



## NEWSLETTER - MARCH / APRIL 2016

Hi Master Gardeners,

As I write this it is 55 degrees on February 19, 2016! Who would of thought? Yesterday it was 2 degrees. Weird! I hope we have an early spring.

Please take note of the Bigelow's order form, as there are a lot of new plants available. Remember if you want the BEST pick, order early.

Lots of sign-up sheets are available, so please help out when and where you can. Have a great March, and may it be Spring!

Georgia Ellis  
Co-President

Dear Gardeners,

Easter is just around the corner. My how time flies. This past winter has really not been that bad. Soon enough we will all be outdoors and laboring away in our gardens. Raking, burning, mulching and cutting our grass.

If you have cabin fever, just hang on a little while longer and all our prayers will be answered. The count down has begun. Good Luck.

Ron Gotowicki  
Co-President

## February Meeting

The February meeting of the Lapeer County Master Gardener Association was held on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016, 6:30 PM at the Mayfield Township Hall. Co-President Georgia Ellis opened the meeting with 52 members present.

Mary Paine gave the Treasurer report. Linda Ladoski gave the Secretary report. The minutes of the December meeting were published in the Jan./Feb. newsletter. Mary Lou LaFond motioned to approve the minutes, Ron Gotowicki seconded. The minutes were approved.

Georgia passed out packets of Milkweed seeds to the members.

Candice Meyer spoke about the Michigan Master Compost class she and husband Walt attended, and shared many facts and information about composting. Walt talked about setting up compost bins. There is a 1-hour education credit for attending this meeting.

After the members took a break, Mary presented Larry Mitchell his award. Mary Lou LaFond thanked everyone for her award.

Mary spoke about the 2016 budgets. Jim Sillers motioned to approve the budgets, and Carol Leonard seconded. The budgets were approved.

Pam Frampton reported on the Bigelow's Plant Sale. There were 3,359 plants sold last year with a profit of \$1,591.00. This year there will be lots of new varieties of plants, 3 new grasses and 6 perennials in plugs. The price will remain at \$1.25 for plants, with grasses and plugs slightly higher. Bigelow's supplies the plants, pots, soil, fertilizer and water. We get 47 cents per plant. Walt Meyer will be in charge of order forms and hard copies will be available at the MSU Extension office. The plant list should be emailed around March 4; orders are due by March 23. Hard copy orders mailed to Mary Paine are due March 18. Work dates are set: 1<sup>st</sup> transplant Apr. 5, 6, 7; 2<sup>nd</sup> transplant Apr. 21 or 28; sort orders May 26; plant sale May 28. The day of the sale time is from 9:00 AM until noon. Workdays start at 9:00 AM, but volunteers are welcome anytime.

Ken Mitchell reported on the Eastern Michigan State Fair. Set up for the Fair will be July 23, tear down July 31. New this year will be a photo booth, compost bin and a kid's craft area. Volunteers are needed, Ken has a sign-up sheet. The Fair meetings are planned for Feb. 18, 1:00 PM and Mar. 17, 1:00 PM, both at the Imlay City Library.

Mary Ann McDonald reported on the Rummage Sale, which will be held on Saturday, May 7 in downtown Lapeer. Set-up starts at 7:00 AM. Volunteers are needed anytime during the day. Please bring clean items - no clothes. Items can be dropped off ahead of time, call Mary Ann.

Carol Skiba gave a Tea report. "Time For Teacups" will be held on July 10, tables are available. This will be the 13<sup>th</sup> year and Carol's 11<sup>th</sup> as Chairman. The cost for the Tea will remain at \$15.00. Volunteers will be needed July 7, 8, and 9 for garden and pavilion cleanup, prep and decorating, and big help on the day of the Tea. A meeting will be held Tuesday, Mar. 1 at the

Suncrest 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room and sign-up sheets will be available. Door prizes and Raffle items are needed. Colognes, body washes, new soaps, etc.

Dorothy Birchwell and Jim Klocek won the gift cards, and door prizes were awarded.

Linda Ladoski  
Secretary

### **Treasurer Report - March 2016**

The Treasurer Activity is read at every LCMGA meeting and Display Garden meeting and is reviewed at every Board meeting; each Board member receives a hard copy monthly. There is a hard copy available at every Association meeting for your review and questions.

