



NEWSLETTER MAY / JUNE 2015

Dear Gardeners,

The list is long for cleaning up in the garden in the spring. First off make sure all of your tools are cleaned. Lawn mower blades and shears need to be sharpened and ready to go. Dead debris needs to be removed from the flower beds. Grasses, if you have them, need to be cut and burned. Dandelions, which I have an abundance of, are sprayed and hopefully in check.

I'm preparing my vegetable garden and I hope to plant by the end of May. Buy your plants early for a good selection and harden them off to get them ready for planting. Hopefully in the next couple of weeks we will be free of frost. It's great to be outdoors and getting dirt under my fingernails. The long hard cold winter is just a memory. Happy Gardening.

Ron Gotowicki
Co-President

Hello Master Gardeners

Finally Spring! I hope all of your flowers are looking as wonderful as mine are! Please remember to stretch before and after weeding and lifting in your gardens. Let's try to keep the injuries down this year.

Plans are going great for the new fire-pit at Suncrest. Thanks Mary!

Seven Ponds Butterfly garden needs a little help, if you live nearby and can help.

Enjoy the spring and don't whine about the rain! Get a Rain Barrel so when it doesn't rain you will appreciate it!

Georgia Ellis
Co-President

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on April 1, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall. Co-President Georgia Ellis called the meeting to order with 45 members present.

The minutes of the February meeting were published in the last newsletter, and approved, as there were no corrections or additions to the minutes. The Treasurer report was given by Mary Paine, Judy Niergarth was absent because of a sick grandson. We are now using Quicken 15. Be sure to turn in the **green** reimbursement sheet along with your receipts and a stamped, return envelope to Judy. Georgia also reminded the members to send in their background check forms. All of the returned forms will be stored securely in a safety deposit box at the Credit Union.

Speaker Hannah Stevens, an MSU Extension Educator Emeritus, gave a very informative presentation on organic gardening, soils and plants. 1½ -hour education credit for this meeting.

After a short snack break, Sandy Peterson spoke about her illness. Mary Ann McDonald and Sandy reported on the upcoming Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 9, 2015 starting at 7:00 AM. Bring all household, garden, books, kitchen, and any clean used items to the sale or call Mary Ann for storage before the sale. Volunteers are needed for setting up and tearing down.

Georgia passed around a thank you card for all to sign for Bigelow's Greenhouse. Volunteers are needed for Flower Day, May 30, 2015. A sign-up sheet was available. Habitat For Humanity needs volunteers for overseeing tree plantings.

Vice-President Ken Mitchell reported on the Eastern Michigan State Fair. The Earth Tunnel display is still undecided. The Silent Auction will need garden gift baskets, (24 were donated last year), cement garden ornaments, homemade items and some plants. Call Ken if you have any questions. The next Fair meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015, 6:30 PM at Suncrest in the downstairs conference room. There are a few LCMGA Hats and T-Shirts available.

Carol Skiba spoke about the 12th Annual Tea. Sign-up sheets are available for volunteer help for donating food, kitchen help with Georgia, Display Garden host & hostesses, clean-up, working during the tea selling raffle tickets, and help with parking. Raffle items and door prizes are also needed including new lotions and soaps. Call Rose now if you need any tea tickets.

The fire pit in the Display Garden will be moved about 25 feet, work will start after the last snow and the drain work.

We are still looking for new and lost members. 69 members are currently certified. A Master Gardener class may be held in the fall. Barb Edwards won the 50/50 drawing of \$51.00, and door prizes were awarded.

Linda Ladoski
Secretary

Treasurer's Report May 2015

The Treasurer's report (hard copy) is provided to every Board member every Month. The debits and credits will be read at all Display and Association meetings. The Treasurer and Board members are available to answer your questions at Association Meetings and Display Garden meetings or you can call them at home.

In February and March we transferred our financial data from MY Money 2007 to Quicken 2015.

Reimbursement forms (**green sheets**) are still required from all members who make approved purchases, remember to attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Reimbursement forms can always be printed from our web site - www.lc-mga.org Banking is still maintained at Security Credit Union. Reports will be available just as in the past.

Judy Niergarth
Treasurer

VMS Reminder

For all certified Master Gardeners, remember you need 15 hours of volunteer time and 5 hours of education to re-certify in December. This is one of the best times to gather your hours; it's easy to accumulate education with online classes, nursery classes and Association meetings. There will also be the fall seminars held in Genesee and Sanilac counties. If you need help entering your hours just call or email me.

