopefully not warm enough to open the buds on my fruit trees. I did a lot of spring-cleaning in February, raking pine needles and cones, pruning the fruit trees, and planning where to put new plants. There is no ice on my pond, for the second time this winter, a turtle and two frogs came up for air. I love seeing a mild winter but with a high more around 30 is preferable.

A Master Gardener Class is now planned for the fall. Yea! Start putting the word out for new recruits. I am excited for the many new things our group is involved in this year to list a few, the Master Gardener class, Adopt-A-Highway, Garden Tour and Fairy Garden contest.

There will be a lot of work to do this year and I hope the people in our Association will be up to the task.

Ken Mitchell
President

Treasurer's report March 2017

The Treasurer Report is available at every LCMGA meeting and Display Garden meeting and is reviewed at every Board meeting; each Board member receives a hard copy monthly. There is a hard copy available at every meeting for your review or questions. If you have questions you can always email or call me at home.

Mary Paine
Treasurer

Volunteer Management System - VMS Changes

As you begin entering your completed hours in 2017, please pay special attention to your project selections, which should align with the focus of your volunteer activity or education topic. If in doubt of what project to select, **please** contact your VMS Ambassador.

As stated previously, project changes have been made in order to provide detailed information for program reporting. The more accurate and detailed you are with reporting your hours and contacts, the more accurate information there will be at year end for reporting the community impact to program funders.

If you need assistance with logging into the [VMS](#) or re-certifying, please contact your VMS Ambassador Mary Paine.

Mary Paine justoveredge@charter.net

2017 Master Gardener Class

The 2017 Master Gardener Class has been scheduled for the 5-County Thumb area District 10 - Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola and Huron Counties.

The 14-week class will start on Thursday, August 24, 2017 and end on December 7, 2017, held on Thursday evenings (except Thanksgiving) from 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM. The class will be held in the Heritage Church Building, 543 N. Cedar St. in Imlay City at M-21 and M-53.

The cost for the class will remain at \$300.00 and registration will be available online by April. Tuition assistance is available, paid after completion of 40 hours of volunteer time.

The coordinator, hired by MSU Extension, is Advanced Master Gardener Jackie Delisi. This is a part-time position reporting to Joe Bixler, and paid for by MSU grants and the Associations. Mary Wilson and Joe Bixler will take care of her training and Mary Paine will assist with the VMS.

Volunteers from all of the counties will be needed to support the classes; we will need to schedule the volunteers so all counties are participating if they want to.

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to take the class.

Mary Paine
VMS Ambassador

February Meeting

The February meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall. President Ken Mitchell opened the meeting with 40 members present.

Mary Paine presented a metal sign award to Carl and Maurene Kern.

Linda Ladoski gave the Secretary report. The minutes of the December meeting were published in the last newsletter with no corrections or additions.

Members Jackie Delisi and Sue Corder gave a very interesting and informative talk about herbs. There is a **1-hour education credit** for attending this meeting.

After a snack break, Ken reported on the [MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program](#). There is a 2-year commitment for a 2-mile distance on M-24 between Miller Lake Rd. and Burnside Rd. Cleanup is held 3 times a year, April 15-23, July 15-23, and September 23-Oct. 1. MDOT will supply the vests, trash bags and the Association name on signs for community exposure. The project was approved by a show of hands and Georgia Ellis volunteered to be Chairman.

Mary Paine gave the Treasurer report and spoke about a tentative MG class that may be held in Imlay City. 30 people are needed to sign up and the 14 classes would be held in the evening from 5:00 - 9:00 PM starting in August. The 2017 Budget was discussed; the North Branch Jr. High Butterfly Garden project has been dropped. A motion was made to approve the budget and seconded by Judy Niergarth. The budget was approved. Mary also spoke about putting a labyrinth in the 3rd courtyard at Suncrest, if her grant is approved.

Carol Skiba reported on the 14th Tea "Uncommonly Simple" on July 9. Raffle items are needed, lotions, creams, body wash, notepaper, dish towels, etc. Drop them off to Carol or leave them in the Garden shed marked for the Tea. Call Rose right away for tickets. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will be available at the April meeting. The first Tea meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 6:00 PM at the Suncrest 1st floor meeting room.

