



Website: lc-mga.org

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018

*“There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of winter.
One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogs.”*
~ Hal Borland

Happy New Year Master Gardeners

January is named after the ancient Roman god Janus – the god with two faces, one looking forward to the future and one looking backwards to the past. In the winter we plan and buy seed for a beautiful new garden in the spring. At the same time we remember last year’s garden, what worked and what didn’t, what we would like to grow and what not to grow in the new year.

Last year we needed 5 hours of education and 15 hours of volunteer work time, for the new year it’s going to be **10** hours of education and **20** hours of volunteer work time to hold your Master Gardeners Certification. A lot of us put in many more hours than that each year, the new trainees will need to put in 40 hours their first year on an approved project. So we need new projects with an education aspect on it. Any new projects that you suggest be prepared to chair or help run a major portion of the project. A project proposal form must be filled out, submitted and approved to qualify for volunteer hours to certify.

I was happy to see some of the new trainees make it to the December meeting and hope they felt welcomed to the association. We need their input and help in keeping the garden and association going. Thank you for joining our group.

Ken Mitchell
President

The Twelve Months by George Ellis
Snowy, Flowy, Blowy,
Showery, Flowery, Bowery,
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,
Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy

Treasurer's Report – January 2018

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 may always email or call me at home. The 2018 Budget will be discussed at the February 7th Association Meeting.

Mary Paine
Treasurer

VMS Information

It is time to re-certify for most of you! The Imlay City Class Trainees re-certified at the end of the class.

Re-certification Timeline:

January 8 - January 26, 2018: Re-certification will be open (Log into the VMS anytime during that period to complete the 3-step re-certification process).

Log into the Volunteer Management System (VMS) at:

<http://michigan.volunteersystem.org>

Click on “Complete Agreement Now” notice at the top of the VMSSD Home Screen

Complete the 3-step process (including payment of **\$20 re-certification fee**).

January 27 - February 9, 2018: Late Re-certification opens for EMG who did not re-certify in January (**\$10 late fee applied**).

Log into the Volunteer Management System (VMS) at:

<http://michigan.volunteersystem.org>

Click on “Complete Agreement Now” notice at the top of the VMSSD Home Screen

Complete the 3-step process (including payment of **\$30 re-certification fee**).

February 9, 2018: Re-certification will close at midnight for 2018 and will not re-open until January 2019.

Any questions at all ? Please call or email me.

Mary Paine, VMS Ambassador

December Meeting

The December meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Friday, December 1, 2017, 6:00 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall with 75 members and spouses attending. President Ken Mitchell opened the meeting and welcomed the new Master Gardener Trainees.

Donations of gift cards, cash and supplies were collected for the Lapeer County Animal Shelter.

Ken said a prayer before the members enjoyed the catered dinner by Bryan's and scrumptious desserts made by Pat Maitland. After the meal, Ken introduced speaker Chad Perkins. He gave a very interesting and informative talk about Straw-Bale gardening. Click for: [Straw Bale Gardening handout](#) or [Fact Sheet FS109E](#). There is a **1-hour education credit** for attending this meeting.

Mary Paine and Ken presented the 2017 Outstanding Master Gardener Awards. Click for the [2017 Recognition and Awards list](#)

Jane Schade reported the Display Garden bees produced 33 pounds of honey this year.

Vice-President Jackie Delisi and Treasurer Mary Paine will continue as officers for another term.

The Gift Exchange was held and door prizes were given out.