Mary Paine
VMS Ambassador for Lapeer County

Eastern Michigan State Fair Report

Hi everyone. I hope spring is looking productive in planning your garden. The next fair meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 PM at the Display Garden Pavilion. We still need someone to take on the Earth Tunnel. It looks to be in good shape stored at the fairgrounds. I need commitments for gift baskets and home made items for the silent auction. If you have posters of gardens or plants that can be hung up in the fair building, they are also needed. I will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work the Fair at the June meeting.

See you in June,

Ken Mitchell
Vice-President

Newsletter Deadline: Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing before the deadline on July 10, 2015 to: Linda Ladoski: tladoski@greatlakes.net

Rummage Sale Report

The annual Rummage Sale went very well again this year. The weather was fair, and we had a lot of help. Thank you to all the volunteers that came all day long to help and especially the clean-up help. There were many nice items sold and we made about \$665. Some of the funds were monetary donations for the Master Gardeners. It was great to be in downtown Lapeer again, and please remember to support our [Historic Farmers' Market of Lapeer](#) and local nurseries.

Mary Ann McDonald
Rummage Sale Chairman

TEA THYME IN THE GARDEN

“There are two kinds of Light, the glow that illumines, And the glare that obscures.”
James Thurber

“Tea Thyme in the Garden”
July 12, 2015
“How Does The Garden Glow”

The Twelfth Time for Tea will take place on Sunday, July 12, 2015. The Display Garden will be full of Tea Patrons, enjoying the tea and the gardens. Tickets for the tea are sold out. The Tea Table Hostesses are busy picking out china, tablecloths and decorations. There are two 6-person tables looking for a host or hostess. Please think about it, if you don't have china or tablecloths, we will be able to help you. There are other volunteer opportunities available to work at the tea. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next Display Garden meeting and the Master Gardener meeting in June. There are food items that are needed to be prepared, and the need of Door prizes and Raffle items.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE TEA SUPPORT THE DISPLAY GARDEN ON SUNCREST.

The next Tea meeting is a workday. It will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at the Display Garden pavilion at 3:00 PM. Following the meeting is a Display Garden workday and meeting. Projects to be accomplished at the Tea Meeting / Workday:

Wrapping of Door Prizes and taking wire off glass jars (this year we will zip tie them).
Supplies needed: Ribbon, Wrapping Paper, Scissors, Tape, Baskets, and most important
- Door Prizes.

If you have something and need to drop it off, just leave the item at the Display Garden Shed tagged for the Tea, or bring it to a meeting and drop it off with me. Any donation will be greatly appreciated. Any questions, please give me a call. Thank you for your support of the Display Garden.

Carol Skiba, Tea Chairman

Display Garden on Suncrest - May 2015

It seemed like winter would never end and then Spring came through the Garden in a rush. The daffodils were very bright and cheerful throughout the bed, there are still a few tulips left. New bright green growth is appearing steadily in the grasses, and the crabapple, weeping cherry and lilacs are just pushing their buds out.

Winter was hard on the Water Garden and only four of the fish survived. Barb Hunter spent two days cleaning out the water and replanting the lilies. And those two days were not very warm. Thank You Barb!

I had received a couple of calls that we finally have Purple Martins in our Purple Martin House and Marylynn Darr reports there are baby birds there now!! The Martins finally found the Display Garden.

Jim Sillers has been back in the Garden still renovating and rearranging the grasses. He did mention though that every time he goes up there it seems to rain.

New birdhouses were installed this month; the originals had withstood the weather for many years but needed to be retired. Replacements were provided at no cost to the Garden by my brother, Dick Long. I think they are very nice. I especially like the red one. He didn't know what I really meant when I asked if he could "build a couple of birdhouses". We took him the old ones for size and tree branch clearance. Next time he will ask about the size when I ask for something.

Ken Mitchell has planted rhubarb in the hugelkulture and also provided the first lawn mowing. Georgia Ellis has volunteered to mow on Fridays, again this year. Thanks Georgia! We still need help for the Monday mornings mowing. The lawn around the Garden grows very fast and looks so much better if mowed twice weekly. How about signing up, even if it's just for a few Mondays? The mower and fuel are in the shed.