Mary Paine  
Treasurer

### **Volunteer Management System ([VMS](#))**

Thank you all members who completed their 2015 hours and their certification. The certification cards are sent from MSUE and you should receive them in March. If you have questions call or email me.

I do not have the state total of certified volunteers but will let you know at April meeting.

Mary Paine  
VMS Ambassador  
justoveredge@charter.net

### **Membership Update - March 2016**

Since all the certification is over and done for 2015, please start entering your volunteer hours; just like last year the 5 hours of education and 15 hours of volunteer hours has not changed for MSUE certification with a deadline of December 31, 2016.

Lapeer County has 65 certified and emeritus volunteers. 5 of those are folks that live in Lapeer County but are not Association members (they still volunteer in Lapeer County). The Association has 87 members; 6 of those are not active and may drop off the roster this year. So, we are left with approximately 80 certified, emeritus and associate members on the roster.

I am thankful for each and every one of us!!!!

Mary Paine, VMS Ambassador

## BIGELOW'S PLANT SALE

The Bigelow's Plant Sale will be held this spring on Saturday, May 28 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. Plants are available to all Master Gardeners, friends, family and neighbors. Last year there were 3,385 plants sold with a profit of \$1,591.00 to the Association. Bigelow's supplies the plants, pots, soil, fertilizer and water. Volunteers are needed for transplanting, sorting orders and on the day of the sale.

This year there will be lots of new varieties of plants, 3 new grasses and 6 larger perennials in plugs. The price will remain at \$1.25 for plants; the grasses and plugs will be slightly higher. The Association earns 47 cents on each plant sold. Walt Meyer will be in charge of online order forms, and can be contacted at: [meyerwalt007@gmail.com](mailto:meyerwalt007@gmail.com) Online orders are due by **March 23**. Mary Paine will take care of hard copy forms, which will be available at the MSU Extension office. Mail orders are due on **March 18** and should be mailed to Mary at: 1450 Vernor Rd. Lapeer, MI 48446.

Work dates are scheduled for: 1<sup>st</sup> transplant on Apr. 5, 6, & 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> transplant on Apr. 21 or 28, sort orders on May 26, and the plant sale on May 28. The sale will be held from 9:00 AM until noon. Many extra plants will be available on the day of the sale. Workdays will start at 9:00 AM, but volunteers can come anytime and should bring a lunch or beverage. Bring your own folding chair on transplant days.

Don't forget to bring your own containers or trays to pick up your orders. If you are unable to pick up orders on the day of the sale, or if you need more information, please contact Pam Frampton.

Pam Frampton  
Judy Niergarth  
Chairmen

## **RUMMAGE SALE**

The Rummage Sale will be held this year on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the [Farmer's Market Pavilion](#) in downtown Lapeer. Volunteers are needed to help set up at 7:00AM, and to work the sale anytime during the day. Clean-up help will also be needed.

Please bring any clean household items, books, tools, etc. to the sale at 7:00 AM. No Clothing Please. Arrangements can be made to drop off items ahead of time, by calling Mary Ann McDonald.

All unsold items will be donated to [Seven Ponds Nature Center for their Rummage Sale](#) to be held on June 16, 17, and 18.

Mary Ann McDonald  
Sandy Peterson  
Chairmen

**Lapeer Conservation District**  
**2016 Spring Tree Sale**

*Brochures and order forms are now available by calling*

810-664-0895 ext. 5

700 S. Main St. Suite 12-C

Lapeer, MI 48446

Or online at [www.lapeercd.org](http://www.lapeercd.org)

Order early for best selection, tree orders will be taken until inventory is depleted.

Pick-up dates are:

Thursday, April 21 - Noon-5pm

Friday, April 22 - 9am-6pm

Saturday, April 23 - 9am-Noon

Pick-up Location:

Mutch's Hidden Pines Farm

303 W. Newark Road, Lapeer, MI

**Tea Thyme In The Garden 2016**

*"The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better that they have ever done before." ~ Vita Sackville West*

Tea Thyme in the Garden will take place on Sunday, July 10, 2016 at the Display Garden on Suncrest. "Time For Tea Cups" will be the Thirteenth Tea that the Lapeer County Master Gardeners have hosted. The first planning meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

Each contribution a Master Gardener can give to the Tea always makes an impact on the Tea. Our objective, our only objective is the Display Garden on Suncrest; it's upkeep and future.

