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LCMGA Newsletter – November / December 2019

“It goes back to the garden telling a story. You make up bits and play with them to see if they ring true. Sometimes this works out the first time and all is well and good, but as often as not you have to fiddle and reshape until it is right.”

~ Monty Don, My Roots: A Decade in the Garden

Well gardeners, another year gone and a new decade to come. This year at Suncrest we added many new items: three benches, a pergola, new brickwork in the rock garden, the stainless steel bells and new pallets in the compost area, all of these items will last well into the next decade.

Some projects that will continue next year are the Rummage Sale, Suncrest Tea, USDA Tree Sale, Downtown Lapeer Annual Beds, Adopt-A-Highway, Michigan Honey Festival and Project Red. Get involved in your association; we need more players on the field, not cheerleaders on the sidelines. This association needs more help in projects we already have.

Thank you for a wonderful year everyone. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Association meeting on December 6.

Ken Mitchell
President

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer's Report is available at every MG Association Board meeting, Master Gardener Association and Display Garden monthly meeting. A hard copy of the monthly report is provided to every Board member every month.

If you have specific questions, ask at a scheduled meeting, or before or after the meeting. Members may always call me; I do check and answer phone and email questions every day.

If you have any receipts for plants for our 2019 projects or items for the Tea please get them to me, sooner than later. If you don't have a green sheet for reimbursement give me the receipts anyway, with a short note, I will fill out the green sheet. Otherwise, thanks for the donation to the Display Garden. Also Membership forms, with updated phone numbers, email are due by the February meeting, with dues.

2020 Budgets:

If you already have a plan for purchases for your approved garden project turn in the request. It is no fun doing budgets with Holiday shopping. Also, we may not be as blessed with donations to purchase plants in 2020, so if you are thinking something big, we need to talk. I have received ZERO funding requests.

Mary Paine
Treasurer

VMS Reminders!!

Every Certified Master Gardener is required to have 20 volunteer hours and 10 education hours every year. The volunteer hours must be on MSUE approved projects. If you are unsure if your project is approved, call me.

Online webinars are listed on the home page of VMS. There are also gardening classes offered by Campbell's, WOJO's, Telly's and Bordine's Nurseries.

The last seminar for the year was Genesee County's on October 5. We will still have a speaker this year at the December MG Association meeting.

Please note: Your hours must be entered by December 31, 2019. The Certification Period is January/February; there will be several reminders from Diane Brady and me.

As always, please call me with any questions.

Mary Paine
VMS Ambassador

October Meeting

The October meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall. President Ken Mitchell called the meeting to order with 35 members present.

Speaker Anne Collins, from the [Tuscola Conservation District](#), gave a very interesting and informative presentation on invasives. There is a **1-hour education credit**.

Georgia Ellis reported on the MDOT Highway cleanup scheduled for October 7.

Carole Billig reported on **Project RED**, a successful turnout, but cold and damp.

Sandy Peterson spoke about the [Almont Heritage Festival](#). Pinecone birdfeeders were made and 7 people signed up for MG classes. A class signup sheet should be available at all MG projects. Deb Jacobson sent her thanks for the generous donations, she is very grateful.

[Toys for Tots](#) will be the charity for December. All donations stay in Lapeer County.

Mary Paine reported that we currently have 78 association members; only 34 members have paid their dues. 55 members are certified, and there are 18 associate members. Georgia motioned for By-law changes.

Meeting was adjourned.

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

Newsletter Correction:

The following was accidentally omitted from Carol Skiba's last Tea article in the last newsletter: *"A Note: This is my last Tea as Chairman. I have been chairman for Fourteen Teas, and have another upcoming surgery on my other shoulder. Thank you to each and everyone that has helped to make each of those Teas a success."* Carol Skiba

Thank you Carol for your many years as chairman!

Dues: Please bring your membership application and \$10.00 annual association dues to the December meeting, or submit by mail no later than February 1, 2020.

Newsletter Deadline: Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing before the deadline on Jan 5, 2020 to: Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net

Master Gardener Holiday Meeting

\$10.00 per person - FRIDAY, December 6, 2019, 6:30 - 9 PM Mayfield Township Hall.