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

Lapeer County Animal Shelter

Donations collected from **Lapeer County Master Gardeners** at the December meeting:

- * Over \$600 in gift cards and cash to purchase needed supplies
- * 1 case of wet cat food
- * 10 pounds of dry cat food
- * 1½ gallons of bleach
- * 8 bottles of Dawn soap
- * 1 container Tidy cat
- * 1 case of wet dog food
- * 73 pounds of dry dog food
- * 40 rolls of paper towels
- * 2 containers scented dryer crystals

Mary Paine
Treasurer

*** 2018 Lapeer County Master Gardener Association Officers ***

President: Ken Mitchell	Director: Georgia Ellis
Vice-President: Jackie Delisi	Director: Ron Gotowicki
Treasurer: Mary Paine	Director: Ron Klocek
Secretary: Linda Ladoski	Director: Jane Schade

Association Numbers

Currently in the VMS we have:

37 Trainees, 18 from Lapeer County
48 EMGs ready to Certify
4 Emeritus Master Gardeners
52 Total

In 2017 we had:

58 Certified EMGs
3 Emeritus Master Gardeners
61 Total

In 2017 we had 82 members in LCMGA.

We fed 75 at the Holiday/Awards dinner meeting.

Hope we can keep them all this year!

Mary

Project Ideas

New educational project ideas are still needed for 2018. Please contact Mary Paine or bring up your ideas at any meeting.

Speakers are also needed, please contact Mary Paine.

Newsletter Deadline

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing before the deadline on March 6, 2018 to: Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net

Tea Thyme in the Garden - July 8, 2018

The 15th annual Tea Thyme in the Garden, “A Fresh Brew of Tea Thyme” will be held on July 8, 2018.

The first “Tea” meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the 1st floor meeting room at Suncrest.

Carol Skiba
Tea Chairman

Educational Opportunities

Below are 3 county educational seminars - there is a link for Oakland and St. Clair counties on our website, <http://www.lc-mga.org>. Seminars are held on Saturday and you receive 5 educational hour credits for each.

Huron County Master Gardener 2018
“Spring into Gardening” Conference & Yard & Garden Expo
Saturday, March 17, 2018 (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)
Bad Axe Knights of Columbus Hall on M-53
(More details will follow.)

St.Clair County Symposium - \$90
Saturday, March 28, 2018 (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)
Landmark Academy (same place as last year)
4800 Lapeer Rd. Kimball Twp., MI 48074

Oakland County Master Gardener
“Gardening & All That Jazz” - \$80
Saturday, April 28, 2018 (8:00 AM – 4:15 PM)
Oakland Schools Conference Center (same place as last year)
Pontiac Lake Rd., Pontiac MI
MUST Register by April 14, 2018

Master Gardener College
Friday / Saturday, September 14 and 15, 2018
Wayne County Community College District (Ted Scott Campus)
955 Haggerty Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111

Display Garden on Suncrest January 2018

I am hoping for not too much damage from all these unusually cold days and nights. Hopefully there was/is enough snow to keep the plants cozy. When I saw the grass again last week I was wistfully wishing for an early spring. Oh well, it's supposed to be 40 next weekend, then what?

Anyway, just 70 or so days til spring and we can get out to check the soil. I am anxious to see what new ideas you all have and hopefully with new volunteers we will have help with the maintenance in the garden. We have our first Display Garden meeting on Wednesday ~~February 21, at 6:30 PM~~ in the Activities Room at Suncrest.

Meeting is rescheduled to March 21, 2018

Think Spring

Mary Paine, Chairman Display Garden on Suncrest

PS: **Last day to certify is January 26, 2018 without paying the \$10 penalty.**

Japanese Stiltgrass – Smothering

An invasive species of grass was found last summer near Ann Arbor in Washtenaw County and later near the city of Niles in the western part of Michigan. Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium Vimineum*) originated in Asia and was brought to the U.S. to be used as packing material for fine china in the early 1900's. It is now established in 16 eastern states from Florida up to New York.

This annual grass is highly invasive, grows quickly and can grow in many soil conditions. It can be found growing in pastures, grasslands, woodlands and wetlands, even roadside ditches. Seeds can be spread by water or on animals; a single plant can produce 100 - 1,000 seeds that remain viable in the soil for 3 to 5 years.

