



NEWSLETTER SPECIAL EDITION - SUMMER 2014

Greetings Gardeners

Well, the fair went over very well this year. All of the exhibits looked great, thank you to all who worked on the exhibits and put in hours to man a shift or make a basket for the silent auction.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Keyhole Garden and Hugelkultur exhibit at the fair; I still have tri-folds of both. A better example of the Hugelkultur is in the Suncrest garden behind the storage building. It will be interesting to watch as it decomposes over the years into rich soil. The reason for putting it over the old slag is to show you can put a garden over any surface, even concrete. Hugelkultur or hill culture is a composting process using raised beds over decaying wood and mulch to build a rich soil. Practiced in Germany and Eastern European culture for hundreds of years, Austrian farmer Sepp Holzer popularized it in the west. For more info on doing your own Hugelkultur, tri-folds will be available at the pavilion handout board.

Happy gardening.

Ken Mitchell
Vice President

Art In The Garden

Art in the Garden is just a few shorts days away and is shaping up to be a very nice event. We will be having 10 - 12 vendors....still waiting on a couple of applications. A hand full of learning stations/tables will be in the pavilion.

There will be a pre-event meeting on Wednesday Aug. 20 at 4:00 pm, before the Display Garden meeting. If you wish to volunteer and have not signed up please attend this meeting. If you did sign up we will see you there. However, if this doesn't fit into your schedule and you still want to help out, set-up will be on Friday Aug. 22, from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and on Saturday Aug. 23, 6:00 am to 9:30 am with the event starting at 10:00. During the event it would be nice to have MG's out & about in the garden....so just come & spend some time getting to know the public and do a bit of shopping!

This will be a fun day, no pressure, just smiles, creativity and beauty all around. See you in the GARDEN! Thank you in advance.

Sandy Peterson
Art in the Garden Chairperson

PROJECT RED 2014

Will be held at the Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds on Tuesday, October 7, 2014.
All volunteers are asked to check in at 8:00 AM, and we should be done by 3:30 PM.

This is a project sponsored by the Farm Bureau with the help of Ed Tech and Lapeer County Master Gardeners. You will be asked to lead groups of 3rd graders to various stations where they will learn about farming.

A meeting is planned for Monday, October 6, 2014 at 6:30 for those who would like to walk through the stations ahead of time to be better prepared for the Tuesday, October 7th event.

Let me know if you are interested in helping, AND, if so whether you have a RED, Project Red shirt or, if you DO NOT have one, what size. I need this information before September 8 so the shirts can be ordered.

Contact: Carole Billig

NOTE: You may take up to 3 hours as MG Education and the rest as MG Volunteer hours, OR ALL as MG Volunteer hours. You MAY NOT use the same hours for both (NO double-dipping).

Some very good news:

On August 1, 2014, WE (Lapeer County Master Gardener Association) have received our 501-c3 approval from the IRS that gives us non-profit status.

We are also recognized by the State of Michigan as a nonprofit.
The approval is retroactive to February 17, 2012.

Mary Paine

SAY IT WITH WORDS

"Love and Scandal are the best sweeteners of Tea." The Eleventh Annual Tea Thyme in Garden was held Sunday July 13, 2014. With the Theme of "Say it with Words", quite a few words can be used to describe the Tea. Dedication, Devotion and Love of The Display Garden on Suncrest by the Lapeer County Master Gardeners, that is the best Sweetener of Tea.

The Display Garden on Suncrest is a shining star for the County of Lapeer, and each Master Gardener that takes part in it should be so proud of themselves. From the Gardens to the Tea, Sunday July 13, 2014 was a fantastic success. The weather was perfect with a light breeze, the raffle items were amazing, and the Tea, no words can describe how beautiful the pavilion looked, the food tasted and the hospitality that Master Gardeners gave to the guests of the Tea. The word that Mr. Easton used was "spectacular"; he never saw the bathrooms at the pavilion look so great. They had the Tea Thyme Touch.

