



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013

Helloooo frozen Master Gardeners,

What a fast weather change! It's ok though, because if you are like me, I'm looking forward to the break from gardening.

Another reminder for our fun last get-together, the Christmas party and voting. Business will be quick and even an education opportunity – Dessert with Chad Perkins.

We are looking forward to our 501(c)(3) to be accepted HOPEFULLY by the start of spring or before.

Thanks to all of our volunteers for all you did this year, it has been a beautiful flowering time. Please note my number has changed, although most of you call Mary for answers! See you all at the Dec. 6th balloo!! (6:45 dinner.)

God Bless, Georgia Ellis, Co-President

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

There is a crispness in the air and most of the leaves have fallen. Time for mulching, raking and burning is the order of the day. When this last chore is done we can wrap ourselves in a blanket, sit by the fire and read gardening catalogs till spring planting.

Our annual Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 6, 2013 at the Mayfield Township Hall. We will be exchanging gifts, enjoying a good meal and fellowship with each other. I'm sure the decorating team will make the evening seem warm and inviting. Remember to thank them for their hard work in providing a festive evening.

Rose and I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, Blessed Christmas, and a healthy joyous New Year.

Ron Gotowicki, Co-President

lc-mga.org

OCTOBER MEETING

The October Meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Oct. 2, 2013 at the Mayfield Township Hall. There were 45 members present and Co-President Ron Gotowicki called the meeting to order.

Ron read the purpose and mission of our association, which are stated in our bylaws. He also passed on information for the Operation Care Package. Their annual garage sale to support our troops will be held Oct. 24th -26th at the old Roberts Car Dealership.

The minutes of the August meeting were published in the newsletter. They were approved by the membership. Mary Paine gave the treasurer report. A copy of the report was given to all Board members and is available at all association meetings. The members approved the report. A question concerning the open-meeting act was brought up, Mary will check on the rules.

Association dues will remain at \$10.00 to be collected in January 2014. The newsletter will now be posted online at www.lc-mga.org. Mailed print copies will cost \$6.00 in addition to the \$10.00 dues for postage and copy costs.

Mary Paine nominated Ken Mitchell for Vice-President. Linda Ladoski seconded the motion. Ron Klocek nominated Pam Frampton for Treasurer. Don Miller seconded the motion. Elections for these officers will take place at the December meeting.

Mary Ann McDonald and Sandy Peterson volunteered to chair the Decorating Committee for the Christmas party / meeting which will be held on Friday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall. We will have a catered dinner, all attendees are asked for a \$5.00 refundable deposit. A sign-up sheet was available. Please call Mary Paine to reserve your spot. We will also have our optional garden gift exchange (\$15.00 limit).

Carl Kern reported on the Recycling / Habitat for Humanity Restore. Volunteers are needed to help every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Please volunteer if you can. No. 6 plastic is not allowed.

Carol Billig reported on Project Red - the weather was great and the kids enjoyed it.

Karen Page from Backtrack to Nature gave a very interesting presentation on finding fall fruits and nuts and how to use them. She brought and shared many foods, syrups and drinks with the group to taste. The Chestnut vegan chili was excellent. There is a 1-hour education credit for this meeting.

A Fund-raising Committee chairman is needed. Projects for next year will include the Garden "Tea" Luncheon, Rummage Sale and the Eastern Michigan State Fair. The Garden Tour will be put on hold for a year or two, due to low turnout. Sandy Peterson suggested holding a "Garden Art / Craft Show" at the Display Garden with vendors and ongoing demos and mini-classes in the Pavilion.

The Membership Committee is contacting former Master Gardeners and association members to invite them back.

Mary Paine announced the grasses at the Display Garden were thinned out and the extras are sitting by the compost if anyone wants them. Please clean up any debris.

Ron Klocek won \$31.00 in the 50/50 drawing. Many bags of apples and plants were won as door prizes.

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

TREASURER REPORT

The Treasurer's Report is read at every Association and Display Garden Meeting and reviewed by LCMGA Board; each of them receive a hard copy monthly. The hard copy is available at every meeting for your review and questions.

We will be working on budgets for next year so... please turn in a budget request for your project; if the amount is unusual, please include a brief reason.

No word on the 501(c)(3) application submitted to the IRS: I'm hoping for a Christmas response from them, they suggested it would take about 90 days!

If you have receipts for purchases for our projects, please get them to me promptly. Reimbursement form can be found on our website: lc-mga.org
Any questions, call between 9:00 AM and 10:00 PM.

Mary Paine
Treasurer, LCMGA

**** VERY IMPORTANT REMINDERS ****

- * The December meeting will be held on FRIDAY, Dec. 6, 2013. You must call Mary Paine before Nov. 27 to reserve your spot so Mary can get the final headcount for the caterers.
- * Please remember that the Association dues are now due in January, since we are now on a calendar year. Please fill out the new membership form included in this newsletter and mail to the address on the form. The form is also available on the website – lc-mga.org
- * Reimbursement forms are also available on the website.
- * Volunteer Hours Reminder:

A quick reminder about entering volunteer and education hours in VMS:
<https://michigan.volunteersystem.org>

RKS is the old system does not work anymore. The link to VMS is found on the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association Website at www.lc-mga.org on the top of the projects page.

C.E. in VMS means Continuing Education; because so many folks don't enter hours often I am suggesting that you group some of your volunteer hours by week or by month or by project. For example 47 hours for Eastern Michigan Fair - use the opening date as the date

or 20 hours for garden work for May for Display Garden on Suncrest. If you are current on your hours, thank you. DO NOT forget you have to "SAVE hours" after each entry, the save button is on BOTTOM left corner of page.

