



NEWSLETTER MARCH / APRIL 2015

Hello!

Hope everyone is thawed out. Please remember to order plants from the Bigelow's Plant Sale; lots of cool plants are available.

When spring hits, we will all be busy again and hopefully enjoying the warmth. Remember to fertilize your spring plantings and established plants for beautiful landscaping.

Have a great month.

Georgia Ellis
Co-President

~ A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory. ~
LLAP Leonard Nimoy

We had our first Fair meeting Feb. 25; it was very productive with many new ideas. Returning exhibits are Fairy Garden Contest, Butterfly House, Michigan Mitt, Info Table, Silent Auction and maybe the Earth Tunnel. The new exhibits in the planning stages are Butterfly Container Garden, Unique Container Garden, Shade Garden and Straw Bale Garden. The Silent Auction will include the return of garden gift baskets and added to that will be homemade items and some plants. Anything you can make or grow will be greatly appreciated.

The Fair is a fun week that Master Gardeners can interact with the public and show their gardening skills. I hope to see more people at the next Fair meeting on April 13, 6:00 PM, Suncrest 1st floor conference room.

Ken Mitchell
Vice-President

[Eastern Michigan State Fair 2015](#) / Fair Dates:

July 25 - 27 Setup

July 28 - August 1 Fair Days

August 2 Fair Tear Down

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Feb. 4, 2015 at the Mayfield Township Hall. Co-President Georgia Ellis called the meeting to order with 38 members present.

Master Gardener Jim Sillers spoke about his trek to the base camp at Mt. Everest. His very interesting and humorous talk included a slide show and some interesting souvenirs. Jim also helped raise \$28,000 for anesthesia for the area. Co-President Ron Gotowicki thanked Jim for speaking, and there is a 1-hour education credit for this meeting.

Snacks were enjoyed, and the business part of the meeting began.

The 2015 budget was discussed; the Display Garden budget is kept separate. The board at their monthly meetings reviews both. Members suggested the yearly budget review in February should include the Display Garden budget. A motion was made by Paulette Johnson and seconded by Marlene Daniels to include the Display Garden budget, and the motion was approved by a show of hands vote.

Having a Master Gardener class this year was discussed. Sandy Peterson said that because of the planned construction at Suncrest this year, Art In The Garden will not be held. All Master Gardener projects need to have proper signs. The members approved the purchase of Quick Books. A motion was made to approve the budget, seconded by Jim Sillers, and approved by a show of hands vote.

Pam Frampton reported on the Bigelow's Plant and Herb Sale. Last year's sale raised \$1,170. Bigelow's Greenhouse provides the seeds, pots, soil, water and fertilizer. The sale is open to all Master Gardeners, families, friends and neighbors. There will be 200 plant selections including 40 herbs and the cost will be the same as last year, \$1.25. The list of plants will be emailed to us by February 23; hard copies will be available at the Extension office. Orders must be turned in by March 15, and are processed in order of date received. The first transplanting dates are March 31, April 1 and 2, starting at 9:00 AM. The second transplanting will be Thursday, April 23 and orders will be sorted on May 28, both at 9:00 AM. The Plant sale will be held on Saturday May 30, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Please bring your own boxes or trays, and there are always flats of extra plants to purchase. A sign-up sheet was available for volunteers, and remember to bring a chair. Call Pam if you need more information.

Vice President Ken Mitchell gave a report on the Eastern Michigan State Fair, which will be held on July 28 through August 1. Set-up help will be needed on Saturday, July 25 and Monday July 27. Clean up and take down will be on Sunday, August 2. Volunteers are needed to work shifts, exhibits, growing plants for displays, container gardens and crafts. The Fairy Garden contest will be held along with the Silent Auction of garden baskets and plants. A sign-up sheet was available for volunteers. Ken is also participating this month in "Walk For Warmth".

Carol Skiba reported on Tea Thyme in the Garden, the 12th annual tea on the 12th day of July. Volunteers will be needed for clean-up, set-up and decorating on July 9, 10, 11. New hostesses are needed this year and sign-up sheets for volunteers will be available in April. The tea is titled "How Does the Garden Glow"; the first meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 PM in the first floor conference room at Suncrest. Door prizes, lotions and creams included, are needed.

Rose Gotowicki spoke and read a thank you card from a tea patron. Call her if you need tickets. They are sold by word of mouth only.