Catered dinner, speaker, short business meeting and awards will be followed by the annual gift exchange IF you wish to participate. Desserts are needed this year by volunteer members to give Pat Maitland a break. Coffee, Tea, water and punch will be provided.

You must call Mary Paine to make your reservation no later than November 27, 2019.

Toys For Tots will be the charity for this year. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy(s) up to age 16 or cash donation. All donations stay in Lapeer County.

If you wish to participate in the optional gift exchange, please bring a wrapped garden related gift, with a value up to \$20.00, to exchange.

Display Garden Report

Another surprising and exciting few weeks in and around the Garden. Usually October is wrap-up, put away and take a break time in the Garden. We are usually cleaning up the beds and putting away and covering our "toys".

Pam Walton and Barb Hunter "played" in the Water Garden to get it ready for another winter. No they didn't have to get in the water, thankfully. Just other important maintenance items only the brave encounter.

I had been worrying over / contemplating / thinking about the Rock Garden for several weeks. It is a lovely spot but with our smaller volunteer numbers we were unable to maintain it the way we wish. So we have changed the whole bed to allow maintenance and plant presentation in a way that is all new. I called Eric Hendricks, landscaper, to pave a portion of the Rock Garden. We have only just begun, he has completed his portion, but we will continue in the spring. There is a brand new look and a new place for residents and families to enjoy. Already wheelchair tested, Miles, Suncrest resident, gave the new project his ok. His wheels were first across the new path. Many gardeners have worked on this area already.

We have made many other changes this year, some required by safety and some added for updates and a more professional, educational benefit. Ken Mitchell has spent many hours cleaning up the compost area. On that nice Saturday in October, Ken and Pat Meyer rebuilt the compost bins. It really was a lot of hard, physical work but what a great job they did.

Last week, **Owen Tree** cut the dead trees that have been threatening the west perimeter of the garden. It was a joint project from the Facility and the Garden. With the recent high winds, we expected a large tree or branch would come toppling down across the fence, hopefully missing volunteers, or visitors.

We will probably make even more changes in 2020. As our volunteer population ages out, there are fewer folks able to get down on the ground and then get back up. We have lost Marylou Lafond (1998) and Wally Tucker (1997); Ron and Rose Gotowicki moved to Nevada (1999). Larry Mitchell retired due to his health; Carol Liblong has moved north, closer to her family, Jerry Swoish had a heart attack a few weeks ago; he told me yesterday that he is feeling better and was going hunting.

The point is with new, younger, more "flexible" volunteers, we will probably change some more. Don't be upset if plants move around the garden. Sometimes they haven't quite found their right place. Don't be upset when your favorite plant happens to be an invasive species and we are trying to get invasives out of the Display Garden. Plant them at home in your personal garden. Remember "...it's not your Garden, we are maintaining it for the community".

We were blessed with some very generous donations this year and we made significant changes with those funds. We will not be able to do that again, I am guessing but we have always managed to make the Display the most beautiful garden for so many visitors to see and enjoy. Including us! Looking forward to another great and surprising year in the Display Garden on Suncrest.

Mary Paine
Chairman Display Garden on Suncrest Committee

Versatile in the ways you come through
Outstanding in the things you do
Loyal and always full of good cheer
Upstanding in your service all year
Nonstop in the difference you make
Tireless in the projects you take
Enthusiastic to reach every goal
Exceptional in how you fill your role
Reliable and treasured wherever you are
Selfless and giving - like a shining star!

Thank you to each and every volunteer this year! May your Holidays be blessed, safe, happy, and warm! Happy New Year to All!

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING**

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 2019 - 6:30 PM

**Mayfield Township Hall
1900 N. Saginaw
Lapeer, MI 48446**

- * BUSINESS MEETING ***
- * SPEAKER: [MELVYN CORNER](#) ***
- * RECOGNITION & AWARDS ***
- * CATERED DINNER - \$10.00 ***
- * TOYS FOR TOTS CHARITY DONATIONS ***
- * GARDEN GIFT EXCHANGE ***

DESSERTS ARE WELCOME

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)

"Lorraine Marion" daylily at the Display Garden