Also - If you are joining the State organization MMGA INC, you must be a Certified Master Gardener; I believe the dues haven't changed; MMGA has not sent out information yet but I believe you will have to process that separately.

We will be distributing the pins/anchors to those who tracked their hours in the MSUE system at the December 6, meeting. We will also be passing out certificates to those who have reached Advanced Master Gardener status.

If I can help with any of this, please let me know.

Mary Paine

DECEMBER MEETING

Dear Master Gardeners,

To celebrate the end of an amazing year of growth, we hope most of you will attend our last meeting of the year. Much time, thought and effort goes into this last hurrah of the season - the food, decorations, speakers, awards, year-end business and the gift exchange. If you choose to participate in the gift exchange, which we hope you do, the gifts are to be in the \$15 range. But if you are a creative person, a handmade gift is always the best gift!

For the last few years our group has been struggling with the horrible business of staying together; we have weathered that storm and it is time to celebrate! Time to renew the bonds of gardening friendship and make new ones!

Be prepared to mix things up a bit and get to know more than just face & name tag, as we sit down at the tables together.

Looking forward to a fun filled evening,

Sandy Peterson
Your Cruise Director

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing by mail or email before the deadline on January 10, 2014 to: Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS !

The Eastern Michigan State Fair was a huge success this year. We raised approximately \$400 for the association. Our silent auction was smaller this year, than usual, as we are trying to have more of an educational display.

I would like to thank Mary Paine for her help and encouragement. Candace Meyer and Sylvia Graham who made the garden shed/greenhouse display. Carol Liblong who did the pizza garden display. Paulette Johnson and Donna Hewitt who set up the Earth tunnel. Ken Mitchell who did the display on Hugelkulture. Barb Hunter, Marlene and Ken Daniels who put together the water garden. Carol Billig, Flossie Jankowski, Juliane Skribak, and Sue Corder, who did the Butterfly Screen house and Display. I put together the Compost Display; I also put together the Potager. A big thanks to Barb, Marlene, and Ken for getting the butterflies. They drove to a town near Dundee, Michigan on Friday to pick them up. Rick Talaski, for making the wooden Michigan Mitt and Mary Paine for getting the information, on public gardens that was posted on it. We received many compliments on our displays.

Thanks to Ruth Arnold and Jeannine Monteleone for putting together the Silent Auction. Sandy Mroz, for getting items for the Auction, from different vendors at the Farm Markets. Sandy also got 2 wheelbarrows donated from TSC in Lapeer and Davison for our free giveaway. Sandy and her husband donated items in the wheelbarrows. Thanks to Jack Delisi for the use of the water pig. Tom and Phylis Brown, Imlay City area farmers for the use of the straw. Jane Schade for the donation of the white wooden fence.

Thanks to all who donated plants for the Fair. It was a real challenge this summer growing some of the plants, with the weather we had. Some plants just do not like to be grown in pots!

Thanks once again to everyone who helped to set up before the fair and to those who helped with the tear down. Thanks to all who took a shift, and gave their time to man the building.

If I didn't mention you're name please forgive me, my brain doesn't always work as it should! But your help was greatly appreciated!!

The winners of the wheelbarrows were Susan Inch from Imlay City and Matt Wood from Sanilac County.

Here's to the 2014 Eastern Michigan State Fair, may it be just as great as this years and the years before!

Pat Maitland,

Fair Chairman

DISPLAY GARDEN ON SUNCREST - NOVEMBER REPORT

Who would have thought we would still be putting the Garden to bed at this late date? The weather was so unusual this year and the Garden was unusually beautiful this year and still looked good until the past couple weeks.

We added new plants, new trees, new beds and many new visitors. The new volunteers have been very active and helpful in the garden. The Tea was another great event and we have requests for tickets already.

A new event for the Association is under consideration for 2014 - "Art in the Garden" a combination fundraiser and educational event to be held in September, vendors with garden related demonstrations and classes in the pavilion. More to come !

The final meeting this year for the Display Garden Committee is Wednesday, November 20, 6:30 PM; the first meeting in 2014 will be in February. We meet in the 2nd floor activities Room at Suncrest. Next years meeting schedule is already posted on both the displaygardenonsuncrest.org and lc-mga.org

If you have a budget for the Display Garden bed please get it to me so I can finish the whole thing!

Don't forget - Engraved bricks in the garden make great gifts!!

Thanks for another great year and all your hard work!!

Mary Paine
Chairman, Display Garden on Suncrest

CARAMEL APPLE SALAD RECIPE

6 Standard size Frozen Snickers Bars
1-8oz. and 1-12oz. Cool Whip (thawed)
1 Large box Instant Vanilla Pudding Mix
8-10 Apples (depending on size)
1 Bag of Toffee Bits (in baking aisle)

Smash Snickers with Hammer - wrappers on in a zip-lock bag. Remove wrappers and put in large bowl. Add Cool whip and dry instant pudding - (Do not use mixer). Core and cut apples to bite-size (skin optional). Add 1/2 of the Toffee bits to mixture, mix well / garnish the top with the rest. Serve chilled. (Recipe can be halved using a small box of pudding mix, 1 Cool Whip, 3 snickers bars, etc.)

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2013 - 6:30 PM**

**MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP HALL
1900 N. SAGINAW
LAPEER, MI 48446**

- * BUSINESS MEETING ***
- * 2014 BUDGETS NEED TO BE TURNED IN ***
- * OFFICER ELECTIONS ***
- * AWARDS / CERTIFICATES ***
- * CATERED DINNER ***
- * GARDEN GIFT EXCHANGE - OPTIONAL ***
- * SPEAKER: CHAD PERKINS ***

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)