



## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015

Hello Master Gardeners,

This is some beautiful weather we are having now. I could take this all year long. But I know what's just around the corner. Enjoy it while we can.

Outside everything is done for the season. My riding mower and travel trailer are put to rest until next year. All garden decorations and equipment are put away. Four cords of wood have been cut and stacked for the upcoming winter.

It's getting time now to move inside the house and get projects done. I hope all you gardeners had a good and productive year. Happy Holidays and have a safe and healthy New Year.

Ron Gotowicki, Co-President

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

Seems as though we should be picking out plants and planting seeds! How blessed we are with this weather. It's much more fun cleaning up our gardens with short sleeves, and not mittens and parkas.

The gardens at Suncrest were and are awesome this year! Thank you all who put sooo much work in and also thank the Lord for the great weather most of the season! If you have NOT had the chance by now to check out the new patio and fire pit, please do, it is beautiful and the residents love it. Hope to see all of you at our yearly celebration – Christmas party. Wonderful food and great desserts as usual, but most importantly, we all get to chat and have fun in grown-up clothes without dirt on them.

Our charity this year is to collect diapers. Please be generous and remember it is the kids who are benefiting!

Thank you ALL, for everything you do to make this group such a success! See y'all at the Mayfield Hall! Have a Thankful and Blessed Thanksgiving! No matter what your issue is, someone else may have it worse. Smile.

Georgia Ellis, Co-President

## OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015, 6:00 PM at Seven Ponds Nature Center. Co-President Ron Gotowicki opened the meeting with 24 members in attendance.

Linda Ladoski gave the Secretary report. The minutes of the August meeting were published in the Sept./Oct. 2015 issue of the newsletter. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. Mary Paine motioned to approve and Jeannine Monteleone seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Mary Paine gave the Treasurer report in absence of Judy Niergarth.

Ron introduced Lois Rheume, Seven Ponds Naturalist. Lois gave a very interesting, informative talk including a slide show on invasive and non-native plants. There is a **1-hour** education credit for attending this meeting.

Jane Schade reported the bees in the Display Garden produced 78 pounds of honey.

The members took a snack break.

Ron reported on plans for the 2016 Garden Tour sometime in August. The Tour will include the Display Garden and a church garden in Dryden. Volunteers will be needed.

Master Gardener classes will begin in January, and the locations will be announced. Up to 5 scholarships for tuition assistance were approved.

The Annual Holiday / Awards Dinner will be catered again this year. There is a \$5.00 per person-required deposit to attend the dinner. Pat Maitland volunteered to bring a cake. The optional gift exchange will be a \$15.00 garden gift. The charity this year will be the collection of diapers, sizes 3, 4, or 5, adult depends, and monetary donations.

Nominations are needed for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer. Elections will be held at the December meeting.

Ron thanked Carl Kern for bringing in cartons of tomatoes for the group.

Rhonda Laur won the \$50.00 gift card and door prizes were awarded.

Linda Ladoski  
Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report - November 2015**

The Treasurer's activity will be read at every LCMGA and Display Garden meeting and is reviewed by the Board at Board meetings; each Board member receives a hard copy monthly. The hard copy is available at every meeting for your review and questions.

The proposed 2015 budget will be published in January 2016 Newsletter.

Judy Niergarth, Treasurer

**\*Important Notice\* - There is no Display Garden meeting the week of November 16.**

## **December Meeting**

The Lapeer County Master Gardener Award/Holiday Meeting is **FRIDAY, December 4,** 6:30 P.M. at the Mayfield Township Hall.

Dinner with coffee and tea followed by dessert will be provided by the Association. You **must** make a reservation to ensure we have chairs and dinner for all. Call Mary with your reservation, there is a \$5.00 fee that will be returned to you and there is a \$5.00 fee for a guest. Dinner will be served at 6:45 PM.

We will have a speaker if you still need hours. We have planned the \$15.00 gift exchange if you want to participate, and our charity for this year is "diapers", all sizes or just cash donations.

## **Voiture 1536 of Lapeer County - 40 et 8**

We received a request from this organization to support them at the Fantasy Forest event that is held at Rowden Park annually. Voiture 1536 took over this event from the Zonta Club of Lapeer. The Board recommended a donation of \$75 (Gold sponsor), which was mailed to them. We did not receive the request in time for this year but they also sponsor a Nurse scholarship, Holiday Depot and burnt out families in Lapeer.