The following are needed for the 2016 Tea:

- ~ Tea Table Hostesses - One table is still available.
- ~ Raffle Items - These are a great money maker for the Tea, and returning Patrons always look forward to what they can spend their money on. They are so impressed with the talent of Master Gardeners.
- ~ Door Prize Items - Think re-gifting, not used items please.
- ~ Master Gardeners for Volunteering

If interested in tickets, call Rose Gotowicki. Call now, not in April or May. Rose has a long list from last year. Sign-up sheets for Tea workers in the garden, kitchen, and food for the Tea will be available at the Master Gardener meetings and Display Garden meetings. If you are unable to attend a meeting and want to sign up for something, please give me a call.

Carol L. Skiba  
Tea Chairman

### Eastern Michigan State Fair

*“No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.”* Thomas Jefferson

Spring is around the corner; time to get the tools ready for the garden. Use an old golf bag to organize your gardening tools. Long-handled tools can be carried in the club compartment. This year I plan on trying my hand at Hay Bale gardening and Campbell's Greenhouse is having a class on Hay Bale Gardening this year on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

Eastern Michigan State Fair dates are:      Fair Set-up: July 23 – 25  
Fair Days: July 26 – 30  
Fair Tear down: July 31

*A kids learning area is being planned, we need Master Gardeners to teach or demonstrate as kids come through the building. We will need Gift Baskets, Homemade items, Plants, and other things for the Silent Auction. Please make something for the Fair.*

Come to the next Fair meeting on Thursday, March 17, (St. Patrick's Day) at 1:30 PM at:  
Ruth Hughes Memorial Library - 211 N. Almont Ave. - Imlay City, MI 48444

Now for the bad news! The Fair Board is requiring that everyone working at the Master Gardener Building pay to get in, no free tickets this year. But this year the LCMGA Board has decided to pay the ticket cost, so less people will be working and it would be beneficial if you can work all week.

I am sorry to say this may be our last year doing the Eastern Michigan State Fair. It's up to you!

We still have Lapeer County Master Gardener Hats, Visors, and Shirts for sale. Hats & Visors: \$10.00. T-Shirts: \$15.00. Aprons: \$20.00. Call, text or email me. Kenmitch56@yahoo.com

Ken Mitchell  
Vice President  
Eastern Michigan State Fair Chairman

## Display Garden on Suncrest

The Display Garden is still there although looking at the facility from the front one might wonder. The new east extension seems sooo big and sooo close to the rose trellis. I am glad Bob refurbished it making it appear larger and more substantial. But, then, take a look at the new South entrance with the big elevator shaft. The parking lot creeps almost right up to the fire-pit area. Really happy with the brick bench/wall that Eric built.

Anyway, we are all ready to get out and garden somewhere, I am pretty sure the ground is just as soggy in the Display Garden as it is at our homes. So please, do not think you need to drive up to the shed, and make TIRE Tracks. Use the sidewalk and walk through and be ready with suggestions for another great year. We still may need another entrance from the East but too early to say.

I will move the Display Garden Meeting March 16, 6:00 PM to the Activities Room at Suncrest. Looks like it may be nice enough to look from the paths. Too wet to work. Please watch your feet coming inside.

I am looking for lettering suggestions for a new / replacement sign hanging on the fence near the oxygen tanks. Same size; maybe green not gray; maybe, maybe???

The BEES need some help: Jane has checked the hives and the white hive had a better winter and is in good shape. The green hive however had a tough year and also their house needs some work. Jane did all the painting, scraping and repair work on the white house. We need someone able to refurbish the green hive. She will let me know when she returns that the hive is empty and available for work. You can take it home. So call, or email me and we can organize the logistics and requirements. There is sufficient budget and Jane says she can restock the green hive from the white hive. Yeah!!!

Please let me know if you have a major change in mind (aside from the Japanese Garden) so we can properly prepare. All new work needs to be complete by June 15, 2016 NOON.

