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Newsletter - November / December 2018

“How beautiful the leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days.”

~ John Burroughs

2018 was a year for changes in the garden; two large Colorado blue spruces have been removed giving more light to a large area of the garden. The labyrinth atrium is almost complete and looks great. The walkway from the south parking lot is done giving people much closer access.

Our garden has a new look that is just as beautiful without the trees. The transition took place, without missing a beat. Thank you Master Gardeners for all you have done to make this happen.

There were a lot of weddings and family reunions held there this summer; I for one, used the conference room off the second atrium for two family get-togethers.

I am looking forward to next year. Change is what makes a garden interesting, without it a garden gets dull. Seasons change and so does the garden.

May you all have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a safe New Year.

Ken Mitchell
President

Treasurer Report November 2018

The Treasurer's 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 may always call me at home (9am- 9pm). Association dues are still \$10.00 and are due in February. If you want a hard copy of the newsletter, the cost is \$6 for the year. The newsletter is also posted on the website (www.lc-mga.org). Dues and hard-copy newsletter fee are waived for Trainees for the first year.

If you have any receipts for Garden or Tea expenses please get them to me soon. You may also turn in Budgets for your garden bed for 2019 and plans if you have them.

It is almost time for the deadline for entering your Master Gardener Volunteer and Education hours (**December 31, 2018**). You must have your hours entered in order to recertify in 2019 and pay your \$20 fee to MSUE; you will receive a reminder from Diane Brady. You know you will also get reminders from me, so save me a phone call and check your hours and see if you have them all in.

Mary Paine, Treasurer

VMS Update

It's that time of year again - time to get your volunteer hours entered into the Master Gardener Volunteer System ([VMS](#)). If you have misplaced your password, let me know and I can help you by changing it to something you select. Everyone received a reminder from Diane Brady, from Master Gardener Program in Lansing, to get your hours entered by December 31st. Yes, I have been on phone with some folks on December 31 about 7 pm. I prefer earlier in the month. **The requirements this year are 20 hours of volunteer time and 10 hours of education.** Diane has also sent an email about additional webinars available for our education credit. The webinars are found on the VMS homepage on the upper right hand side.

Volunteer credit can only be counted for approved projects - we have sent that list out and provided it at meetings. Call me if you have questions. If you want to propose a new approved project we have forms to fill out for that approval.

New Master Gardeners needed this year only to complete their 40 volunteer hours and 70% of the Imlay City Trainees have achieved that. Any education hours for them will count towards Advance Master Gardener Status in the future.

Questions, call me sooner than later, but between 9am and 9pm.

Mary Paine, VMS Ambassador

October Meeting

The October meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall. President Ken Mitchell opened the meeting with 39 members present. There were sign-up sheets for reservations for the December meeting and for decorating volunteers.

Carole Billig thanked everyone who helped at **Project Red** this year. There were over 900 kids attending and over 30 Master Gardeners volunteering at this event.

Georgia Ellis thanked everyone who helped at the **MDOT** cleanups, and the members voted to continue this project for the next 2 years. She announced Amy had her baby.

Carl Kern announced the Horticulture meeting is Oct.15, Recycling starts up Oct. 6 at the Restore from 9-1, and the Hazardous Waste Collection is on Oct. 13.

Jan Bills from Royal Oak ([Two Women and a Hoe](#)) gave a very interesting and informative presentation on garden tips. There is a **1½ hour education credit** for attending this meeting.

Mary Paine gave out awards and reminded the group to get their hours in. Ken asked members if they wish to donate to [LOVE INC](#) for the charity this year. Members also voted to ask Pat Maitland to make deserts, and to keep the gift exchange again this year.

Linda Ladoski, Secretary

* December Meeting * Awards and Recognition Dinner *

The December meeting will be held on **FRIDAY, Dec. 7, 2018, 6:30 PM** at the Mayfield Township Hall. There will be a catered dinner and deserts provided to all active Master Gardeners, Trainees, and optional spouses. Please call Mary Paine ASAP to reserve your seat. There is a refundable \$5.00 reservation fee required so we have a total number of attendees for the caterer. You **MUST** have a reservation to attend this meeting.

