



NEWSLETTER JANUARY / FEBRUARY – 2015

Fellow Gardeners,

Happy New Year to all of you. I hope that everyone is feeling fine.

It's finally a New Year and I am looking forward to the new gardening season. Soon we will be receiving seed and garden catalogs. Sit in your favorite chair, wrap up in a warm blanket, have a cup of hot chocolate and enjoy the catalogs. I plan on sitting by the fireplace in my flannel jacket and start my search. Some of you will buy the seeds and start your gardens now; others will list the new plants to purchase come spring.

The weather was mild in December, but January brings the snow, ice, and cold weather. Last year was the worst for snow and ice, and power outages. Hopefully we will not repeat it this year. I look forward to spring, when everything will have a new birth. I know I can't wait to see new plants and wonder where they came from.

Please stay warm and cozy until we all can go out into the garden and get that old green thumb working again. Best Wishes.

Ron Gotowicki
Co-President

Hello and Happy New Year to All,

I hope this year will be easier on all of us, especially Mary Paine. Most MG forms have been taken care of. Now, getting volunteers to help at our events will be our big issue.

I know everyone is busy, but taking the time to at least help once a month helps our whole MG group; besides having laughs as we work together. Please remember to re-certify this month on the MSU - MMGA site.

Georgia Ellis
Co-President

**** GOOD NEWS ALERT ****

The Bigelow's Plant Sale will be held this year! Details at the February meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on December 5 at the Mayfield Township Hall. Co-President Georgia Ellis opened the meeting and mentioned the "Walk For Warmth" donations. The Walk will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 9:00 - 10:30 AM. The meeting place is at the Courthouse in downtown Lapeer.

Co-President Ron Gotowicki said the prayer before dinner, and the members enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Bryans.

Elections for officers were held. Georgia Ellis and Ron Gotowicki volunteered to serve a second term as Co-Presidents, and Linda Ladoski volunteered to serve a second term as Secretary. Mary Paine motioned to approve the election of these officers, and several members seconded. The elections were approved by the membership.

Ken Mitchell still has Aprons, Hats, Visors and T-shirts available.

Barb Hunter says "Think Spring".

The Honey jars and centerpieces were awarded as door prizes.

Chad Perkins gave a very interesting talk on Christmas Cactus. There is a ½ hour education credit for this meeting. A Christmas Cactus information sheet is included in this newsletter. [Click here.](#)

Awards were presented to members; the entire list is published in this newsletter. [Click here.](#)

Association Dues need to be turned in this January. Membership forms are available online and also in this newsletter. All hours need to be turned in by December 31, 2014. Go online for re-certification anytime between Jan. 7 - Jan. 31.

Door prizes were awarded and the Gift Exchange was held.

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurers report is provided monthly to each Board member and reviewed at all Board Meetings. The expenses and income for the month will be reviewed at the Association and Display Garden Meetings; the hard copy is available for review at all Association and Display Garden Meetings (see the Treasurer).

Judy Niergarth
Treasurer

*** IMPORTANT REVIEW * - 2015 Draft Budget**

Attached in this newsletter is a DRAFT Proposal for Budgets for 2015. This newsletter is being mailed to all members so that the budget can be reviewed by members prior to the February 4, 2015 meeting.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact ANY Board member prior to the meeting. The proposal was presented and reviewed at the January Board meeting.

VMS Reminder

Thanks to all of you who entered their 2014 education and volunteer hours. Congratulations to those who reached milestones and to our trainees who are Master Gardener Volunteers. Last year 67% of Lapeer County Master Gardeners were certified through MSUE.

Certification began Wednesday, January 7 and will end Saturday, January 31, 2015. Process is the same as last year and the fee is still \$20 payable by check or credit card.

If you miss the initial deadline there is a late certification period, February 1 through February 15, 2015 - the cost for late certification is \$25. You have received emails from [VMS](#) system if you did not re-certify last year and changed your mind. You can still re-certify and enter your hours, but there is the additional late charge and you need to let us know. I will be happy to assist anyone who needs help; call me at home 9 AM - 9 PM.

The information for the \$5 insurance is available for Certified Master Gardeners through membership in Michigan Master Gardener Association, Inc. It will be sent to individuals after they have certified, and will be an electronic process but separate from the MSUE certification process.

Mary Paine, VMS Ambassador

Happy New Year Master Gardeners!

I want to thank you for the award "Master Gardener Golden Shovel". I am honored that such a great group thinks so highly of me. I hope everyone is receiving a fresh supply of garden catalogs to look at till spring. There are still Hats, Visors, Aprons, and T-Shirts for sale.

