



Newsletter January / February 2017

*Have you ever noticed a tree standing naked against the sky, how beautiful it is?
All its branches are outlined, and in its nakedness there is a poem, there is a song.
Every leaf is gone and it is waiting for the spring.
When the spring comes, it again fills the tree with the music of many leaves,
Which in due season fall and blow away.
And this is the way of life.
Krishnamurti*

Happy New Year! 2017

The grass is green and ... Oh wait a minute, it's January ... Well it's Michigan, give it a day and winter "will be back".

The December Awards meeting was a great night and very productive for Operation Care Package. A lot of items for the Service men and women were collected along with contributions for the postage required to send the goods to them.

Thank you for your confidence in me to be your President; I will do my best to honor the position.

At our next Association meeting February 1, 2017, I would like to present an idea of Adopting a 2-mile section of highway in MDOT's Adopt-a-Highway program. Now that we are not utilizing the building at the Eastern Michigan State Fair anymore, the [Adopt-a-Highway](#) program is a good visible way to get involved in the community. I will have more information at the February meeting.

Don't forget to relax and look over some seed catalogs and garden magazines to plan your garden for spring, I know I am. Stay warm.

Ken Mitchell
President

Treasurer Report - January 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.

Remember the Annual Association dues are due in January, but you can bring to the February meeting with your application - I can make sure we have your correct phone and email address. Still only \$10. Life members pay the **\$6** if you want the hardcover **newsletter** mailed to your home, otherwise Carl posts it on the website.

Remember, your 2017 budget for a future project was due in October but we will include in 2017 Budget if presented by the December meeting. Draft Budgets are included in the January Newsletter that every member gets so the Association Draft Budget can be discussed at the February meeting. The Display Garden Draft Budget will be discussed at the February 15, Display Garden Meeting at Suncrest - see calendar in this Newsletter for meeting dates and times. Meeting info and education opportunities can be found on our website – lc-mga.org

Mary Paine
LCMGA Treasurer

VMS Coordinator Report

If you have your 2016 (and all required prior year) hours completed and entered into the VMS you are eligible to re-certify as a Certified MSUE Master Gardener. If you need help or have questions please call or contact me by phone or email, I will be happy to help you.

It's almost time to re-certify as an MSU Extension Master Gardener!

2017 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). **ONLY 2 WEEKS THIS YEAR!!**
\$20 <https://michigan.volunteersystem.org>

January 28 - 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.

If you need assistance with logging into the VMS or re-certifying, please contact your VMS Ambassador Mary Paine at: justoveredge@charter.net

December Meeting

The December meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Friday, Dec. 2, 2016, 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall.

Co-President Georgia Ellis opened the meeting. Jeannine Monteleone spoke about the charity this year, Operation Care Package.

Co-President Ron Gotowicki gave a blessing, and members started the buffet.

Georgia introduced MSUE State Coordinator, Mary Wilson, and Joe Bixler, the Administrator for the 5 Thumb Counties. After an informative presentation on the MSUE Master Gardener program and volunteer hours, Mary Wilson awarded the new gold badges to members who have volunteered 1,000 and over hours.

Mary Paine presented special awards to members. Click for: [2016 Recognition and Awards list.](#)

Chad Perkins gave a very interesting and informative talk on Holly shrubs and evergreens. There is a **1-hour education credit** for those attending this meeting. The Garden Gift exchange was held.

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

*** Please be sure to return your empty Honey Jars to Jane Schade or bring them to any Association or Display Garden Meeting. Thank You.**

Lapeer Herb Circle

In February of 2014, Sue Corder and Jackie & Gina Delisi began an herb group of the name of Lapeer Herb Circle. Their goal was to create a local community of like-minded individuals, trying to find more natural solutions in life. To share knowledge of herbs and natural remedies, recipes, blogs, webinars, pod casts, and information about local classes, knowledge and experiences. Currently there are 98 members. The group took a break during most of last summer, as the summer time tends to be busy for everyone and meeting attendance was low. Meetings have started back up again, with the next one on Sunday, January 22nd, 1:30 PM at the Peter's Mansion in Columbiaville. This meeting we will be discussing herbal actions and tasting teas that complement.

The group welcomes anyone hoping to learn a little something or to share some of their knowledge. If you would like to join us, please email Jackie Delisi at jdelisi2@charter.net or find us on FB at Lapeer Herb Circle.