Last but not least we are purchasing a new mower because we have 4 wonderful folks who will mow twice a week to keep the lawn the way we are accustomed. Thanks to Paulette Johnson, Donna Hewitt, Al Butler and Herb Hampel.

Mary Paine

Chairman Display Garden on Suncrest

### **Newsletter Deadline:**

Please send all newsletter articles and information for printing before the deadline on May 6, 2016 to: Linda Ladoski: [tladoski@greatlakes.net](mailto:tladoski@greatlakes.net)

SEVEN PONDS BUTTERFLY GARDEN 2016

Workdays are as follows:

April 13	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
April 20	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
April 27	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 4	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 11	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 18	Garden Clean-up	5:00-7:00 PM
May 25	Garden Plantings	5:00-7:00 PM

Group Workday is the second Wednesday of the month from June through October 5:00-7:00 PM

You can work in the garden anytime that is convenient for you, but please work on a group workday first. Bring your own gardening tools.

NATIVE PLANT SALE 2016

Saturday and Sunday  
May 14 and 15  
9:00 AM ~ 5:00 PM

There will be a large selection of woodland and prairie flowers for purchase. There will also be people knowledgeable on native planting to help with any questions.

If interested in the plant list, contact the nature center close to sale dates.

**LAPEER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016 - 6:30 PM**

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

**\* BUSINESS MEETING \***  
**\* SPEAKER: ABIYA SAEED \***  
**\* SNACKS ARE WELCOME \***

**(PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR NAME BADGES)**

**Garden Plastic Recycle coupon below is a "SAMPLE" only.  
Orange coupons are available from Carl Kern or Mary Paine.**



# GARDEN PLASTIC RECYCLE

Please present this coupon at ReCycle program to receive FREE drop off allowance for your garden plastic. This service is for Lapeer Master Gardeners.

Coupon valid only at ReStore ReCycle

1633 N. Lapeer Rd (M-24)

first and third Saturday of each month

9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Sponsored by Jim Davis, Lapeer County Drop Off Recycling as appreciation for the many MG projects in Lapeer

all garden plastic will be accepted  
containers are marked #2, #5, #6

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GARDENING**

**\* save this coupon for repeat use \***

PLEASE MENTION THE TOWNSHIP YOU ARE FROM

# NEWS FROM EXTENSION

## NEWS RELEASE

Date: 2/23/16  
To: All Media  
Release Date: Immediate

FROM: Phil Kaatz, Extension Educator  
Lapeer County MSU Extension  
1800 Imlay City Rd., Ste. 1  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
(810) 667-0341

### **Lapeer County Clean Sweep / Household Hazardous Waste**

Lapeer County farmers and residents will have the opportunity to dispose of unwanted pesticides and hazardous waste on *Saturday, April 9, 2016*. Lapeer County Michigan State University Extension will be coordinating the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) / Clean Sweep collection. There is no charge for the disposal of acceptable materials. Funding for this event is a collaborative effort involving county commission, townships, cities and villages.

Those wishing to participate must pre-register by calling Lapeer County Michigan State University Extension at 810-667-0341 for an appointment. No materials will be accepted at Lapeer County MSU Extension's office or without an appointment.

**Registration deadline is Friday, April 1, 2016.**

A Clean Sweep/HHW collection provides residents with a safe way to dispose of unwanted materials that could pose a danger to the community if improperly handled or stored. Acceptable items are pesticides (including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.), oil-based paint, drain cleaners, pool chemicals, household batteries, antifreeze, fluorescent light bulbs, and mercury.

Non-acceptable items include latex paint, tires, car batteries, motor oil, ammunition/explosives, biohazards (syringes), or medical prescriptions.

**We do not accept any electronics (no TV's, computers, etc.).**

Many products that we purchase daily can become waste when it is no longer useful to us. By having a Clean Sweep/HHW collection program in Lapeer County, you can remove this threat to your family's safety and the environment by clearing out barns, garages, attics, etc.

Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste each year. The average home may contain up to 100 pounds of this waste throughout their home.