Sandy Peterson reported that the Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 9 in downtown Lapeer at the [Farmer's Market](#) Pavilion. Bring any kitchen, household, workroom and craft items at 7:00 AM, or call Mary Ann McDonald to store items beforehand. **NO CLOTHING**. All items remaining after the sale will be donated to Seven Ponds for their rummage sale. Thank you to the Kern family for helping to clean up every year. A sign-up sheet was available for volunteers.

Sandy and Mary Ann will make lists of volunteers for each committee.

Mary Paine spoke about needing the members to pay their dues so the new roster can be sent out. Out of 90 members, 71 are certified. There are about 2,700 certified Master Gardeners in Michigan. We now have bonded officers and Mary is still working on the Standard Operating Procedure form. Ken Day will be our speaker in June, and Chad Perkins in December. A few more speakers are needed. Background Check forms will be sent in the mail and when returned, kept in a locked file box.

Gina Delisi spoke about a new Herb group forming at Rebekah's in Lapeer.

Linda Ladoski won the 50/50 drawing of \$24, and door prizes were awarded.

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

Lapeer County Master Gardener Treasurer's Report

A printed hard copy of the Treasurer's report is provided to every Board member every month. The debits and credits will be read at all Display Garden and Association meetings. The Treasurer and Board members are available to answer your questions at the meetings or you can call them at home.

In February and March we transferred our financial data from MY Money 2007 to Quicken 2015. Banking is still maintained at Security Credit Union. Reports will be available just as in the past.

Judy Niergarth
Treasurer

Re-certification and VMS (Volunteer Management System MSUE) Update

As you know, the Master Gardener Re-certification closed February 15, 2015. Statewide, 2,900 Master Gardeners are Certified. In Lapeer County, there are 70 Certified Master Gardeners, not all are members of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association. As of March 1, we have 89 association members + or - 4 who I expect will still pay their dues.

In 2014, Lapeer County Master Gardeners entered 5,825 volunteer hours and 761 education hours, understanding that many do not enter all the hours they volunteer. Still a very nice number. In case you wonder, the old system (RKS) information, and the information collected while we were in transition were all included in the VMS totals for December 2014 show 58,409 volunteer hours and 7,234 education hours. Again, not everyone always listed all their hours but in my mind these are pretty impressive numbers!!

If you are having difficulty entering your hours, PLEASE contact me, Diane Brady in Lansing, forwards your issues to me anyway. Also, remember there is no approval process in the VMS and you can group or clump your hours for a project rather than enter every day worked but you do need to save the entries.

The State Association, MMGA, Inc has not provided any member numbers yet but they do have 18 county groups as chapters. Individuals may still join from non-chapter groups, as their registration has not closed yet; you must be certified to join MMGA. Check out their website for more information.

The Search for LOST Master Gardeners;

As you can tell by the data above, we have lost many Master Gardeners; just so you know other counties have lost many, many more, so everyone is looking for ways to "bring them back". In Lansing they are developing criteria for certifying returning Master Gardeners who have been away for more or less than 3

years, maybe taking the final test, however, no answer yet. Also, not everyone is still "upset" with MSUE, many families have struggled financially, with major illness, major family and/or changes, lots of things we don't know about. Volunteering falls to the bottom of the "things to do list".

How about seeking out a missing Master Gardener, invite them to a meeting, we have good snacks, good speakers and fun, and it's almost spring, time to talk about planting things. We also have lots of great projects this year. Even if they decide not to come back it will be nice to see them all. Sooooo, bring a member back and get an MG hat.

Mary Paine

Background Checks

In the past, MSUE has provided background checks for all Master Gardeners across the state. If you forgot, we filled out forms, or if you were in a more recent class, as you applied to take the Master Garden Class. This is necessary because Master Gardeners work with children and vulnerable adults on many of their projects (statewide). Georgia discussed this task at our last meeting. All members whether certified or not need to fill out the forms and return them. You may bring permission form to the April 1, 2015 meeting at the Mayfield Township Hall.

You will be receiving a background check permission form in the mail, please complete and return to the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association, P.O. Box 543, Lapeer MI 48446. The completed information will be stored in a Safety Deposit Box at Security Credit Union. Any questions, contact any Board member.

Master Gardener Association Websites

Just a few words about our very beautiful and up to date websites!! Do you know that we have 2 websites? The Lapeer County Master Gardener Association website www.lc-mga.org is easy to get and contains a plethora of information. (I don't get to use that word very often!) lc-mga is maintained by Carl and Derek Kern and is kept current with educational opportunities and scheduled meetings. Membership forms, reimbursement forms, links for class enrollments and volunteer opportunities are all there. The association mission, officers, speakers at meetings and a quick connecting link to the VMS so you can enter your volunteer hours are easy to get to. You can find our bylaws and a wonderful photo gallery. Take a few minutes and enjoy.