Newsletter Deadline: Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing before the deadline on March 3, 2017 to: Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net

Display Garden on Suncrest - January 2017

I haven't been up at the Garden since before Christmas. There was a light coating of snow everywhere, and mine were the only footprints. Barb Hunter had placed 2 small heaters for breathing areas for the fish earlier in the year.

The maintenance folks had tidied up the pavilion and added a few items and the chairs stacked neatly along the west wall - Sprinklers are blown out and all the gardens look so different and so lonely.

Hoping for a quiet year with a little more help - we do need to brush and apply sealer to the dove fountain before it's turned on. Hope the wind hasn't bothered too many trees. Also, the backside of fences are in need of treatment before plants get too big and maybe we will get that new path from new parking lot. I obviously have too much time on my mind so I will go read a new book and knit. Oh, I forgot we still have to finish planting courtyard # 2. Enough enough, I know.

Mary Paine, Chairman Display Garden

P.S. If you have clean empty honey jars, Jane can reuse them so bring them to the meetings fresh from the dishwasher. Thanks!!!

Recycling foam coffee cups from our meetings:

At our last Board meeting we discussed "**folks bring their own cups**" for coffee or tea. Some do it anyway. We have below a copy of a letter to the Editor from the [County Press](#) dated 12/28/16. So, we would like to try and collect the foam cups after a meeting in a container that we will provide (5 gal. bucket) and Carl Kern has offered to carry them to Saturday recycle day. The cups only need to be empty they don't need to be washed out. And we will be switching to decaffeinated coffee and tea since we usually snack later in the evening. If you have concerns call a Board member or bring it up at the Feb. 1, meeting at Mayfield Township Hall.

Editor's note: The following letter, from [Dart Container](#) in Mason, Mich., was originally sent to Lapeer County Drop-off Recycling.

As 2016 winds down we would like to take this time to thank you for participating in our Michigan County Drop-off program. We would also like to let you know how much foam you recycled with us in 2016. According to our records, you have recycled approximately 15,600 pounds, which is equivalent of 3,050,018 8-oz. foam cups in 2016. That is a lot of cups. We are happy to provide this service free of charge and hope this information serves you well as you reflect on your environmental stewardship success from the past year.

Ashley Elzinga
Recycling & Community Outreach Specialist
Dart Container

A 2017 Garden Tour ?????

Before you say, oh no, consider a small garden tour with just 5 gardens with a Fairy Garden Contest at the Display Garden (Marlene is willing, or she was) on the patio or in the pavilion if it's stormy. Same contest rules we had at the fair.

I was hoping July 22 or 23; the Garden would be in good shape from the Tea. I currently have 3 Gardens within 5 miles of Suncrest and I was going to ask Candice although that is a little far South but may draw folks from that area. So if you could and would, call me. St. Clair's Tour is July 15, Genesee's is June 25; haven't heard back from Sanilac, Tuscola or Oakland counties. Also need to find out about the Davis Farm Day ...We haven't had a Garden Tour for 2 years, what else would you rather do?

Mary Paine

Educational Opportunities

January 19 - April 27, 2017

Master Gardener Class – Genesee County MSU Office, 605 N. Saginaw St. Suite 1-A, Flint, MI 48502. Thursdays, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Cost: \$300.00
Contact: Abi Saeed saeedabi@anr.msu.edu 810-244-8531

January 26, 2017

Evenings in the Garden - Winter 2017 Series “Four Seasons Landscape” – 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

February 1, 2017

Photo Tour of the Natural Communities of Michigan – U of M Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105 Wednesday, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.
Contact: Bindu Bhakta bhaktabi@anr.msu.edu

March 2, 2017

Evenings in the Garden - Winter 2017 Series “Rock Gardening” – 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

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

June 23 - 24, 2017

Master Gardener College - Contact: Betsy Braid braidbet@anr.msu.edu 517-884-7081

LCMGA Officers – 2017

President:	Ken Mitchell	kenmitch56@yahoo.com
Vice-President:	Jackie Delisi	sdelisi2@charter.net
Treasurer:	Mary Paine	justoveredge@charter.net
Secretary:	Linda Ladoski	tladoski@greatlakes.net
Director:	Georgia Ellis	ellisgi@aolcom
Director:	Ron Gotowicki	gotowickir@yahoo.com
Director:	Ron Klocek	rklocek@intouchmi.com
Director:	Jane Schade	jbschade@yahoo.com

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017 - 6:30 PM**

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

*** BUSINESS MEETING *
* 2017 BUDGETS *
* SPEAKER: JACKIE & SUE "HERBS" *
* SEED CATALOG EXCHANGE *
(SNACKS ARE WELCOME)**

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)