The "Walk For Warmth" is Feb. 28, 2015. Registration is at 9:00 AM; the walk begins at 9:30 AM, starting at the Lapeer Historic Courthouse. I will be walking and it will be cold so layer up. The walk will be a predetermined one-mile route. Our donations at the Christmas dinner made it possible to be a Bronze Sponsor with our groups name on the T-Shirts. I have pledge sheets for anyone who would like to walk. The sheets are also printed in this newsletter. [Click here for link to video.](#)

The Eastern Michigan State Fair is in need of exhibits. Anyone interested in participating can email me at: kenmitch56@yahoo.com or call me.

"A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place, but intends to stay". ~ Dave Barry

Ken Mitchell, Vice-President

Educational Opportunities

Dow Gardens Know & Grow Seminar
Saturday, February 21, 2015
Bullock Creek High School
1420 Badour Rd
Midland MI 48640
www.dowgardens.org

[Master Gardeners of St. Clair County Symposium](#)
Saturday March 21, 2015
Cornerstone Church
4025 North Road
Clyde Michigan 48049
sanderan51@yahoo.com

Huron County Master Gardener Association
Spring into Gardening Conference
Saturday March 28, 2015
Knights of Columbus Hall
1038 S. Van Dyke (M-53)
Bad Axe, MI 48413
[Click here for link](#)

Master Gardener Society of Oakland Co., Inc.
Saturday April 25, 2015
Gardening and All That Jazz
Oakland Schools Conference Center
2111 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328
Registration: www.mgsoc.org

Thank You !

A special Thank You for the decorators for the December meeting: Marlene and Ken Daniels, Barb Hunter and Carol Skiba. The tables were lovely! Special thanks to Marlene for the handmade/hand-painted snowman centerpieces and to Jane Schade for the Display Garden honey jars that were used as table prizes!!

Display Garden on Suncrest Update

Today the high was "8 degrees" and there is barely any snow. I hate to complain about lack of snow but now I worry about the damage to shrubs, trees and perennials. Also, outside in the garden, freezing pipes that may not be set far enough underground. The small heater providing air for the fish in the water garden seems to be doing its job, but the Garden is kind of bleak. Well that just gives a great opportunity to do some more planning without the wide array of colors and textures in the way. Last year the snow was so deep you couldn't even find the water garden or anything else. Maybe that's why we had so much change along the paths.

What's going on this year in the Garden? Well, another construction year -- nothing like the major additions, but finishing the structures connecting the new wings, creating 2 new courtyards, and building the wing on the East side that will extend into the old Front Garden, kind of parallel to the Rose Garden. Sounds pretty exciting to me but we will probably lose our temporary gravel parking place for the summer. I do not have any details yet so although I think it's just for one season, who knows, weather matters!

I am unaware of any major Garden moves scheduled for this year but we will tidy up and possibly change our labeling system to something more lasting and easier to read. Jim Sillers has been planning some changes within the Grass Garden; Ron will be back on his feet, in the grasses we hope, after hip replacement and they have been talking.

REMINDER - We will need new volunteers to hand mow the areas up close to the garden beds. Lawns need to be mowed twice weekly to avoid bagging grass. This is not necessarily a task for a male volunteer; everyone can mow, usually on Monday and again on Friday so it looks good for the weekends.

We plan on ordering **annuals** again from **Ed-Tech's FFA** so if you know what you need please send a list or hand it to me at the February meeting. We were way late with our request last year. We will have the plants prior to Memorial Day. And if you don't know, FFA group has annuals for sale every year to support their program, always-beautiful plants/vegetables too, at competitive prices.

Also, the fire pit upgrade (accessible to residents, propane fired) for the Medical Care Facility is in the planning stages. It's a great opportunity for some community education and some Master Gardener education. The fire pit will move to a brick paver area and be connected to the Pavilion by a wheelchair compliant brick path. What is our benefit you ask? First it's not a slab of concrete, second we get to plan the location and third, real learning opportunities. And yes, it must be completed by June 30, 2015. More discussion at the Feb.18, Display Garden Meeting.

Oh, I forgot, more work is needed on our electrical/irrigation systems. Another exciting, fun-filled season with some awesome volunteers.

We need help, if you can't see that. So if you like roses we need help, if you like gardening and planning and sharing call me, come to the meetings, come to the Garden!! I can hardly wait!!

Mary Paine, Chairman, [Display Garden on Suncrest](#)

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015 - 6:30 PM

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

*** BUSINESS MEETING *
* SPEAKER *
* BUDGET REVIEW *
* SEED CATALOG EXCHANGE ***

**** PLEASE BRING A SNACK OR DESSERT ****

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)

~ Newsletter Deadline is March 6, 2015