Thank you to each and every Master Gardener who worked so hard to make this Tea the success it was. Mary Paine, for making the Garden shine and for listening to Barb Hunter to buy the tent on sale at Menards. The Tent owned by the Master Gardeners didn't survive the wind and thunderstorms the night before the Tea. When I arrived Sunday morning the legs were bent and rivets torn out. Thankfully Mary had the new tent in the back of her truck. Just little things that all work out to make the Tea a success. Thank you Rose for selling and calling all those Tea Patrons before May 1st. This Tea was sold out by April; Rose is so organized and has a system that works. Thank you to those who supplied items for the Raffle. What a fantastic array of raffle items. To those who set up and sold the many tickets, Thank you, Carol, Ron, Elaine, Joyce, Pam.

Thank you to each table hostess for their fantastic table: Jane, Pat, Dorothy, Kay, Sandy, Mary Ann, Gloria, Marylyn, Maurene, Barb, Carol, Betty, Ruthie, Jeannine, Mary, Carol, Wanda, Jackie, Sandy, Olivia, Bernadette, Mary Beth, Jackie, and Marlene. I wanted to list each name to let Master Gardeners know who does a table, if you look back to previous years you will see the same names. These Master Gardeners really are devoted to the tea. Also really devoted is the Kitchen staff under the watchful eye of Georgia; Deb, Paulette, Saul, Carol, Ron and Bernadette's two daughters. Thank you so much for making sandwiches, putting the servings together, and washing dishes. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Thank you to those who prepared or purchased items for the Tea. It makes it possible for me to announce to the Tea Patrons that everything is made by Master Gardeners. Thank you Deb for handling the door prizes and raffle items. Thank you to those who helped deliver door prizes and raffle items to the Tea Patrons, Olivia, David, Bernadette's daughters, Mary Paine's nieces. They are not Master Gardeners but their help was so appreciated. Carl and Derek for directing traffic and seeing about parking, and cleaning up, Thank you.

Tony again I think Jeannine needs to buy you a 4-wheeler, you do such a fantastic job hauling those Tea Patrons around, Thank you.

Thank you to Barb, Ron, and Jerry for use of your tents, they protected valuable items (Master Gardeners and Raffle items).

If I forgot to personally thank you, I am sorry. Accept this as MY THANK YOU.

And with the Famous Words of Monty Python "MAKE TEA NOT WAR".

Carol Skiba
Tea Chairman

Alzheimer Garden at Lapeer County Medical Care Facility

For more than 8 years Master Gardeners have managed a beautiful and safe garden for the residents of the Alzheimer Wing at "Suncrest". These beds were started by Marylou LaFond, Mary Barr, Gloria Bosanko and Jean Keller. This project is supported by the Association but is not listed as part of the Display Garden on Suncrest because it cannot be accessed by visitors to the Display Garden. The Alzheimer's Garden is accessible by going inside the building and walking through the wing. If you are curious, walk over to the northeast corner of the building. A lovely patio is lined by colorful beds of perennials and annuals. A beautiful hydrangea tree can be seen from the road when it presents its big white blooms; it was added a couple years ago. A raised bed and large pots are available for residents to plant on their activity days. The Garden is fenced with a secured gate so maintaining the beds has its own set of issues. The outside perimeter of the patio is planted so the bright colors can be seen from both inside and outside the fence. The garden is maintained this year by Master Gardeners Marylou Lafond, Jean Keller, Gina Delisi and Jackie Delisi. If you have any extra time to volunteer, contact Marylou, extra hands make lighter work. The Alzheimer Garden demonstrates again the Associations purpose for improving the "quality of life" for residents, gardeners and visitors.

Mary Paine
Chairman, Display Garden on Suncrest Committee

Eastern Michigan State Fair 2014

Planning for our exhibits at the Fair this year started back in March, although for some the initial thoughts were before that. The exhibits were beautifully executed and very well received by all the visitors to the big green barn on the fairgrounds. If you didn't make the trip to Imlay City, the green barn is the one that faces the main parking lot and was also selected to be painted on the outside by a graffiti artist. It was interesting to watch and fortunately the temperatures were cool enough to keep the big door closed while they painted around/over it.

The Fair is one of our best opportunities to demonstrate our educational purpose. I don't suppose all the 45,000 visitors to the Fair walked through the Master Gardener Exhibits but many of them did -- we even had a few extra guests during the short-lived rainstorms.