The Garden Tour will be held on July 22nd with 5 gardens participating and a Fairy Garden contest at the Display Garden. Marylynn Darr volunteered to be Chairman.

Pam Frampton spoke about Bigelow's Plant Sale. The plant list should be emailed about Mar. 6. Mail orders to Mary Paine must be received by Mar. 16. Walt Meyer will handle the online orders (meyerwalt007@gmail.com) and are due by Mar. 22. The 1st transplant will be on Tues. Apr. 4 at 9:00 AM and Wed. Apr. 5 if needed. The 2nd transplant will be on Thurs. Apr. 27 at 9:00 AM. Sorting orders will be Thurs. May 25 at 9:00 AM and the Plant Sale will be held on Sat. May 27 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon. A sign-up sheet was passed around and volunteers should bring a chair, lunch and beverage. The sale is open to all Master Gardeners, friends, relatives and neighbors.

Mary Ann McDonald reported on the Rummage Sale to be held on Sat. May 6, starting at 7:00 AM. Tables and clean items are needed. Drop off items or call Mary Ann for storage. Volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down. Remaining items are donated to Seven Ponds for their sale.

Georgia announced that Ron Gotowicki was awarded “Knight of the Year” at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

The \$50.00 gift card was won by Deborah Mitchell.

Linda Ladoski, Secretary

Bigelow’s Plant Sale

The [Bigelow’s](#) Plant Sale will be held this spring on Saturday, May 27 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon. Plants are available to all Master Gardeners, friends, family and neighbors. Last year there were 2,720 plants sold with a profit of \$1,378.00 to the Association. Bigelow’s supplies the plants, pots, soil, fertilizer and water. Volunteers are needed for transplanting, sorting orders and on the day of the sale.

This year there will be many new varieties of plants and perennials in plugs. The price will be \$1.30 for plants, and plugs will be slightly higher. The Association earns 53 cents on each plant sold. Walt Meyer will be in charge of online order forms and can be contacted at:

meyerwalt007@gmail.com **Online orders are due by March 22.**

Mary Paine will take care of the hard copy orders, which will be available at the MSU Extension office. Mail orders are due on **March 16**, and should be mailed to Mary.

Work dates are scheduled for: 1st transplant on April 4 and 5, 2nd transplant on April 27, sort orders on May 25, and the plant sale on May 27. The sale will be held from 9:00 AM until noon. Many extra plants will be available on the day of the sale. Workdays will start at 9:00 AM, but volunteers can come anytime and bring a lunch, beverage and a chair.

Don’t forget to bring your own containers or trays to pick up your orders. If you are unable to pick up orders on the day of the sale, or if you need more information, please contact Pam Frampton.

Pam Frampton
Judy Niergarth
Chairmen

2017 MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR

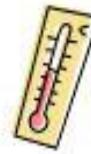
Now available by clicking: [CALENDAR](#)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2017**

Must call (810) 667 – 0341 before registration deadline : Friday, April 14, 2017

Spring Clean Sweep Pesticide & Household Hazardous Waste Collection In the Lapeer Area

for all Lapeer County Residents
Saturday, April 29, 2017



It's time to clean out your garage, basement, barn, or shed and call **Lapeer County MSU Extension** to register.

-  You **MUST** pre-register for an appointment to participate.
-  **NO** materials will be accepted without an appointment.
-  **NO** materials will be accepted at the Lapeer County MSU Extension office.

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 14, 2017 Call (810) 667-0341

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: Farm & household chemicals that are toxic (poisonous), flammable, caustic (causes burns), corrosive, or chemically reactive...