Other exciting news - before we start the new brick pavers the facility is installing a drain that runs north to south from the very wet spot by the pavilion to the kid's sandbox. Steve (maintenance supervisor) and Carl Kern are working on completion. The Patio with the fire pit and access paths work will begin this week. Don't forget we have many visitors on June 13 when the Michigan Hosta Tour stops to see Mick's hostas and tour the Garden. If you have time that Saturday to help answer questions I can sure use helpers. The Tour also stops at Mick Hodgson's, Barb Hunter's and Ken and Marlene Daniels. What a day and what an opportunity for us. [Click here for Hosta Tour information.](#)

Remember the task to clean up behind the white fence? Well, Larry Mitchell, Rick Talaski, Al Butler and Ed Piorkowski spent our April workday cleaning and shredding, and then on Friday, Rick, Al and Ed finished off the shredding. THANK YOU all of for taking care of such a messy task!!

The Garden continues to grow and looks different every time I go up there. Ron Klocek has made some corrections to the electrical but keeps on with the improvements.

And last, if you haven't been past Suncrest, Carol Skiba's husband Bob constructed a replacement rose trellis for the Front Rose Garden. He did most of construction at home and then he and Eric Hendricks installed it on a lovely Saturday morning. It looks so great. A great big thank you!

It's been a very busy spring at the Garden. Come join us on May 20, 4:00 - 6:00 PM for a workday and then the planning meeting at 6:30 PM.

Mary Paine
Display Garden on Suncrest Chairman

Master Gardener Rummage Sale

A big Thank You to all the wonderful volunteers who supported the annual Rummage Sale at the Lapeer County Farmers' Market; a special thanks for our chairmen Sandy Peterson and Mary Ann McDonald.

Another thanks to Carl and Derek Kern for taking care of and delivering the "leftovers" to the Habitat For Humanity Restore and Seven Ponds. Although there was a 90% chance of rain and the 3 tents assembled provided some coverage, only a few sprinkles appeared. Results available at our June meeting.

Extension Master Gardener Defined

MSUE Master Gardener

People	Knowledge
WHO is an MSUE Master Gardener (Personal Traits)	WHAT is an MSUE Master Gardener (Functional Traits)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Willingness to serve* Eager to share passion and knowledge* Enthusiasm for learning* Role model for environmental education* Friendly, outgoing, dedicated* Investigative – not an expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Educated - equipped with current, research-based gardening information* Actively engaged in volunteer projects that align with national objectives* Adheres to annual reporting and data collection / reporting requirements* Adheres to Master Gardener Program Code of Conduct* Represents MSUE as an ambassador within the Michigan community

MAY

Newsletter

- 5/9 7:00 AM - Assoc. Rummage Sale
Farmer's Market / Downtown Lapeer
- 5/13 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 5/19 6:30 PM - E. MI State Fair Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 5/20 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 5/20 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 5/20 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 5/27 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 5/28 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale
Sorting Orders / Bring Lunch
- 5/30 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Bigelow's Plant
Sale / Orders MUST be picked up

JUNE

- 6/3 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Pizza & Plant Exchange / Pavilion
- 6/10 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Garden Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 6/13 Hosta Society Garden Walk
- 6/17 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 6/17 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

JULY

Newsletter

- 7/8 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 7/10 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Tea Prep
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/11 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Tea Prep
Clean / Decorate / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/12 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM - "Tea"
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/25 & 7/27 Eastern Michigan State Fair
Set-up Displays / Exhibits
- 7/28 - 8/1 Eastern Michigan State Fair
Imlay City Fairgrounds

AUGUST

- 8/1 Michigan Honey Festival
- 8/2 Eastern Michigan State Fair
Takedown and Clean-up
- 8/5 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 8/12 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 8/19 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 8/19 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

SEPTEMBER

Newsletter

- 9/9 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/16 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/16 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

OCTOBER

- 10/7 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Mayfield Twp. Hall / Bring Snacks
- 10/14 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 10/21 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 10/21 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 10/24 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden
Group Workday / Fall Clean-up

NOVEMBER

Newsletter

- 11/7 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden
Group Workday / Final Fall Clean-up
- 11/18 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting
Suncrest / Activities Room

DECEMBER

- 12/4 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting
Awards / Christmas Party/Gift Exchange

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015 - 6:30 PM**

**DISPLAY GARDEN AT SUNCREST
PAVILION**

*** BUSINESS MEETING ***

*** SPEAKER ***

*** PIZZA PARTY ***

*** PLANT EXCHANGE ***

(LABEL ALL PLANTS – NO INVASIVE PLANTS)

**** DESSERTS ARE WELCOME – WE WILL NOT HAVE SILVERWARE ****

(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)