Close by we have the Display Garden site, displaygardenonsuncrest.org. This site has descriptions of all the beds in the garden, most were updated this year and many wonderful photos. There are also photos/slide show from the most recent Tea. Although this site was originally set up by Judy Alderyce, Carl maintains it and keeps the photos updated. Great site if you need a reminder of summer and all the great work we do there.

Happy Planning !

Newsletter Deadline:

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing by mail or email before the deadline on May 8, 2015 to: Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net

MARCH

- 3/10 6:30 PM - Tea Meeting / Suncrest
1st Floor Conference Room
- 3/15 Bigelow's Plant Sale Order Deadline
- 3/18 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 3/18 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 3/31 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale
First Transplant / Bring Lunch & Chair

APRIL

- 4/1 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale
First Transplant / Bring Lunch & Chair
- 4/1 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Mayfield Twp. Hall / Bring Snacks
- 4/2 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale
First Transplant / Bring Lunch & Chair
- 4/13 6:00 PM - E. MI Fair Meeting
Suncrest / 1st Floor Conference Room
- 4/15 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 4/15 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 4/15 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 4/22 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 4/23 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale
Second Transplant / Bring Lunch & Chair
- 4/25 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 4/29 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools

MAY

- Newsletter
- 5/9 7:00 AM - Assoc. Rummage Sale
Farmer's Market / Downtown Lapeer
- 5/13 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 5/20 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 5/20 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 5/20 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 5/27 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 5/28 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale
Sorting Orders / Bring Lunch
- 5/30 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Bigelow's Plant
Sale / Orders MUST be picked up

JUNE

- 6/3 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Pizza & Plant Ex / Suncrest Pavilion
- 6/10 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 6/13 Hosta Society Garden Walk
- 6/17 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools

- 6/17 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

JULY

- Newsletter
- 7/8 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 7/10 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Tea Prep
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/11 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Tea Prep
Clean / Decorate / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/12 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM - "Tea"
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/25 & 7/27 Eastern Michigan State Fair
Set-up Displays / Exhibits
- 7/28 - 8/1 Eastern Michigan State Fair
Imlay City Fairgrounds

AUGUST

- 8/1 Michigan Honey Festival
- 8/2 Eastern Michigan State Fair
Takedown and Clean-up
- 8/5 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 8/12 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 8/19 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 8/19 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

SEPTEMBER

- Newsletter
- 9/9 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/16 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/16 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

OCTOBER

- 10/7 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Seven Ponds / Bring Snacks
- 10/14 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 10/21 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 10/21 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 10/24 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden
Group Workday / Fall Clean-up

NOVEMBER

- Newsletter
- 11/7 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden
Group Workday / Final Fall Clean-up
- 11/18 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Suncrest / Activities Room

DECEMBER

- 12/4 6:30 PM - MG Association
Meeting, Awards/Christmas Party/Gift Exchange

SEVEN PONDS BUTTERFLY GARDEN 2015

3854 Crawford Road
Dryden, MI 48428

Workdays are as follows:

April 15	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
April 22	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
April 29	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 6	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 13	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 20	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 27	Garden Planting	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.

Educational Opportunities

for link to education [click here](#)

St. Clair Co. Spring Symposium 2015
March 21, 2015 - Sat. 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Cornerstone Church
4025 North Rd.
Clyde, MI 48049
810-367-3399

Protect Your Shoreline Workshop
April 24, 2015 - Fri. 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Mid-Michigan Community College
1375 S. Clare Ave.
Harrison, MI 48265
989-539-7805

Huron Co. MG Conference
"Spring Into Gardening Conference"
March 28, 2015 - Sat. 9:00 - 4:00
Knights of Columbus Hall
1038 S. Van Dyke (M-53)
Bad Axe, MI 48413
989-553-2992

Oakland Co. MG Conference
"Gardening and All That Jazz"
April 25, 2015 - Sat. 8:00 AM - 4:15 PM
Oakland Schools Conference Center
2111 Pontiac Lake Rd.
Waterford, MI 48328
248-858-0900

Lapeer Co. Skywarn Class

April 16, 2015 - Thurs. 7:00 PM
Pix Theater
172 Nepessing St.
Lapeer, MI 48446

Campbell's Greenhouses

Class Schedules & Events
4077 Burnside Rd.
North Branch, MI 48461
810-688-3587

Bigelow's Plant Sale

Just a reminder – your Bigelow's perennial plant orders must be in by March 15, 2015, just a few days left to take advantage of these great plants and all the herbs.