Awards will be presented, let Mary know if you wish to nominate someone. Suncrest Administrator Gary Easton will be the speaker for the meeting. Donations of cash or checks will be collected for the chosen charity this year, [LOVE INC](#), an organization that helps the poor and homeless in Lapeer County.

The optional Garden Gift Exchange will be held. If you wish to participate, please bring a \$15.00 wrapped, garden related gift (suitable for a man or a woman) to exchange.

November 2018 Display Garden on Suncrest

Well we did it again - a very beautiful garden in Lapeer for all to visit and enjoy. We seemed to have many more visitors this year and numerous residents along with family since the construction is over. Now, the completed sidewalk guides visitors right into beautiful vistas.

There were several changes this year and many new volunteers helping to maintain the awesome plants. The biggest change of course was removing the two diseased Colorado blue spruces from the Birdhouse Garden. One birdhouse was moved to the Hosta bed; the second is waiting a small repair and a tree selection.

Plants changed there, as that bed is no longer a shade bed. What a difference, the golden hinoki cedars almost doubled, about half the hostas liked the sun; the rest struggled and need new homes. The Prince, black grass, grew over six foot and the Mexican Sunflowers had almost inch and a half stems (looked like Jack's Beanstalk). We improved our irrigation in the north end of the garden and the final paver path was completed to the new parking lot. Entering the garden from the parking lot path provides a whole new view as you stroll around the water garden. Nothing really new planned for next year, YET, but it's only November. If you have a great idea, share it.

Oh, perhaps the biggest change is the completion of Courtyard #3, it is just quietly beautiful. There are no other words. The large rocks, so carefully positioned by Carl, Maurene, Mick and Cathy, the benches and the labyrinth, laid out by [Triple "E" Brick Paving and Landscape](#) - Master Gardener, Eric Hendricks seem just right. The benches recognize Gary Easton Administrator, The Community Foundation, Suncrest Auxiliary and the Master Gardeners. We added a few landscape shrubs for a little color and more texture.

See you in February as we plan another fantastic growing year.

Mary Paine, Chairman Display Garden on Suncrest

Newsletter Deadline:

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing before the deadline on January 6, 2019 to: Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net

Happy Thanksgiving



Annual LCMGA Membership: January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 LC-MGA.org

Contact information below will be listed in the LCMGA membership roster unless you check the box:

- Please do NOT list my contact information in membership roster.
- Please do NOT send e-mail reminders.

Please print clearly: Newsletter is available on lc-mga.org Hard copy is available at \$6 for S/H.

Name _____ MG Class Year _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____ - _____
Home Phone () _____ - _____ Business/Cell () _____
E-mail Address _____

VOLUNTEERING

What are your favorite education/gardening community service projects to volunteer for?

Do you need more volunteer opportunities?

- Yes
- No, I am fully committed, see above.

Please check any project(s) that you would like to work on this year?

- Board Member
- Help with Newsletter
- Table at Farmers Market
- Plant Sale
- Rummage Sale
- Display Garden
- Tea Thyme in the Garden
- Garden Tour
- MDOT Adopt-A-Highway
- Fundraising Committee
- Membership Committee
- Other _____

What are your favorite events, groups or places for continuing education hours?

Please check one of the three annual membership categories below:

- \$0 Life Member – over 55 and 10 years certified
- \$10 Certified Master Gardener – currently certified
- \$10 Associate Master Gardener- certified in the past
- Additional \$6 to receive printed newsletter by first class mail

Please send this form or give to Treasurer with check payable to:
"LCMGA" or "Lapeer County Master Gardener Association"

send to: Lapeer County Master Gardener Association PO Box 543 Lapeer, MI 48446



**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018 - 6:30 PM

**MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP HALL
1900 N. Saginaw
Lapeer, MI 48446**

*** RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ***

*** AWARDS AND RECOGNITION MEETING ***

*** SPEAKER: GARY EASTON ***

*** CATERED DINNER ***

*** CHARITY: [LOVE INC](#) ***

*** OPTIONAL GARDEN GIFT EXCHANGE ***

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)