



Newsletter November / December 2016

Dear Gardeners,

This will be my last newsletter writing as your Co-President. The past two years have been very educational and fulfilling for me. I would like to thank everyone for your support.

To Georgia Ellis my Co-President, Thank you, you were my right hand during this journey. Mary Paine thanks for all your help. You were my left hand. You do so much for the Master Gardeners. Also, thanks to Ron Klocek, Linda Ladoski, and Ken Mitchell for all your support. Last but not least, thanks to Rose, my wife who helped me so much during my time in office.

To All - Happy Gardening and Happy Holidays.

Ron Gotowicki, Co-President

Hello MG's

Hard to believe WINTER, is right around the corner!! BLAHHH! The fall has been absolutely wonderful. It has been very easy for the cleanup of gardens. I am looking forward to seeing all who attend our wonderful Christmas celebration on Dec. 2nd. Please remember to bring goods or cash for the soldier boxes we will be sending. Our group is always very generous at the holidays, no matter which organization we are helping. This is the most important, to help cheer the guys and gals overseas that are missing their loved ones. Please be EXTRA generous!!!

Finally, I would like to thank you ALL for your hard work through the years I was Co/Pres. Thank you also for being so friendly. I am still going to be at meetings (Sorry!), but in a capacity of worker and helper only. The Lapeer Master Gardeners are an awesome group, and I hope we can keep going for years to come and find some YOUNG muscles. Thanks and Blessings to all the coming year and beyond.

I hope God blesses our country; extra, over the next few years and we will stay a viable, strong PEACEFUL country. Peace, love and blessings to all, this holiday season. Take care and see you at the yummy party. Thanks again to Mary for her wonderfulness and Ron G. for all he did. Thanks Board Members for always coming up with ideas and seeing them thru. Linda L. you are a great, PATIENT! Secretary. Please support and help Ken as he takes over for Ron and I.

Georgia Ellis, Co-President

“A garden is half-made when it is well planned. The best gardener is the one who does the most gardening by the winter fire.”

Liberty Hyde Bailey

It sure is turning out to be a very nice fall. They say the leaves are staying on the trees longer this year. Makes for some nice colorful drives. I am already looking for new kinds of pumpkins to plant next year. The face in the wall “American Gothic” stand-up has already been used at two more functions this year that makes me happy it’s getting used.

Now is the time to speak up on what we would like to direct our community outreach efforts to be for the next year. Any new suggestions for some kind of outreach program is appreciated, but remember if you suggest it be prepared to organize it too.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Joyful Christmas and a safe New Year.

Ken Mitchell
Vice President

Holiday Award Meeting And Guests!

Our Annual Holiday Award Meeting is December 2, Friday evening at 6:30 PM; it is important that you call me or another Board member to reserve a place at a table. Your spouse can also accompany you. We are asking for the traditional \$5.00 deposit that we will return when you arrive. We do this to ensure that there is enough food and that there will be a chair for you. We had many members who just showed up last year, and we had to move things and guests around.

Also, MSUE has 1000-hour badges for volunteers that have completed the thousand hours; we have 17 volunteers who will receive these awards and their cases. The awards will be presented personally by Mary Wilson. I have invited Mary Wilson and Joe Bixler to this celebration.

We will not entertain any questions or remarks about past experiences, this meeting is a celebration.

I have been working with Mary and Joe to obtain a coordinator for the Thumb area so we can have a Master Garden Class in 2017, which all 5 counties desperately need. If you have any questions, contact me before December 2. We will discuss this opportunity at the February 2017 meeting.

Thank you all for your continued support and all the extras you do since we are short-handed at all of our events.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Mary Paine

Treasurer Report December 2016

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.

Remember your 2017 budget for a future project was due in October, but we will include it in the 2017 Budget if presented by the December meeting. Budgets are included in the January Newsletter that every member gets so it can be discussed at the February meeting.