An order form is included in this newsletter or you can pick up extra copies at the Extension office! If you need help online or in placing an order, please call Mary Paine.

Spring Tree Sales

The [Lapeer Co. Conservation District](#) and the [Sanilac & St. Clair Co. Conservation Districts](#) are advertising their spring tree, fruit tree, and in Sanilac, some vegetables; Asparagus, Rhubarb and Berries.

Carl has placed a link on our website: www.lc-mga.org for both of those if you are interested!! Or you may call 810-664-0895 x 5 in Lapeer, and 810-984-3001 x 5 in Sanilac/St. Clair to request a catalog. There are also links on the website to the Master Gardener seminars in St.Clair, Oakland and Huron County, each one has 5 education hours, good vendors and lots of great speakers. P.S. The lunches are also really good.

Thanks Carl!
Mary Paine

TEA THYME IN THE GARDEN

Tea Thyme in the Garden will take place on Sunday, July 12, 2015, at the Display Garden on Suncrest.

"It is good to be alone in a garden at dawn or dusk so that all its shy presences may haunt you and possess you in a reverie of suspended thought." ~ James Douglas

The Tea, "**How Does The Garden Glow**", will be the Twelfth Tea the Lapeer County Master Gardeners have hosted. The first planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. 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; it's upkeep and future.

The following are needed for the 2015 Tea:

- Tea Table Hostesses
- 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.
- 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. There is a need for Tea Table Hostesses, if interested there are a few tables available. Please give me a call. Sign-up sheets for Tea Workers in the Garden, Kitchen Volunteers, and Food for the Tea will be available at 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 Skiba
Tea Chairman

Display Garden on Suncrest- March 2015

I was at the Garden last week measuring the perimeter of the pavilion, the snow was about 10-12" and I mostly stayed on the sidewalk when I finally made my way over to it. It's still beautiful but looks lonely with no volunteers, residents, children, birds or bees! I am so anxious to get started putting stuff out and planting the pots and getting the red bike out and getting started on the fire pit.

Our first Display Garden Meeting this year was attended by 19 anxious gardeners. The next meeting is March 18, 6:00 PM in the 2nd floor activities room at Suncrest. We talked about all the things to do, with our continually depleted volunteer group. But it was a very good meeting, sharing ideas and vacation plans of some of our Gardeners.

Big project this year, if you don't count the Suncrest construction that will last perhaps 18 months, is moving the fire pit and getting the Garden ready for the mid-June Hosta Society Garden Walk and then of course the TEA. It's a great opportunity to bring some new folks into the Garden. The relocation of the residents fire-pit will enhance the east side of the Garden and provide more wheel-chair access to the Garden. Although I am attempting a grant for the cost, Suncrest is paying for all the materials and assisting with their equipment.

Many things to consider and an opportunity for some hands-on education. One thing to consider is probably the loss of parking in the gravel but we knew that would end. Another major hurdle will be upgrading the irrigation/electric so the fountains will all run at the same time, if we want them to, even if it rains. Annuals have been ordered from Ed-TEC and also from Bigelow's perennial list. I know it will be another beautiful year and I hope you all come and enjoy it and help as much as you can!!

I am hoping the snow is all melted, or almost all melted by the time you read this!!

In case you forgot, engraved bricks make great gifts, for grandkids in the children's garden and for family, while they can enjoy finding and seeing them (birthdays, anniversaries etc).

See you on the 18th; you know we have a workday scheduled, just in case!

Mary Paine
Chairman Display Garden on Suncrest Committee

Fairy Garden Contest

In conjunction with the Eastern Michigan State Fair we will be having our Fairy Garden Contest again. All people big and small are invited to make their own unique fairy garden. There will be 2 categories: ages 15 and under, and ages 16 and over. Tabletop gardens only - entries may be no larger than 20" x 20". Get those creative juices flowing for this fun contest. Don't forget there are prizes awarded also!!! Come join the fun. More details will follow later.

Marlene Daniels
Fairy Garden Contest Chairman

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015 - 6:30 PM**

MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP HALL
1900 N. SAGINAW
LAPEER, MI 48446

* BUSINESS MEETING *
* SPEAKER: HANNAH STEVENS *

**** PLEASE BRING A SNACK OR DESSERT ****

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)