## **Newsletter Deadline:**

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing before the deadline on January 8, 2016 to Linda Ladoski: [tladoski@greatlakes.net](mailto:tladoski@greatlakes.net)

## **VMS Information**

**Reminder** - the last day to enter your volunteer hours into the VMS (Volunteer Management System) is December 31, 2015.

### **Keeping track of your Hours:**

If you did not re-certify for 2015 (pay the \$20), you have a second chance to catch up, but only for 2015. There is a \$10 late fee. So you can enter all of your hours and re-certify for 2015 and 2016 and pay the \$50 total for both years. The last day to catch up is December 31, 2015.

2016 Re-Certification opens January 11, 2016 and closes January 29, 2016. The fee is \$20 payable by either credit card or check. <https://michigan.volunteersystem.org>  
I will be happy to assist anyone who needs help entering hours or re-certifying.

Mary Paine, VMS Ambassador Lapeer County

### **2016 Master Gardener Class**

There will be a Master Gardener class in Flint starting Thursday January 21, 2016 at the MSUE offices in Flint:

605 N. Saginaw, Suite A, (which I understand is next to U of M Flint building). There is ample parking.

The 14-week class is on Thursday mornings from 9:00AM - 1:00PM and costs \$300, which includes the textbook. Registration is on-line only and Lapeer folks will have a background check.

Multiple scholarships are available through the website and Genesee County Master Gardeners. Tuition assistance is available for Lapeer students from the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association.

Go to [mg.msue.msu.edu](http://mg.msue.msu.edu) Click on "becoming a master gardener volunteer"  
Then click on "upcoming master gardener training courses"  
Then, choose the "Flint course at the bottom."

There is also a class in Oakland County at the county complex if that is easier or closer to you.

Questions: call Mary Paine or any other Board member.

## Display Garden on Suncrest - November 2015

After such a dynamic and beautiful year the cleanup at the Garden is almost over. Larry Mitchell has shredded lots and lots of debris as we continue cleanup of the compost/storage area. The herbs, hydrangeas and grasses are the last to go although on Saturday there were still many stubborn annuals still enjoying the unusually pleasant day as Carol Liblong continued her tidying. An extra thank you to Pam Frampton who provided the awesome black grasses (Prince) and Mexican Sunflowers that grew over 5' tall.

We had such a great year it will be hard to top but there are already plans for more changes, and as the construction continues and the "winter blacktop" goes down we are now truly land-locked. If you haven't been to the garden the construction is making major changes East of the Garden and limiting access by the residents. Still, I am always surprised when visitors brave the parking lot and find their way up the sidewalk or across the grass.

With the cleanup about finished it's time to start planning for next year although I believe that has already begun. Candice will be the new bed head of the Japanese Garden so Jane can take care of the two beehives but will still help out. Eric will take over the Water Garden with Barb's guidance and new Master Gardener, Lynne McCarthy, will take over the Front Rose Garden with guidance from Pat.

If you have any time or energy left we can always use an extra hand or two and sometimes four. If you have always wanted to be a bed head now is a great time. If you have always wanted to try something new but don't have time, come join us. I think we couldn't start in March this year but who knows for 2016! See you all at the Holiday Meeting.

THANK YOU for all those who did so much for 2015!

Mary Paine, Chairman, Display Garden on Suncrest Committee

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### **Elaine's Apple Cake** (From Mary Ann McDonald)

Mix:	Mix:
1 ¼ C. Oil	3 C. Flour
2 C. Sugar	1 T. Salt
2 T. Vanilla	1 T. Cinnamon
	1 T. Baking Powder

Mix above together, and then add:

2 C. Chopped Apples  
1 C. Chopped Nuts

Topping: Cook together until it boils:

½ C. Butter  
1 C. Brown Sugar  
4 TBS. Flour  
4 TBS. Water  
1 C. Chopped Nuts

Grease a 9 x 13 pan. Bake cake at 325\* for 1 hour. Place topping on hot cake, then place under broiler until it bubbles.

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER  
ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015 - 6:30 PM**

**MAYFIELD TOWNSHIP HALL  
1900 N. Saginaw  
Lapeer, MI 48446**

- \* CATERED DINNER \***
- \* AWARDS \***
- \* OPTIONAL GARDEN GIFT EXCHANGE \***
- \* BUSINESS MEETING \***
- \* SPEAKER \***

**(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)**