- * All pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, fumigants)
- * Mercury
- * Antifreeze
- * Drain cleaners
- * Pool chemicals
- * Turpentine/shellac
- * Oil based paint & thinners only
- * Household batteries
- * Fluorescent tubes



Non-Acceptable Items:

- Latex or enamel paint
- Smoke detectors
- Ammunition/explosives
- Prescription medications
- Appliances
- Rustoleum
- Car batteries
- Biohazards (syringes)
- Tires
- Motor oil
- Gasoline

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Adopt-a-Highway Program

Hello Everyone,

These past few weeks have been very strange, spring - summer - spring - winter again!
I hope our gardens will be okay and we will have fruit from the confused trees.

The Adopt-a-Highway clean up will be Monday, April 17, 2017 at 10:00 AM. We will meet at Bryan's Supermarket, 6002 N. Lapeer Rd. (M-24), North Branch, try to car-pool please. Bernadette and I will contact everyone who volunteered, during the first week of April. We will let you know what you will need before we begin. There is Safety Guidelines training information on the [MDOT website](#).

Please click for: [Safety Brochure](#) or **required viewing:** [Safety Guidelines video](#)

If anyone else is interested in volunteering, please contact Georgia or Bernadette.

Thank you,
Georgia, Adopt-a-Highway Chairman

Lapeer Herb Circle

The Lapeer Herb Circle is gathering at the Peters Mansion, 4707 Water St, Columbiaville, on March 19th from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Topic of discussion will be resources. Please bring pen and paper to take notes.

Jacki Delisi, Vice President

Display Garden Report

Since I'm not sure what season it is from day to day it has been difficult to plan a workday. Although we have a "workday" scheduled for March 15, it seems better to cancel that and stay out of the mud or snow, whichever might happen on that day.

Last time I was at the Garden the fish were swimming, but my pond has a decent layer of ice this week. So we may be able to have a workday in April. Anyway, we will still have the Display Garden meeting Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 PM in the Activities Room, 2nd floor at Suncrest.

Mary Paine, Display Garden Chairman

Newsletter Deadline

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing before the deadline on May 5, 2017 to: Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net

Honeyfest - 2017

Lapeer County will be joining St. Clair, Sanilac, and Genesee County Master Gardeners in volunteering time, plants, and craft materials for the [Michigan Honey Festival](#) on August 5 from 9:00-5:00 at the Harvey Kern Pavilion in Frankenmuth. It is a beautiful location with a large convention space, plenty of parking, food vendors, and nice bathroom facilities. We have been providing pollinator friendly plants for the festival in past years but will be assisting at the Master Gardener tables, the butterfly tent, and pollinator themed craft activities at this festival. Our participation in this event coordinates well with the educational focus that Michigan Master Gardeners have been encouraged to promote.

If you are interested in growing pollinator friendly plants, volunteering for a shift at a display or craft table, or have a good idea for a hands-on activity, please contact Jane Schade. More details will be discussed at the April and June MG meetings.

Jane Schade, Chairman

Volunteer Opportunities

April 17 - 22, 2017

[Lapeer Conservation District](#) Spring Tree Sale - Pre-Pack: Mon.-Wed. Apr. 17-19, Sale dates: Thurs.- Sat. Apr. 20-22. [Call Bernadette Hayes for scheduling](#). Mary Brown: 810-664-0895 X 5

Educational Opportunities

March 18, 2017

Master Gardeners of St. Clair County Seminar - [“The Educated Naturalist”](#) – Landmark Academy, 4800 Lapeer Rd. Kimball Twp., MI 48074 Saturday 8:45 - 4:30 PM. Cost: \$90.00
Contact: Sandy Billings sanderan51@yahoo.com 810-367-3399

March 30, 2017

Evenings in the Garden - Winter 2017 Series [“Gardening With Children”](#) – MSU Tollgate Farm & Education Center, Novi, MI 48377. Thursday, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.
Contact: S. K. Rosina Newton newtons@msu.edu 248-347-0269 ext. 229

April 20, 2017

Lapeer County Skywarn Training - Presented by: [National Weather Service](#) – Pix Theater 172 W. Nepessing St. Lapeer 48446. Thursday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. No registration required.
Click for [Skywarn Class Flyer](#)