Mary Paine

Treasurer

VMS Coordinator Report

Do you have your 2016 (and all required prior year) hours completed and entered into the VMS? If not, please enter them as soon as possible since the deadline is Dec. 31, 2016. If you need help or have questions please call or contact me before Dec. 30, 2016. I will be happy to help you. Below is list of speakers from our 2016 meetings for your 5-education hours requirement.

<https://michigan.volunteersystem.org>

Feb. 3 - Composting, Candice Meyer - 1 Hour
April 6 - Pollinators, Abi Saeed - 1½ Hour
June 1 - Grief & Gardens, Jim Sillers - 1 Hour
Aug. 3 - Trees and Shrubs, Roxanne Gabriel - 1 Hour
Oct. 5 - Chickens, Doug Graham - 1½ Hour
Dec. 2 - Holly/Evergreens, Chad Perkins

Also, if you supported Project Red on October 4, you can use 3 of those hours for education.

Re-certification Timeline:

January 9 - January 27, 2017: Re-certification will be open (Log into the VMS anytime during that period to complete the 3-step re-certification process).

January 30 - February 10, 2017: Late Re-certification opens for EMG who did not re-certify in January (\$10 late fee applied).

February 10, 2017: Re-certification will close at midnight for 2017 and will not re-open until January 2018.

The fee is still \$20, unless you are making up hours and then you must also pay the penalty.

Call me with any questions and if you need help or dates.

Mary Paine
VMS Ambassador

October Meeting

The October meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016, 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall. 39 members were present.

The minutes of the August meeting were published in the last newsletter and approved.

Mary Paine gave the Treasurer report.

The amendment to Article VII 7.02 b.1 of the Bylaws passed and will read: If there are no volunteers, the present officer may serve 2 additional years.

Speaker Doug Graham gave a very interesting and informative talk about raising chickens. There is a **1½ -hour** education credit for attending this meeting.

Carole Billig gave a report on **Project Red**. 30 Master Gardeners volunteered and it was a good day.

The members discussed opening up the meetings to the public. The business portion could be started at 6:30 PM, and the speaker at 7:15. We will invite the public starting with the June 2017 meeting.

Jane Schade reported that the Bees are doing quite well and it was an extremely good year. 100 pounds of actual honey were made.

Sign up for the Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 2, 2016 at 6:30 PM with your \$5.00 deposit to Mary Paine beforehand. The \$15.00 optional garden gift exchange will be held, and our charity this year is **Operation Care Package**.

Arlene Gibbs-Smith and Rick Talaski won the gift cards. A lot of door prizes were awarded.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Judy Niergarth
(In absence of Linda Ladoski)
Secretary

Membership Application

Please be sure to fill out the annual Master Gardener membership application form included in this newsletter, and return to the Treasurer with your check or money order by the Dec. 2, 2016 meeting. Please click: [2017 Membership Form](#)

Display Garden Report - November 2016

We had our final workday, sort of, Saturday and 12 volunteers worked for almost 4 hours in the Garden. The weather was outstanding so we had a lovely pizza lunch on the edge of the pavilion enjoying the "September day". Almost everything is done and cleaned up and I thank everyone who came Saturday and those who came other days.

The garden is so different in the fall, all the better to see new ideas hovering in the clouds. Carole Billig helped me clean up Ron's side of the shed. Just a quick reminder, the shed is **not** your garage and other folks use the tools and shelves, so please, just a little thought when you throw something in there and plan for neater storage later. **Safety first please.**

The grasses look lovely as the breezes blow and the sun shines through the fronds. It almost makes you forget how much work still remains around the grass later.

Hope you have some great plans for next season and hope you have taken a few moments through the summer to pause and enjoy the sights, aromas and sounds in our beautiful garden.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Mary Paine
Display Garden Chairman

Newsletter Deadline

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing before the deadline on Jan. 6, 2017 to: Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net



Christmas Charity 2016 – Operation Care Package

Operation Care Package is a dedicated group of volunteers “Camo Angels” with a mission to send support to our American Service Men and Women serving our country.