The best way to reduce HHW is to use up all of the products or share them with someone else until they are completely used up. Homeowners can prevent household hazardous waste by doing several common sense things such as:

- **Check the label before you buy.** If you see a cautionary notice, understand that this material will become household hazardous waste if not used up properly.
- **Use the product as the manufacturer instructs.** Companies have spent millions of dollars testing their product to comply with federal regulations. The instructions should be followed to get maximum benefit from the products you use without compromising your safety.
- **Buy only what you need.** Surprisingly, some products cost more to dispose of than they cost to purchase. Using forethought when purchasing these products may save your community the cost of disposing of them as HHW.
- **Store products for safety.** Children, pets, and others may accidentally injure themselves when products are not safely stored. Make sure potential HHW products are stored out of harm's way.

The Michigan Clean Sweep Program is provided by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and helps protect the state's natural resources and prevent agriculture pollution by ensuring the safe and proper disposal of outdated, unused or unwanted pesticides in Michigan. Clean Sweep began in 1987 and is made possible by a strong and unique state, federal, local, and industry partnership. Over the past sixteen years, more than 2.0 million pounds (1000 tons) of pesticides have been removed from circulation and properly disposed of via permanent collection sites. Funding to support the disposal of pesticides is through pesticide and fertilizer registration fees on specialty and agricultural products. For more information contact Lapeer County Michigan State University Extension at 810-667-0341

**JANUARY**

Newsletter

- 2/3 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Mayfield Township Hall / Speaker
- 2/17 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest Activities Room
- 2/18 1:00 PM - E. MI State Fair Meeting  
R. Hughes Library / Imlay City

**FEBRUARY**

Newsletter

- 3/1 6:00 PM - Tea Meeting Suncrest  
First Floor Meeting Room
- 3/16 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 3/16 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 3/17 1:30 PM - E. MI State Fair Meeting  
R. Hughes Library / Imlay City

**MARCH**

- 3/18 Bigelow's Plant Sale**  
\* Mail Order Deadline \*
- 3/23 Bigelow's Plant Sale**  
\* Online Order Deadline \*

**APRIL**

- 4/5,6,7 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale  
1<sup>st</sup> Transplant / Bring Lunch & Chair
- 4/6 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Mayfield Township Hall / Bring Snacks
- 4/13 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 4/20 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 4/20 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest / Activities Room
- 4/20 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 4/21? 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale
- 4/28? 2<sup>nd</sup> Transplant / Bring Lunch & Chair
- 4/27 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools

**MAY**

Newsletter

- 5/4 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 5/7 7:00 AM - Rummage Sale  
Farmer's Market / Lapeer
- 5/11 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 5/18 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 5/18 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest Pavilion
- 5/18 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 5/25 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 5/26 9:00 AM - Bigelow's Plant Sale  
Sort Orders / Bring Lunch / No Chair
- 5/28 9:00 AM - 12:00 Bigelow's Plant Sale

**JUNE**

- 6/1 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Suncrest Pavilion / Pizza Party

- 6/8 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 6/15 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 6/15 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

**JULY**

Newsletter

- 7/8 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Tea Prep  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/9 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM - Tea Prep  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/10 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM - "Tea"  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 7/13 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 7/23-25 9:00 AM - E. MI State Fair  
Setup / Imlay City Fairgrounds
- 7/26-30 E. Michigan State Fair  
Imlay City Fairgrounds
- 7/31 9:00 AM - E. MI State Fair  
Teardown / Imlay City Fairgrounds

**AUGUST**

- 8/3 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 8/6 Michigan Honey Festival / Frankenmuth
- 8/10 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 8/17 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 8/17 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

**SEPTEMBER**

Newsletter

- 9/14 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/21 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 9/21 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion

**OCTOBER**

- Garden Receipts Due October 1, 2016
- 10/5 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Mayfield Township Hall / Bring Snacks
- 10/12 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Seven Ponds  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 10/19 4:00 PM - Display Garden Suncrest  
Group Workday / Bring Tools
- 10/19 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Display Garden / Suncrest Pavilion
- 10/22 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden  
Fall Cleanup / Bring Tools

**NOVEMBER**

Newsletter

- 11/5 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Display Garden  
Final Fall Cleanup / Bring Tools
- 11/16 6:00 PM - Display Garden Meeting  
Suncrest Activities Room

**DECEMBER**

- 12/2 6:30 PM - MG Association Meeting  
Annual Holiday Awards Dinner  
Garden Gift Exchange / Mayfield Hall