Stiltgrass can smother native wildflowers and grasses and can be found in full sun to deep shade. Mature plants can grow in 1-3 foot-high beds of grass with smooth green leaves 2-3 inches long. Because it is shallow rooted, stiltgrass can be pulled by hand.

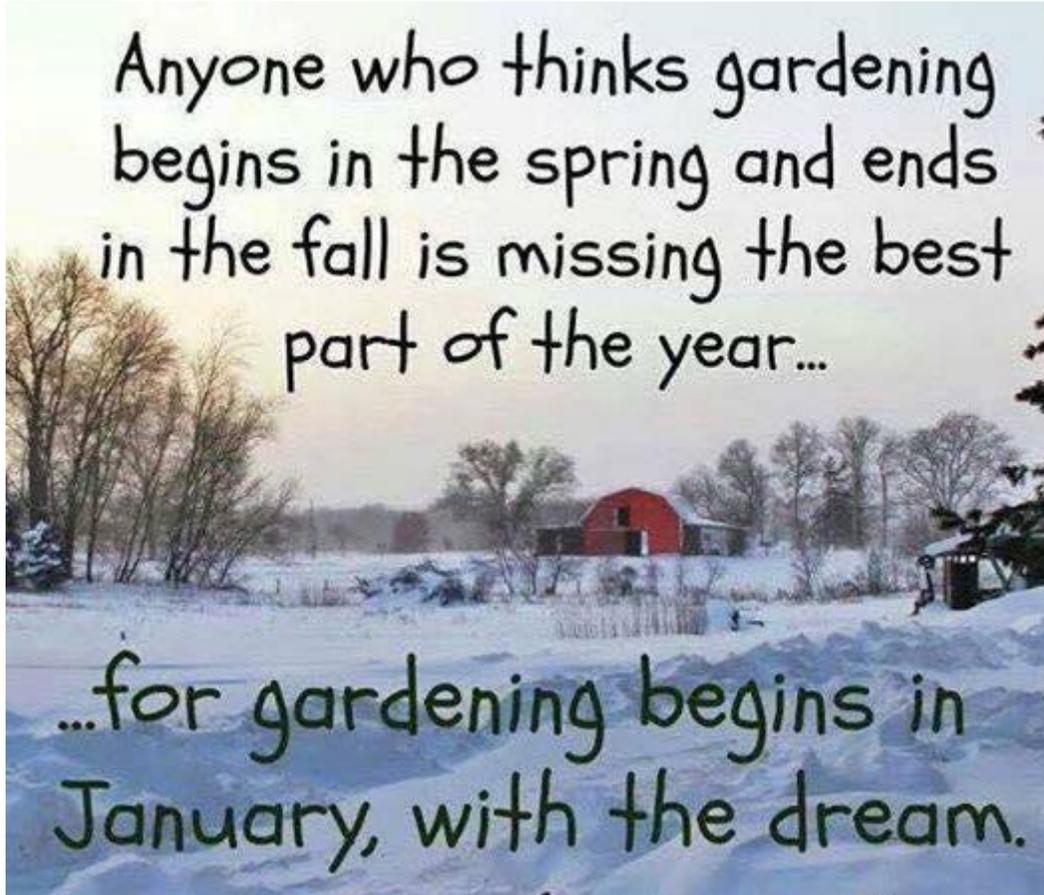
Be on the lookout for this new invader. The DNR is asking residents who spot stiltgrass to report the location and photos to: Greg Norwood at the DNR Wildlife Division, norwoodg@michigan.gov or (517) 342-4514

Please click for link to: [Michigan Invasive Species DNR](#)

For information click: [MSU EDU NEWS](#)

Linda Ladoski

Quote from Josephine Nuese:



**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, ~~FEBRUARY 7, 2018~~ - ~~6:00 PM~~
Rescheduled to March 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM**

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

*** 2018 BUDGET *
* SPEAKER: SANDY MROZ - "HOOPHOUSES" *
* SEED CATALOG EXCHANGE ***

SNACKS ARE WELCOME !

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)