This is a 501©3 Tax Exempt Non-Profit organization and 100% of Proceeds go to the cause as they are all volunteers.

They send support of care packages and letters with the help of all their volunteers, the community and business throughout the USA.

A list of donation items is included in this newsletter, and cash donations are always welcome to cover the postage costs, \$15.00 for each Priority Mail package sent.

There are many collection and drop-off centers throughout Lapeer County for yearlong donations. Please visit the website for more information: www.ocpmi.org

Visit the newly opened Operation Care Package Michigan Resale Store at 606 N. Saginaw St. in Lapeer, just north of the Riverview Towers building.

We will be collecting donations at the Dec. 2 meeting.

Any and all items are most welcome, but the most needed items at this time are non-perishable foods and cash to mail the packages:

Cash
Packaged or canned Tuna Fish
Ready to eat Tuna or Chicken Salad kits
Ready to eat Soups
Spaghetti's
Ravioli's
Beef Jerky



Donation Items Needed For Our Care Packages:

Baby Wipes	Beef Jerky	Bar Soap Cookies
Batteries	Crackers	Black Sunglasses (dollar store)
Hard Candy	Bug Spray (non-aerosol)	Gum
Bug Strips (sticky)	Pringles, Doritos, Pretzels	Chap Stick
Cereal (small boxes)	Cough Drops	Canned Fruit
Dental Floss	Instant Coffee, Tea Bags, Hot Chocolate	Saline Nose Spray
Disposable Razors	Cream, Sugar	Shaving Cream
Any individually Wrapped Snacks	Shampoo, Conditioner	Scarves (black, brown or green)
Socks (black, brown or green)	Sun Screen	Hats (black, brown or green)
Toilet Paper	Hats (black, brown or green)	Zip Lock Bags (all sizes)
Games - Hand Held, Board Games, Electronic Games	Fast Food Sauce Packets	Envelopes, Paper, Pens
Energy Bars, Granola Bars, Cereal Bars	Any Powdered Drink Mixes	
Excedrin, Tylenol, Advil, Motrin	Instant Oatmeal	Fabreeze Spray
Eye Drops (natural tears)	Foot Powder	Pop Tarts
Little Debbie Snacks	Hand Lotion	Microwave Popcorn
Hand Sanitizer,	Ravioli, etc...	Q-tips
Kleenex (pocket size)	Mouthwash	Tuna or Turkey (foil packages)
Trail Mix, Nuts	Hickory Farms Cheese and Sausage	Toothpaste
Safety Glasses	Tooth Picks	Blankets
Gloves (black, brown or green)	DVD's (new or used)	Tums
Travel Games	Sports Equipment	Greeting Cards (any occasion)
CD's (new or used)		

Soldier's Wish List:

These items are HIGH IN REQUEST by our soldiers

Trail Mix	Beef Jerky	Nuts
Energy Bars,	Sunflower Seeds	Candy
Soccer Balls	Footballs	Bats & Balls & Gloves
DVDs, CDs (Music of All Kinds)	Religious Music/ Books	Disposable Cameras
Prepaid Phone Cards	Handheld electronic games	Bandana Coolers/Cool-Ties*,
Mini-Battery-operated Fans	Other personal cooling products	T-Shirts
Frisbees	Basketballs	Tobacco Products
Sports Equipment	Baseball Style Caps	Boxes of Girl Scout Cookies
Socks (Military Colors Please)	Holiday Greeting Cards (blank)	
Commercially sealed Lip Balm	Travel Size containers of Foot Powder	
Individual packets of moist towelettes	Packets of Powdered Cold Beverages	
Ready To Eat Tuna or Chicken Salad kits	Knit Hats and Gloves;	
Fleece Neck Gators*	Beanie Babies, Novelty Items, Small Stuffed Animals	

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING**
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016 - 6:30 PM

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

- * BUSINESS MEETING *
- * OFFICER ELECTIONS *
- * RECOGNITION AWARDS *
- * SPEAKER: CHAD PERKINS *
- * CATERED DINNER *

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)