June 23 - 24, 2017

[Master Gardener College](#) – University Club Complex, MSU Campus, E. Lansing.
Contact: Betsy Braid: braidbet@anr.msu.edu 517-884-7081

August 24, 2017

Master Gardener Class - 5-County Thumb Area District 10 – [Heritage Church Building](#) 543 N. Cedar St. Imlay City, MI 48444. M-21 & M-53. Thursdays, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM.
Cost: \$300. [On line registration will be available in April](#). Contact: Mary Paine: lc-mga.org

SEVEN PONDS BUTTERFLY GARDEN 2017

Workdays are as follows:

April 12	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
April 19	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
April 26	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 3	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 10	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 17	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 24	Garden Plantings	5:00-7:00 PM

**Group Workday is the second Wednesday
of the month from June through October
5:00-7:00 PM**

You can work in the garden anytime that is convenient for you, but **please** work on a group workday first. Bring your own gardening tools.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday and Sunday

May 13 and 14

9:00 am ~ 4:00 pm

There will be a large selection of woodland and prairie flowers for purchase. There will also be people knowledgeable on native planting to help with questions. If interested in the plant list, contact nature center close to sale dates.

**Seven Ponds Nature Center
3854 Crawford Rd
Dryden, MI 48428
810-796-3200**

www.sevenponds.org

2017 Spring Tree Sale

The Lapeer County Conservation District is now holding their annual Spring Tree Sale. Tree orders will be taken until inventory is depleted. Order online at: www.lapeerccd.org
By mail or in person: 700 S. Main St., Suite 120-C, Lapeer, MI 48446.
For more information or to request a brochure, call (810) 664-0895 ext. 5.

The Sanilac/St.Clair Conservation District is now holding their annual Spring Tree Sale. Tree orders will be taken until inventory is depleted. Order online at: www.sanilaccd.org
By mail or in person: 50 E. Miller Road, Sandusky, MI 48471 or (810) 648-2998 ext. 5
Or: 2830 Wadhams Road, Kimball Twp. MI 48074 or (810) 984-3865 ext. 5.

Tea Thyme in the Garden 2017

“Drink your Tea slowly and reverently, as if it is the axis on which the world earth revolves - slowly, evenly, without rushing into the future.”
~ Thich Nat Hahn

Tea Thyme in the Garden will take place on Sunday, July 9, 2017 at the Display Garden on Suncrest. “Uncommonly Simple” will be the Fourteenth Tea that the Lapeer County Master Gardeners have hosted. The first planning meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

Each contribution a Master Gardener can give to the Tea always makes an impact on the Tea. Our objective, our only objective is the [Display Garden on Suncrest](#); its upkeep and its future.

The following are needed for the 2017 Tea:

- Tea Table Hostesses – One table still available (for 6 patrons).
- Raffle Items – These are a great moneymaker for the Tea, and returning Patrons always look forward to what they can spend their money on. They are so impressed with the Talent of Master Gardeners.
- Door Prize Items – Think re-gifting, not used items please.
- Master Gardeners for Volunteering.

If interested in Tickets call Rose Gotowicki. Call now, not in April or May. Rose has a long list from last year. Sign-up sheets for Tea Workers in the Garden, Kitchen, Food for the Tea, will be available at the Master Gardener Meetings and Display Garden Meetings. If unable to attend a meeting and want to sign up for something, please give me a call.

Carol L. Skiba
Tea Chairman

**** NOTE MEETING TIME CHANGE TO 6:00 PM ****

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017 - 6:00 PM**

WOJO'S GREENHOUSE

2570 OAKWOOD RD.
ORTONVILLE, MI 48462

The April 5th Tour/Meeting will be held at Wojo's Greenhouse, 2570 Oakwood Road in Ortonville at 6:00 PM. Come at 5:30 or earlier, for the opportunity to shop. Enter through the main door at that time! Or if after six, enter thru the employee door on the far right. Sorry no snacks, but an awesome tour.

You can drive South on M-24 to Oakwood Rd, make a right, go about 5 ½ miles, Wojo's is on your left. One-hour education time, for a walk through SPRING!

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)