I'm sure we can't total the hundreds of hours our volunteers invested in their exhibits, then the Saturday, Sunday and Monday required for the setup. The numerous trips to haul hardscape, plants and other support materials to and from the fairgrounds were innumerable. Who knows how many miles! If you have never participated, there are days/months of planning, planting, meeting, subassembly and then reassembly at the site -- it takes 3 days to set-up and finesse, but only 2-3 hours to totally remove.

This year for our Silent Auction, Rick Talaski proposed garden Baskets - we had 22 donated and it was a very successful fund-raiser. We haven't had time to get all bills in so we will have total at our next meeting. Many of our visitors actually looked for "trees" that we have had in the past. Something to think about. In case you are interested in next year, there is a list of ideas already begun, and although everyone was really tired, everyone who participated seemed to me to have a good to great time.

So we had our information table for classes, the auction and the wheelbarrow give away. Candice and Walt Meyer with assistance of Sylvia Graham provided an awesome Japanese Garden. Walt had constructed a beautiful arch and boulders so realistic you couldn't tell they were paper-mache. Carole Liblong with Gina Delisi, Jackie Delisi, Linda Sexton and Jackie

Marvin constructed a beautiful Edible Plants and Herb Garden. More than 25' x 10' of herbs and other plants identified and placed in the midst of unique wicker furniture, shutters, and a "kitchen herb garden" hanging in a shoebag. You didn't see the barn because of the beautiful setting. Visitors walked through the display touching unfamiliar plants as they smiled and saw another special feature.

Ken Mitchell brought his Keyhole Garden, which generated a lot of interest. Many were trying to figure out how to make one at home. Ken had provided information including a display provided by the vendor. Since the Fair ended, Ken moved his Keyhole structure home and has it ready for a combination of Hugelkultur in a keyhole. The keyhole is a beautiful raised bed that is accessible from all sides of the structure. Next to the keyhole Ken constructed a small, moveable scale Hugelkultur, handouts were available and to ensure he didn't have to haul it home, Ken added it to the Silent Auction. After all, Ken has his own Hugelkulturs at home and if you haven't noticed, one in the Display Garden.

We had a space adjacent to the Butterfly tent for extra plants. The Butterfly Tent returned thanks to Barb Hunter who stored the tent and who ordered 4 dozen live butterflies. As always, the children loved having a butterfly placed on the top of their hand or on a fingertip. Even many mothers wanted to hold a butterfly. Most every volunteer who spent a shift spent time in the Butterfly tent. How long does a butterfly live? The web said "about a month, except Monarchs who can live up to 9 months". Carole Billig and Sue Corder and Julianne Sekerak provided the butterfly information with posters and handouts.

The Earth Tunnel had an "uplift". Paulette Johnson, Donna Hewett and Deb Brown remodeled the structure. Paulette did some research on paint and really improved the exterior appearance. Inside the Tunnel more educational labels were added. Adults and children enjoyed the trip through. I managed to locate a skunk and woodchuck, almost to scale (yes they were stuffed) and there was last year's chipmunk -- all live in holes in the ground, plus a pair of chickens who lived above the ground. A really great exhibit that will also be used by Project Red.

Deb Brown brought her Aeroponic Garden setup; it demonstrated growing vegetables in a water based structure. It worked in her driveway most of the summer and can be moved inside in winter. Many were also interested in making a similar setup at home.

The Fairy Garden Contest area turned out to be very popular. Marlene Daniel (I think she is a Fairy garden Specialist) with help from Ken, her husband, and Barb Hunter created a little Fairyland with a pretty pink background, pink tablecloths, sparkly paper and a beautiful silvery white fairy tree. Ken provided 2 sample fairy gardens to anchor the entrants. We didn't have a lot of entries but they generated a lot of interest by all ages. Many asked if we would do it again next year. We think so!

Many, many thanks to those who provided exhibits, their families and friends. Yes, volunteer hours are there but all the hard work and dedication to make this event happen is immeasurable.

Consider volunteering next year----

Ken Mitchell and Mary Paine,
Co-Chairmen - Eastern Michigan State Fair Committee

Newsletter

The September / October issue of the Newsletter will be published in a few weeks. Stay tuned.